

Speech

Vernissage exposition « Tegner et le Maroc »

1st of June 2018

Dear Mrs. Luise Gomard, Dear Mr. Johan Zimsen,
Excellencies and Art Connoisseurs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends

It is indeed my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the Tegner Museum at the opening ceremony of a brilliant exhibition celebrating both Tegner and Morocco, displaying some of the finest Contemporary Moroccan art.

This exhibition is the fruit of a unique adventure : it began with an idea, a project Rudolph Tegner had when he visited twice my country and resulted in shared beauty and art when he allowed himself to be inspired by Moroccan culture.

I can only imagine the richness and outcome of such a journey nowadays, as Morocco has gone far in encouraging Contemporary art initiatives. The inauguration of Mohammed the 6th Museum for Modern Art in Rabat mirrors His Majesty's continuous royal sollicitude for art and culture, as well as Moroccans growing interest for artistic expression in general.

Paying tribute today to some fine Moroccan artworks makes me feel proud, and hopeful. The idea was to show how Rudolph Tegner would have been influenced by Morocco today. Well, to all Moroccan artists among us today I say : he would certainly

have seen a vibrant artistic performance. I hope all visitors who come here will get as much enjoyment as me from these works.

This special event and this building show how the dynamic of networking and cultural intermingling can result in great achievements. I am amazed by the architecture of the Museum hosting our event, being one of the most break-through modernist buildings in Denmark; yet, inspired by very ancient Riads that Tegner came across while visiting Morocco.

And what about this unfinished statue, displaying blind people carrying a dead woman in Marrakech ... Definitely, Art goes beyond all boundaries, bringing people and cultures closer. The true purpose of art is not to entertain but to show us the way to another, better, world. I am delighted to see such an active cultural interaction boost the friendship and better understanding between Morocco and Denmark.

I know just how much this exhibition owes to the friendship the organizers, dear Luise and Johan, and those working alongside you, have for Morocco. Thank you for taking up the challenge of making Morocco better known on Danish soil, and making the artwork of Tegner better known in Morocco.

Let me express the wish that more exhibitions celebrating the relationship between Morocco and Denmark take place in the near future and let me make a call to organize an exhibition of Danish artists in Morocco.

To all of you who have come here from near and far, I wish you a very pleasant time and I hope such wonderful representation of Moroccan culture and heritage whets your appetite to visit Morocco.