

Local



Kuwaiti sculptor Sami Mohammed with his artwork 'Break Through'.

books. "A writer told me that the sculpture 'Paralysis and Resistance' encapsulates a library of freedom in one work. He said this statue summarizes hundreds of books. Also, the United Nations used the photo of this statue on one of their books," he said.

To earn enough money to make statues, Mohammed used to sell his paintings to buy the materials. "I was painting pictures of our environment, especially sadu weaving, and selling them."

People gradually became more interested in art. "The situation has changed from what it was in the 1950s, when there were only two or three artists. Before 1950, people didn't have time to care for fine arts, as they were busy trying to secure their living needs, mainly through pearl diving and other activities. With the economic boom after the discovery of oil, people became more interested in fine arts, and the Free Art Atelier was established," Mohammed told Kuwait Times.

At that time, the government started sending Kuwaiti students abroad on scholarships. "The number of artists increased, and I was

one of them, along with Khalifa Al-Qattan, Eisa Al-Saqer, Khaz'al Awadh, Jassem Buhamad, Abdullah Al-Qassar and others. We then established the Kuwaiti Society for Fine Arts (KSFA)," he added.

Today, the situation is different. "Kuwaiti artists today have more support from the government through the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and KSFA, which provide some of the tools needed by the artists. Also, modern technology and social media allow young artists to learn online, while this wasn't available in the past," he explained.

"My artworks are for all people from all nations. I entice people to stand in front of my sculptures and not pass by quickly. I attract them through my ideas, materials, design and others. I remember at one of my exhibitions I saw a woman crying near my 'Off File Case' sculpture. She said it reminded her of a tragedy," he concluded.



The bronze statue of Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

