

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BEDOUR LATIF AND YOUSSEF NASSIF



With over six decades of painting icons for churches for Egypt and abroad and as instructors at the Higher Institute for Coptic Studies (Coptic Cathedral, el Abasseya), the exhibition highlights the life and legacy of Bedour Latif (1921-2012) and Youssef Nassif (1920-2013) towards the mid-twentieth century renewal of Coptic iconography.

The icons in the Coptic Museum of Canada and the forty-one icons and the fresco in St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church (Scarborough, Ontario) provide a unique opportunity to learn about Youssef and Bedour's partnership as artists and the distinct spiritual characteristic of their icons.

The Museum's archival information (articles, art reviews, research field notes, photographs, etc.) and the Reference Library's holdings on Bedour and Youssef also give a "voice" to their search to create a "genuine" Coptic style of iconography in form, essence and imagery.

In juxtaposition of their works, the exhibition also displays Coptic icons from the 18th, 19th and early 1960's, as well as two 21st century icons.

For the first time, on display are artifacts Bedour and Youssef created and donated from their personal collection: hand carved copper crosses, icons & medallions painted in enamel on copper, fresco models (moquette) of wall paintings, and small icons on the Holy Family's Journey into Egypt. They also donated amulets they created by using ancient Egyptian techniques with local materials. The intricate replica of a St. Serga Church (Old Cairo) hand-carved brass chandelier with hand blown glass containers for the oil and wick is permanently on display.

Email for an appointment to visit the exhibition: copticmuseumcanada@gmail.com



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