

BIOGRAPHY:

Siham Ajram was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. In her youth, she lived and witnessed the traumas of the Lebanese Civil War. Ajram studied Computer Sciences at the Lebanese American University (LAU). Her passion for drawing and painting led her back to LAU to pursue studies in Fine Arts, where she received her MFA in 2014.

SIHAM AJRAM

What was once known as 'The Switzerland of the Middle East,' is no more.

A fairytale land that once inspired the entire world, now only exists in memory.

A country torn by countless conflicts fueled by endless ideologies and empty slogans.

How did we end up like this? What went wrong?

As young Lebanese citizens, we were, and still continue to be classified and labeled according to our given names and religious affiliations. Social and political boundaries predetermine our choices and ambitions.

In ***Against All Odds***, and from my own experience, I address this social anomaly and express my personal, analytical observations from an artistic perspective. The covered faces of my subjects symbolize the innate separation between one's personality and his or her beliefs. The surrounding ruins of the city illustrate my reflection, which bears witness to a bitter past and continuously somber present. Social labeling, despair, and lack of hope, are all leading factors to this self-destructive phase in the Lebanese community. Each of my paintings illustrates a particular social category directly affected by the current situation of the nation, haunted by the ruins of the past.

However, and despite the dark landscape, the subjects of my paintings, the generation of the future, are rising with a positive and provocative determination, challenging the bitter present, and spreading a glimpse of light and aspiration for a better future.

The boy on stairs, the kissing couple, the children on the balcony, and many others, symbolize this defiant act and positive mindset.

EXHIBITIONS:

2016 Against all odds, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon

2012 Antellias Art Fair – Beirut, Lebanon.

2011 UNESCO – Beirut, Lebanon

2010 UNESCO – Beirut, Lebanon

2009 French Embassy – Beirut, Lebanon.