



Ahmed Albahrani  
Hands of steel and heart of silk

Solo exhibition

Opening at Albareh Art Gallery,  
From 24 March, 2008 till 4 April 2008

**albareh**  
art gallery

Born in Iraq in 1965, Ahmad Al Bahrani graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in 1988. He taught sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad from 1992 till 1994. He now lives and works in Qatar where he founded Mimar Gallery with Architect Hazem Abu Naba'a. Al Bahrani participated in a number of group exhibitions in Iraq and elsewhere in the Arab world. He has executed several sculptures for public areas. His works have been acquired by museums and individuals in numbers of cities worldwide. Hereafter we've listed a selection of his solo exhibitions.

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2008 Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain

2006 Dar Al Fanoun, Kuwait

2006 Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain

2006 January 4 Walls Gallery, Amman

2004 Green Art, Dubai

2002 Bissan Gallery, in association with the French Cultural Centre, Qatar

2002 Al-Bida Gallery, with the National Council for Culture, Art & Heritage, Qatar

2001 Al Fardan Gardens, sponsored by Al-Fardan Group, Qatar

2000 French Ambassador's residence, Qatar

1999 French Cultural Centre, San'a

1998 Al-Afif Gallery, San'a

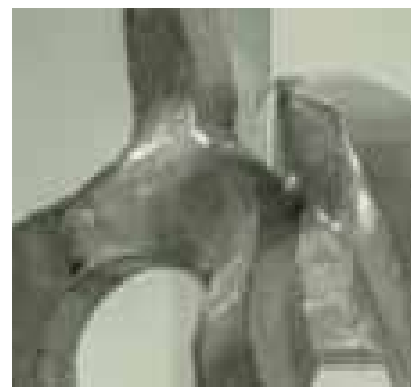
## Hands of Steel and Heart of Silk

Ahmed Albahrani knows that the subject does not make art, ideas do. The beauty he forms from an inert substance is not created with closed eyes. He explores the vacuum of space and with his hands fills it with forms of beauty derived from stories and talismans. These are hands of a magician awaiting an unseen future. It is meaningless to attempt an interpretation of the forms, rather than to draw out of them a promise of what may exist between the physical structure and the space it surrounds. Each form creates a sense of movement, but evokes the stillness which surrounds it. Like a musical phrase when it is set free, these works give the space which surrounds them a reverberating dimension which is not tangible or accounted for. Albahrani weaves his magic with this harsh, rough, harmful material and transforms it in the same way a sentence awakens when it breaks away from the set formation of the page. Once touched by the hands of this magician, this substance abandons all its customary attributes. Furthermore, his creations push the boundaries of our senses. Does the secret lie in the compliant obedience of the material as it metamorphosises in the hands of the sculptor, from nothingness, to the images in the artist's mind? Images which appear in disguise, as if wishing to conceal their true meaning. I hasten to add "in any form" as Albahrani seems to show a clear disregard for any form which emerges as a result. This is because these creations, which we see, although hinting at the direction of their ultimate transformation, do not present themselves as a single idea. Our eyes are not absolutely sure that they are seeing the actual representation of what we should be seeing. What we comprehend physically almost overrides what we actually see. It is an equation which Albahrani proves himself to be proficient in manipulating. He shakes up our perceptions and creates an illusion of visual movement. His work moves us into a visual world of virtual movement, which stimulates our visual imagination. Albahrani takes us away from the confines of realism, and influences what we do and how we see. His imagination accompanies us on our visual journey and oversees the arrival of what emerges from the womb of his creativity through this little known material. The works which Albahrani passionately sculpts allow the eyes to experience complete serenity. In all stages of his stylistic creativity, Albahrani is not just an observer. This sculptor has brilliantly dug a way through the tunnel of his extraordinary powers of observation to emerge with an exceptional connection between his hands of steel and his heart of silk.

Farouk Yusuf  
Art Critic and Poet



Untitled-1 | 75 X 75 X 150 cm | Metal | 2007



Untitled-2 | 50 X45 X 100 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-3 | 60 X 75 X 112 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-4 | 50 X 40 X 80 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-5 | 60 x 65 x 110 cm | Metal | 2008





Untitled-6 | 60 x 30 x 75 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-7 | 75 x 40 x 135 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-8 | 45 x 40 x 88 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-9 | 70 x 40 x 67 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-10 | 60 x 45 x 112 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-11 | 85 x 60 x 135 cm | Metal | 2007



Untitled-12 | 65 x 70 x 185 cm | Metal | 2007





Untitled-13 | 45 x 45 x 98 cm | Metal | 2008

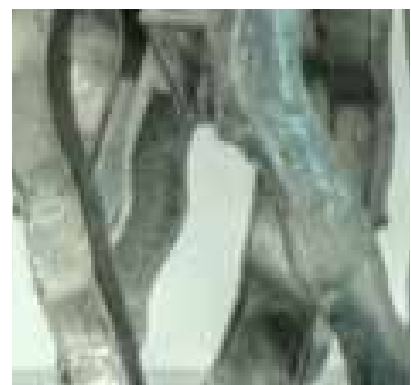




Untitled-14 | 70 x 50 x 105 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-15 | 50 x 35 x 75 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-16 | 60 x 65 x 96 cm | Metal | 2008



Untitled-17 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



1/10

2008

Untitled-20 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-19 | 124 x 86 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-18 | 124 x 86 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-21 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008





Untitled-22 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-23 | 124 x 86 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-24 | 124 x 86 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-25 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008



Untitled-26 | 86 x 124 cm | Print 1/10 | 2008

