

Art on 56th

Whispers of Sand

Saoud Al Abdallah works on doing away with the aesthetics of color - what painters find pleasure in - to delve in his treasured terrain, which is the cluster, turning his back to lines and tactility. He refines the elements of his painting: a child, a woman or a man, getting rid of all their details to form the simplest shape, circular and firm, which he then connects to the space by simply alluding to a sidewalk or skyline, or by leaving them floating in unlimited space. In his attempt to attain the utmost simplicity the cluster almost becomes inscrutable. The painting is then unintentionally taken to the edge of abstraction. Color strokes are unnoticeable in Al Abdallah's paintings contrary to the majority of classic painters who attempt to cover the stroke of the brush. This is due to the fact that Saoud doesn't use acrylic colors, but sand! Colored sand dug up from places unknown to us that he uses to transform from a simple material into an artistic element. It is important to mention that not only is sand an unusual material for painting, it also gives the artist the opportunity to create singular artworks, which evoke the authenticity of both the material and the structure. Saoud doesn't preoccupy himself with nationalist or historical identities that have been prevalent in previous eras. He depicts human beings that bear no local characteristics. While his country has been under constant destruction for the past three years, he translated the ruination of buildings, humans, and relationships but also the human tragedy with a sense of dignity and humanism. Immigrants, refugees and injured people, all lost their homes, their lives violated... Al Abdallah's work portrays this without outcry, propitiation, or tears... He conveys the tragedy of humans with nobility. Saoud Al Abdallah presents today the hard work of many years and endless nights spent refining his paintings that portray a simple and solid cluster, concealing strong and deep emotions that only time can reckon with.

Youssef Abdelki

Art on 56th

Saoud Abdallah

Saoud Abdallah is a Syrian artist born in Hasaka in 1976. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2005 and he got his postgraduate diploma in 2006. Abdallah's work was shown in several exhibitions in Beirut, Syria and Italy. His work combines different types of natural sand to produce rigid yet emotional layer of figures on canvas.

Artist's Statement

"In my work, I try to modulate shapes by using a curved line, which gives me the opportunity to develop the idea of form. I use natural sand in its own natural color, which I got from several regions of Syria in order to enrich the simplicity of shapes in my painting. The technique in my works is therefore an extension of the form and not vice versa.

In the end, technicality is a foregone conclusion."

Saoud Abdallah

Exhibitions

- 2015 Collective 2015, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2015 Art 15 London, "Emerging & Upcoming artists from Lebanon & the MEA" Art on 56th, London, UK
- 2014 Solo Exhibition, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 - 14 Summer Collective Exhibition, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Platinum Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Warm up Art Fair, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- 2011 Kamel Gallery, Shaghaf Competition, Damascus, Syria
- 2011 Mustafa Ali Gallery, "Small Painting" competition, Damascus, Syria
- 2011 Sketch Exhibition, Riwaq Al-Qishla Damascus, Syria
- 2009 Friends of Fairuz Exhibition, Dar el-Opera, Damascus, Syria
- 2007 Artists from the Faculty of Fine Arts, International Damascus Fair, Syria
- 2006 Love Festival, Tribute to the artist Abdul Manan Shamma
- 2004- 05 Youth Exhibition, Damascus, Syria