

Mansour El-Habre

Born in Lebanon in 1970, Mansour El Habre holds a Diploma in Plastic Arts from the Lebanese University and a Masters in Plastic Arts from the Balamand University. He teaches Painting and Drawing at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA).

Since 1993, El Habre has participated in individual and group exhibitions in his hometown, Geneva, London, Greece, Canada, Paris, Washington, Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar. He has also been invited by the Lebanese Ministry of Culture to participate in the International Triennial of Engraving in Rhodes, Greece in 2008.

His work can be found in private and public collections including in the Audi Bank in Beirut, the Solidere Headquarters in Beirut and the Cité Social de Fameck, France.

Solo Exhibitions

2022	Beau Négatif, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2021	Conflit Intime, The LT Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2014	Home Life, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2012	Republicafé, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2010	Mysterious Ways, Almarkhia Gallery, Qatar
2008	Fiction, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2002	Scènes de vie, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2002	Football, Janine Rubeiz Gallery-Circus, Beirut, Lebanon
2001	Football, Zico House, Beirut, Lebanon
1995	Garden Café, Beirut, Lebanon

Collective Exhibitions

2023	Art Cairo, Grand Egyptian Museum, Art on 56th Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
2022	Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2022	MENA Art Fair, Cornitte de Saint Cyr, Paris, France
2013	Beirut Art Fair, ME. NA. SA. ART, Biel, Hall2, Beirut, Lebanon
2015	Home Life, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2010	Convergence, New Art from Lebanon, University of Washington's Museum for Contemporary Art, Katzen Center, Washington, USA
2009	Abu Dhabi Art 2009, Modern Art Fair, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE Art Dubai, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE Artistes Libanais, Janine Rubeiz Gallery & Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait Musée Nicolas Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
2008	Al Markhiya Gallery, Souq Wakif, Qatar Pièces choisies de la Banque Audi, CCSS de Jamhour, Lebanon Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Triennale Internationale de Gravure, Ministère de la Culture, Rhodes, Greece Lignes et Couleurs » Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, Lebanon Lebanese Stories DIFC, Dubai, UAE Impressions sur place, lithographie & gravure, Centre Culturel Français, Beirut, Lebanon

2006	3 Art Lounge, exposition collective de 3 artistes, Beirut, Lebanon Infijar, 5' Video, B.3 I 2 Gallery, Québec, Canada Videplein, 2 '29' Video 2ème Festival International de Film et Vidéo de Création, Université de Balamand, Académie libanaise des Beaux-Arts ALBA, Lebanon Janine Rubeiz Gallery, collective exhibition, Mansour El Habre & Audic Rizk, Beirut, Lebanon
2005	Coup d'œil : Passé et Présent I, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2004	Lebanon - The Artist's View II, BLA, Cork Street Galleries (Mayfair), London, UK
2002	100 Shaheed, 100 lives, Unesco Palace, Beirut, Lebanon
1993-2001	Sociétaire au Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
1999	Maraya Reflets d'Art-Badaro, Beirut, Lebanon Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain-Europ'Art, Geneva, Switzerland
1998	Agial Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
1996	Galerie L'entretiens, Mansourieh, Lebanon
1995	Livre de Dessin, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Abdo Boueiz Statement

Exhibited under the title "Beau Négatif", the works of Mansour El Habre focus on a unique depiction of space, characterised by shapes that are colourful, torn, scattered or stacked harmoniously and assiduously, playing with the tension between clear and blurred boundaries. There are forms that are flat, others that are sharp or even suspended in space, resulting in a double, and contradictory point of view: one from above and one in front.

This spatial antinomy is essential to El Habre's abstract art. It puzzles the viewers, who are encouraged to experiment with their perspectives in relation to the paintings. Each angle produces a different picture, highlighting an inner force attributed to the artworks, originating from the artist's technique of piling up, tearing and colouring pictorial elements.

The longer the viewer observes the paintings, the more abstraction merges with realism. Abstract forms begin to sport naturalistic qualities, with incomplete fragments forming hints of human characteristics, feeding into antithetical spirit of the works. The eye is constantly seeking to make sense of the myriad of components, engaging in a constant exchange with the surface of the canvases.

Isn't "Beau Négatif" a beauty in itself? Is this name of the exhibition nothing more than an exploration of the concept of beauty? The collection of paintings confronts the viewer to two possibilities: to either move away from the artworks to contemplate an abstract scene, or to come closer and admire the surface's infinite details. The compositions reveal a struggle between forms, yet exude a luminous tranquillity, a creative refuge where viewers can escape reality and seek new interpretations of beauty.

Dr. Abdo Boueiz
December 28, 2022