

## Etiquette

## To bow or not to bow?

## Put your best foot forward at a royal event: expert

**Elizabeth Wyse** is the London-based head of publishing for DebreTT's, the UK's modern authority on all matters of manners and behaviour. The opinions expressed are her own. DebreTT's website is [www.debreTTs.com](http://www.debreTTs.com). — Editor

By Elizabeth Wyse

The royal wedding is approaching and many people will be pondering the mysteries of royal protocol. In this day and age is bowing and scraping, hand kissing and walking backwards really de rigueur?

**To bow or not to bow?**  
Although Buckingham Palace has made it quite clear that it is a question of personal choice whether you choose

to make the traditional bow or curtsy upon being presented to a member of the royal family, we would strongly advise that this is a tradition that should be observed - particularly when meeting a senior member of the royal family.

Foreign nationals are not expected to bow or curtsy. The bow is from the neck and the curtsy is just a short 'bob' (not a theatrical ground-sweeping gesture).

Naturally, if The Queen offers to shake hands, you should reciprocate with a gentle handshake (no vigorous hand pumps).

The younger princes and princesses, including Prince William and Catherine, may very well neither wish for nor expect this kind of deference,

except perhaps on a formal introduction, but a bow or curtsy is a safe default position.

**In conversation**

If you find yourself in conversation with The Queen it is customary to address her as "Your Majesty", and subsequently as "Ma'am" (to rhyme with jam).

Traditionally, it was not done to ask the Queen direct questions, though such anodyne restrictions on conversation have now been relaxed. Generally, however, it is probably safest to let The Queen guide the topics of conversation.

Other members of the royal family who bear the style of His (or Her) Royal Highness should be first

addressed as "Your Royal Highness" and subsequently as "Sir" or "Ma'am", but don't let these forms of address get in the way of natural and spontaneous conversation.

Members of the royal family are, after all, more than usually accustomed to meeting total strangers almost every day of their lives, and may appreciate a direct and friendly approach - as long as it is polite.

**Titled people**

If you are introduced to a member of the peerage there is generally no need in ordinary conversation to call anyone by name. The days of peppering the conversation with obsequious references to "Your grace" or "My lord" are well and truly over.

At social events such as a wedding assume that everyone is of equal standing and titles need not be observed in introductions. Peers and peeresses would normally be introduced by their first names and peeresses, for example Anthony Gainsborough, Robin Kilmarnock, Henrietta Lichfield, etc...

**Dress codes**

These are always explicitly detailed on the invitations to royal occasions, and the royal wedding is no exception, specifying "Dress Uniform, Morning Coat or Lounge Suit".

Women should wear formal dresses or suits, and avoid halter necks, spaghetti straps and mini-skirts. Hats are not compulsory, but many women

will choose to wear them - don't go completely over the top (as you would at Royal Ascot). The idea is to look smart and elegant, not show-stoppingly flamboyant.

**Enjoy!**

Don't be overawed by the occasion, and don't take refuge in alcohol. Remember, members of the royal family are completely experienced when it comes to meeting and greeting, so relax and take the lead from them.

Don't be nervous or tongue-tied, and try to avoid over-compensating by becoming garrulous and over-bearing. Finally, remember royal protocol is about small gestures of respect, not about being cringing, over-deferential or obsequious. (RTS)

## The New Look

## Competition made him stronger

## Nawaf preserves old sprint in new works

This is the second and last in a series of articles on Nawaf Al Hamli, a vanguard young artist. — Editor

By Lidia Al-Qattan

Special to the Arab Times

Nawaf Al Hamli got seriously involved in art since he became a teacher at the Plastic Arts Institute of Samira Al Yaqoob in Jabriya in 2004, after which he became part of the Black and White Group of young artists, and took part in many exhibitions in which he gained first prizes — the 15th and the 16th Isa Saqer prize for originality, the Second Spring Exhibition's prize, the Outstanding Works Exhibitions of Young Artists prize, and lately the 17th Qurain Cultural Festival prize.

