

Ali Louati

Biographical data

Writer, poet, art critic, painter and scriptwriter.

Born in Tunis July 23rd, 1947.

Member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and the Arts, *Beit al-Hikma*.

Awards:

- National Critics Award , 1997
- *Tahar Haddad* literary Award , 2001

High school education at the Sadiki College, Tunis (baccalaureat/GCE in philosophy and classics, 1966- Presidential Award).

Degree in private law in 1973 from the Faculty of Law and Economics & Political Sciences, Tunis.

Author of books and studies in the fields of the arts, translation and art history, in addition to his literary and theatrical works.

Books on the Arts:

- Aesthetics of Muslim painting (in Arabic, published by Editions Abdelkrim Ben Abdallah. Tunis. 1979).
- Aly Ben Salem (bilingual, published by M.T.E. Tunis, 1986).
- Hedi Selmi (bilingual, published by Ceres Editions Tunis - 1994).
- The Arts in Tunisia (Arabic, published by ALECSO Tunis. 1996).
- The Baron d'Erlanger and his palace Ennajma Ezzahra in Sidi Bou Said (in French, published by Simpect Editions - Tunis. 1996).
- Ahmed Hajeri (bilingual , published by Editions La Maison des Arts Tunis. 1997).
- The Adventure of Modern Art in Tunisia. (in French , published by Simpect Editions- Tunis 1999).
- Music from Tunisia. (in French published by Simpect Editions. Tunis, 2012).

He is also author of numerous introductions to exhibition catalogues relating to several Tunisian and Arab visual artists (Hedi Turki, Ahmed Hajeri; Fathi Ben Zakkour, Khaled Ben Slimane; Ferial Lakhdar; Mounir Chaarani; Mahdi Moutachar; Abdelaziz al-Acour; ...).

Literary works :

- A collection of poems in Arabic *Akhbaru-l- bi'ri-l-mu'attalah* (Chronicle of the abandoned well). M.T.E. Tunis, 1986).
- An Arabic translation of poems by Saint-John Perse: *Anabase, Exil, Pluies, Neiges, Poème à l'Etrangère* (Published by la MaisonArabe du livre- Tunis, 1986)
- *Maji'u - l - Miyah*, published by LaMaisonArabe du Livre- Tunis, 1993, a poem in classical Arabic, translated into French under the title *Parousied'Eaux*(Second Coming of water), by the poet himself,who published the text in successive excerpts between 2000 and 2008, in the journal *Liaison* published in Brussels.
- A narrative in Arabic: *Hiraqlis* (published by Contrast Editions -Sousse, 2001), adapted into French by the author under the title *Heracles* and published in Arabic by the same publisher in 2013).
- A translation into Arabic of a text by Samir Makhoulf *Le Jardinier de Quinze Soirs*(The Gardener of Fifteen Evenings). Published by Contrast Editions- Sousse, 2003.

TV and audiovisual works

Between 1990 and 2011, he wrote scripts for a number of dramas for the Tunisian public Television (TV movies, soap operas, and serials including: *al-Khuttab 'al bab* (the suitors are there); *Gamrit SidiMahrus* (*The moon of SidiMahrous*) ;*Hsabatwa 'Aqabat* (*Accounts and mishaps*).

- In 2009, he wrote the script and the comment of a Sound and Light Show: *Eternal Kairouan*, projected onto the walls of the Great Mosque of Kairouan, at the inauguration of *Kairouan Capital of Islamic Culture* event.

Plays

- As a playwright, he wrote several theatre plays including, *al-Mutasha'bitun*/The social climbers/(in colloquial Arabic, premiered by the National Theatre in 2005), *Ila Beatrice*/For Beatrice/ (in written Arabic, 2007) and *The Pilgrim of Love*, 2009) published by Contrast Editions. Sousse)
- In 1993 he translated into Tunisian Arabic dialect *Solitude dans un champ de coton*/Solitude in a cotton field/, by Bernard-Marie Koltes, premiered by the Free Theatre company, staged by Rached Mannai.
- In 2015, he wrote a play: *Safa and the President* (manuscript).

Visual arts

As a painter, he organised a number of solo exhibitions (dedicated to his works) and participated in group exhibitions.

Lyrics for songs

He is author of lyrics set to music by Tunisian composers Anouar Brahem, Rabii Zammouri and Zied Gharsa.

Conferences and Seminars

- He gave numerous conferences and participated in a number of seminars on the art, both in Tunisia and abroad (Paris, Tripoli, Istanbul, Doha, Muscat, Cairo, Marseille, Jeddah, Dakar, Berne, Tehran, Beirut, Bahrain, Nice ...)

- As part of the activities of the Tunisian Academy Beit al-Hikma, he organized a symposium on the theme: *literary fiction and cinema: constants and changes of an interrelation in the contemporary world* (March 4th thru 6th, 2014), whose acts are published under the collection **Colloquia** of the Academy. Carthage, 2014.

- Member of juries of biennials as well as national and international art competitions: ATB Challenge (2006-2010); Cairo (1996); Sharjah (1997 and 2004); Dakar (1998); Jeddah (1998)

- President of the Jury of feature films competition at the JCC (Carthage Film Festival) 2015.

- Member, since 2006, of the jury of ATB (Arab Tunisian Bank) Challenge for the Arts, Technology and Management Award.

Former adviser to the Ministry of Culture, he was also, director of the Centre d'Art Vivant of the City of Tunis (1981 to 1990); founding director of the Maison des Arts (1990-1999); director, from 1992 to 1995 of the Hammamet International Cultural Centre; founding director of the Centre for Arab and Mediterranean Music-Palace of the Baron d'Erlanger in Sidi Bou Saïd (1992).