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Claudius succeeds his nephew Caligula as Roman Emperor after the latter's assassination by officers of the Praetorian Guard



1857

University of Calcutta founded as the first full-fledged university in South Asia

1899

Rubber heel for boots or shoes patented by American Humphrey O'Sullivan

1984

Apple Computer Inc unveils its revolutionary Macintosh personal computer

American artist hard-hitting haiku



Rahma — born in Cairo and raised in New York City — has been writing poetry for five years. “I’ve always loved haiku because of how accessible it is,” he says of the format for the book. “My goal is to express complex topics, philosophies and ideas by using the simplest vocabulary possible. I want my poetry to be for everyone always took risks

“I’ve always loved haiku because of how accessible it is. My goal is to express complex topics, philosophies and ideas by using the simplest vocabulary possible. I want my poetry to be for everyone always took risks

KAREEM RAHMA

“The Emergency/Came and took the poor away/We are happy now.”

But, Rahma adds, it also “allows plenty of space for humor, laughter and satire.” Sort of a haiku-version of “Black Mirror,” then. (He’s right, though, there are some very funny verses — “We love Muslims now/Ever since Ramadan became/A Bank Holiday.”)

“Ultimately it is an exploration of the world we live in right now and an attempt to predict our trajectory forward,” he says.

Rahma says he came up with the idea for the book while he was asleep in a Beirut hotel room.

“I was being drawn to Beirut for artistic reasons,” he says. “I really felt like I needed to be there in order to come up with some new ideas, and in the middle of the night on my fourth or fifth night, I woke up and wrote down ‘We Were Promised Flying Cars 100 Haiku From The Future.’ When I woke up, I looked at what I’d written and



Kareem Rahma

the idea had merit. Once I came back to the USA, I began to write and it was very therapeutic and fun, so I just kept going until I had nearly 200 poems written.”

The next step was to select the celebrities he wanted to read his haiku. “Tara Reid, Andy Dick and Gilbert Gottfried were all \$100 and those were the most expensive. A dog called Puggy Smalls was the least expensive — \$10. Jennifer Love Hewitt, Freddie Prinze Jr. and Tomi Lahren all ignored my requests,” he says. “I’d ignore

my request too.”

Rahma hopes the book will “open the door for new projects beyond poetry” and says he has already been approached about turning “We Were Promised Flying Cars” into “some kind of television anthology, which is exciting to me.”

And he’ll definitely be heading to the Middle East for inspiration again. “I’m always being pulled there, energetically-speaking,” he says. “The Middle East has a magnetic energy to me.”

Kareem Rahma is an Egyptian-American poet and entrepreneur living in New York City. He is the founder of Nameless Network and The Museum of Pizza. Before becoming a full-time artist and entrepreneur, he was a Growth Editor at The New York Times and the Associate Director of Global Marketing at VICE

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Roni Helou is a graduate of Creative Space Beirut, and has shown at FFWD twice before



Roni Helou



A dress designed by Roni Helou

on by digging through markets and sourcing high-quality vintage fabrics and trimmings instead of using newer, chemically-treated and dyed materials,” Helou said.

The Hesitation Shirt/Skirt is the piece the designer is most proud of from the collection. “As you can probably guess from the name, it is a shirt than can also be worn as a skirt. I love this piece because it was both challenging and satisfying to turn a shirt into a wearable, practical skirt; I also like the fact that it is designed to be worn in three different

ways, which means it’s a timeless piece.” It is made of three fabrics all sourced from surplus stocks.

It is no surprise to hear this 27-year-old’s ultimate goal is for his eponymous label to be one of the leading luxury sustainable brands in the region. Just a few months ago Roni had the opportunity to exhibit his FW19 collection at London proving he is on track for his career goal. While the young designer believes he still has “lots to learn,” Roni Helou is indeed a label to look out for.

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