The fact that almost every time he joins an exhibition he receives a prize has triggered the jealousy of some artists, who began to discredit his work, some hinting that ghost painters are doing it for him, others saying that he is copying from the Internet and mass media.

Such jealous remarks only made Nawaf more determined to prove his worth, presenting ever new original creations for which he laboured for months.

**Generation**

The tenacity with which he has been facing his accusers with new works, has spurred him to become one of the vanguard artists of the young generation striving to improve the standard of art in Kuwait, which began to deteriorate from the early Eighties and has now reached its lowest marks as testified by the exhibitions held at the KAA, an authority in this field.

The repetition of incongruous abstract works and other ephemeral art forms of no consequence to the enrichment of the human spirit in those exhibitions points to the need of an infusion of fresh blood, of new ideas to restore vitality to the local movement.

The old spirit that created the Kuwait art movement and made it an important factor in the general cultural development, it is now dead.

Gone is the time when art was not only expressive of individual dreams, visions and dramatic moods, but indicative of certain tendencies in the mental attitudes of its generation — a genuine reflection of its time; as such it had developed into an intellectual art through the works of some remarkable artists — Khalifa Al Qattan, Abdullah Al Qassar, Kazal Al Qaffas, Isa Saqer, Sami Mohammad and Ayoub Hassain.

**Evaluations**

Art is the fruit of new evaluations that contribute to culture, it becomes important is so far as it participates in the general evolution and development of thought. In this capacity it is far more than a mere reflection of the external world. Though rooted in its environment, in its genuine manifestation and creativity it communicates ideas that can influence people's way of thinking and behaviour; in other words it contributes to culture, which is only the organization of stereotype attitudes that

soon become a matter of etiquette.

Art, whenever it is worthy of the name, deals with the meaning behind human activities and with experiences as they effect the spirit.

Hence it is a record of spiritual achievement, a depository of documents representing the inquiries, the speculations and organized experiences of individuals of a certain period, who gathered together in permanent form ideas and emotions of their time; for nothing is permanent, everything, every situation is of limited duration.

In the Fifties Kuwait was emerging with a society avid of ideas and experiments. The art produced in this period gave birth to the local movement, which after two decades began to degenerate into triviality and imitation.

The upheaval caused by the Iraqi invasion and the aftermath of the liberation sparked a flare of artistic activity, which soon died out, but in spite of it being short lived it left a lingering spirit which the new generation of young artists is striving to invigorate.

Nawaf is one of such artists who refuses to sink in meaningless abstractions which many debutants are producing nowadays without any awareness of the true value and purpose of art, which like religion draws its inner nourishment from the spiritual world.

**Knowledge**

Art is inherent in the human soul; it thrives in a free society, in which artists unhindered by artificial ties can develop their individuality to its full capacity. In its stronger form it is more likely to appear in a nation that is strong, healthy and unrefined. When life is secure and uneventful it becomes a reflex of its surrounding — inconsequential and effeminate prone to degenerate into sweetness and imitation.

Such a surrounding rarely produces great art, whose humanity and philosophy is an inexhaustible source of inspiration.

Nawaf believes that before venturing in abstracts any artist should have good basic knowledge of painting and how to combine colors, lights and form to give an atmospheric space and depth to the painting; practicing, experimenting with different media is also important

He himself discovered the true direction of his talent when he attended the Samira Al Yaqoob's Institute of Plastic Arts in Jabriya.

Nawaf's works reflect his calm disposition, his sensitive intellect, the nostalgia for a past of which he only had a glimpse in his early childhood before the old town disappeared completely along with its frugal but dignified life, in which hypocrisies were almost unknown in society and human compassion welded the community into one loving family sharing its differences, his moments of happiness and sorrows. That community like the old town it is all but gone, a new spirit has replaced the old.

