

ART AND CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD

AA: Initially, I felt as if I were in a period of mourning.

AYK: And now?

AA: Once Trump became president, I was ready, as were tens of thousands of others, to break out from that feeling of paralysis.

AYK: What do you think Middle Eastern artists living in the US need to do about this?

AA: All artists have a role to play, but it's not by virtue of being an artist that you're automatically going to have a political position.

AYK: Has your art changed as a result?

AA: I've shifted from inanimate architecture to, all of sudden, people. Figures are entering my work.

AYK: What does this mean?

AA: I think it represents the proximity of what's happening, right here, in my city. So that's a shift that's been very real for me.

AYK: Have you thought about moving elsewhere?

AA: No. I feel an obligation to change things where I am, and where I'm from.



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ny Cragg with Leila Heller, founding director and president.



Mohammed Afkhami with Tony Cragg.

TONY CRAGG: SCULPTURES AT LEILA HELLER GALLERY

On 22 January, English artist Tony Cragg gave a special tour of his first solo show in the UAE to a private audience, following a talk with Kevin Jones. This exhibition features his monumental sculptures and runs through to 6 March (see page 74).



Tony Cragg in conversation with Kevin Jones.