

Sustainability and Art:

Talking about SUSTAINABILITY requires a wide-ranging understanding of the term. It is an interdisciplinary discussion that involves multiple notions of DEVELOPMENT (economic, social, environmental and cultural) and INTERACTION between human beings and their surrounding (mainly biological) in order to keep it diverse and productive indefinitely for the future generations. Therefore the term SUSTAINABILITY needs to be assimilated first individually through EDUCATION that allows us to integrate new habits and gather our efforts in order to meet basic human needs without degrading the natural environment.

Furthermore we can contribute to a better QUALITY OF LIFE through cultural activities such as ART. With ART we can communicate SUSTAINABILITY more creatively, presenting new and unusual perspectives of its different aspects to reach all kinds of minds and ensure its comprehension.

On a separate note and following Lebanon's worst garbage crisis, in addition to numerous environmental issues and harmful practices towards our biophysical surrounding that the Lebanese people and government seem to be inattentive to, bringing up SUSTAINABILITY into the Lebanese art scene and artistic discussions is a crucial priority.

My personal approach to SUSTAINABILITY herein is through a narrative illustration of "glimpses" of specific situations or moments. The glimpse is represented by a wide splash of one uniform color that serves as a base for the whole depiction of the scene/moment. These moments are either still (still life of a bathroom where we see part of a sink, night glasses on the sink, a trash can filled with hand napkins on a tiled floor), or a situation that involves a certain individual (portrait of a little girl blowing soap bubbles in the middle of a traffic congestion pollution).

In the first painting, there is no action, the moment is inanimate, the night glasses suggest the presence of a "narrator" or a "bystander" kept out of sight. We can spot the recycling symbol subtly merged in the repetitive pattern of the tile design. The whole painting implicates passiveness from the part of the "bystander" who needs to be reminded of waste recycling, a basic civic duty he owes to himself and his society, and the message has to be disclosed quickly and in a simple direct manner by a non-living element i.e. the tiles.

In the second painting, the main subject is a little girl blowing soap bubbles in the middle of a traffic jam surrounded by exhaust fumes in an innocent attempt at air cleansing. The general dynamic in this scene evokes slowness in motion, validated by the vehicular queuing and the free flow of the scattered bubbles in synchronization with the excessive discharge of smoke, alongside a visual contradiction in the nature of the chemical elements depicted, i.e. the transparency of bubbles vs. the opacity of fumes.

Dyala Khodary

Born 1979 in Beirut, Dyala Khodary majored in Fine Arts at the Lebanese University Institute of Fine Arts in 2002. Khodary worked as a “Chef d’Atelier Artistique” (2007-2011). She designed textures and artistic finishes for walls, ceilings, floors and several other ornamental pieces. The artist then decided to participate in renowned exhibitions, including “Salons D’Automne” of Sursok Museum, during which she showcased some of her early paintings. Khodary’s work is conceptual in content and figurative in representation. Her experience in the decorative field has given her the dexterity to work with diverse techniques and varied media that she applies today in her conceptual art. Her works treat ideas, people, nature, and overall eclectic themes. There are no set rules. The beauty of the process lies in its unpredictability that best describes her.

Exhibitions

2015 Art on paper, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon

2015 Beirut Art Fair, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon

2015 Collective 2015, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon

2015 Art 15 London, «Emerging artists from Lebanon & the MEA» Art on 56th, London, UK

2015 Solo exhibition, Tailor-Made, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon

2013 Summer Collective Exhibition, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

2012 XXXIe Salon d’Automne (Autumn Salon)- Sursok Museum, Beirut, Lebanon

2008 XXVIIIe Salon d’Automne (Autumn Salon)- Sursok Museum, Beirut, Lebanon

2005 XXVIe Salon d’Automne (Autumn Salon)- Sursok Museum, Beirut, Lebanon

2002 Open House- Lebanese University – Institute of Fine Arts- Raouché, Beirut, Lebanon

2001 Collective Exhibition – Oubeih, Beirut, Lebanon

1999 Collective Exhibition – Goethe Institute, Beirut, Lebanon