In the sophistication of the new society children no longer believe in tales of monsters and Jinni's ready to fall on anyone venturing out in the narrow streets of town in the darkness of the night.

Nawaf himself is part of the new generation, but the lingering memory of the past revived in the paintings of Ayoub Hassain, keeps him pondering and often inspires him with new compositions on which he may labor for months.

**Concluded**

Lidia Qattan



One of the paintings by Nawaf Al Hamli (inset) titled 'Mythology.'

click

Latest

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To add to the euphoria, well known singers Jagdish Putter, Melwyn and Mrs. Zeena will be there to rock the audience. The programme Compere & Mimicry Artist Sudarshan is sure to bind the audience with his wit and mimicry. Added attraction to the evening are winners of 'Gulf Voice of Mangalore' Vinay Louis, Mrs. Gladis Lohrina and Warren D'Souza. Be a witness to a dazzling evening filled with fantastic songs, spectacular dances & loads of humour.

Welcome to American International School, Maidaan Hawally, on Friday, April 29, 2011, at 4.30 pm & be a part of this high energy spectacle. Passes available at: Kuwait City: Oriental Restaurant 22456553 — Farwaniya: China Metro Take Away 24744281, 66036402 — Abbasiya: Shahi Tandoori 24311914 — Hawally: Shetty Grocery 22616768/22620560/55941955 — Salmiya: Sanboub Super Market 25644961 — Move&Pick 25653874 — Mangaf: Yadunath 99558231 — Fahaaheel: Ronald 99865712.

**Indian Carnival – 2011:** Hot Stepper the entertainment wing of Creative Indians Association announces their forthcoming event Indian Carnival – 2011 on 29th April, 2011 at the Kuwait Entertainment City, Doha from 2 pm till 11 pm. The day will offer tons of free rides, games, discount stalls, mouth watering Indian food stalls, dance performances, music, and a whole lot more of entertainment. The highlight of the carnival

will be performances by the latest music director and singer duo Toshi & Sharib Sabri along with the gorgeous looking and rocking performer Neeti Mohan of the AASMA band fame, performing on the live band for the first time for the carnival. The Hot Stepper group invites sponsors to be part of this Grand Indian Carnival. Call 22455818. For dance performances, email at [dance@hot-stepper.com](mailto:dance@hot-stepper.com). Visit and register on our

website [www.hot-stepper.com](http://www.hot-stepper.com) for timely updates on the event.

April 30

**Annual Spring Gift Bazaar:** Come one, come all to the event that everyone has been waiting for. It's time for the Annual Spring Bazaar! Come out for an enjoyable day of shopping and visiting with the vendors you know and love. Whether its clothes, baked goods or crafts, you are sure to find it here.

When: Saturday, April 30 from 10 am to 7 pm. Where: Safir Residence Hotel, Fintas (exit 209).

No entry fee. K-net available on location.

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**Junior baking classes at TIES:**

Dear mothers, we invite your daughter to our new baking classes, so that they can give you a hand in preparing sweets for desert.

From April 30 - May 21, 2011 between 10 am - 12 pm.

Age 6 years to 12 years (Girls only)  
Please apply now and reserve a seat.  
Certificates and presents will be distributed after completion of the course!

For more information please contact us on 2523105/6 or 97228860 or visit our website [www.tiescenter.net](http://www.tiescenter.net)

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Charlie (left) is a calm and affectionate male Persian Mix cat. He is 2.5 years old, loves a cuddle and just to hang around. This easy going buddy would be a fantastic addition to a family with children over 10. Vanessa (right) is a 9-month-old, very sweet natured, female Spaniel dog. Vanessa is an affectionate loving girl, but is still a little bit shy and needs a loving home to come out of her shell, therefore she would do best in a home with children over 8. If you are interested in adopting please contact us on +965-6700-1622 or visit us on our website [www.kspath.org](http://www.kspath.org)

