

Art on 56th

“Under the Same Roof”

“Under the Same Roof”, a solo exhibition of works by Syrian artist Tarek Butayhi. The gallery will showcase his body of paintings, conceived between 2016 and 2022, focusing on his personification of suffering through portraiture. He moves away from his traditional subject matter, which was largely centred on the female sitter (such as with the “Figures of Women” series), to encompass a larger range of characters, and include all human beings.

“Under the Same Roof” tells the story of mankind’s suffering in the present time. It alludes to today’s difficult climate, with the global pandemic, political and economic instability, as well as the collective consciousness of people around the world that has become tainted with feelings of fear, anguish, anger, and sadness. Although each portrait is different, the theme of the exhibition weaves together the individual paintings to symbolize the shared pain of people from every corner across the globe. Unifying the suffering of others under the same roof, Butayhi offers a glimpse into the connectedness of the human identity.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a painting titled *Arrouss Beirut – Beirut Bride*, dedicated to the city that has brought the artist his inspiration and has been the root of his success. Since leaving Syria, Butayhi has settled in Lebanon, developing his craft and visual language based on the sights, the culture, and the people in his surroundings. Following the onset of the revolution, the financial crisis, and the horrific explosion on August 4th, 2020, he painted the Beirut bride, the incarnation of the city’s soul. She is depicted with her cheeks resting between her hands, her face absorbed in deep reflection on all that has happened to her country, and her beloved home.

Each of the other paintings in the show is also a portrait, revealing not only the person’s physical traits, but also what goes on beyond the surface. The canvases are portrayals of emotion, rendered in spontaneous brushstrokes, erratic lines, and expressive chromatic application. Butayhi uses colour to define form, but also to mirror the psychological state of his sitters. The turbulent brushwork gives the impression that features of these characters are in motion, as though their emotions are pouring out of their faces and unravelling in the composition. Their melancholic gaze is countered by the vivid palette, suggesting that despite the internal turmoil, there is hope for a brighter future. The unfinished quality of the paintings establishes a subtle interplay of abstraction versus naturalism, as well as conceptual versus literal. This becomes a reflection of the world’s current state, where

Tarek Butayhi

Tarek Butayhi, born in 1982, is a talented young artist. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts Department of Painting in 2006. He has held solo exhibitions in his homeland, Kuwait, Lebanon, and participated in various group exhibitions in Beirut, London, Istanbul and Cairo. However, his multitude of skills is what brought him to Art on 56th’s attention. Tarek’s work is characterized by expressive content and spontaneity. In his painting process, the colours define the shapes and exude emotion. He focuses on portraiture, revealing the inner realm of his sitters.

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Solo Exhibitions:

- 2022 "Under The Same Roof, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2015 Women in canvas, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Women on canvas, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Kab Gallery, World Peace Day, Kuwait
- 2011 Boushahri Art Gallery, Kuwait
- 2009 Dar Kalamat Gallery, Aleppo, Syria

Collective Exhibitions:

- 2022 Comeback Egypt, Egypt Int'l Art Fair, Cairo, Egypt
- 2021 Regeneration, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2020 Comeback, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2020 Summer Collective, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2018 No Lost generation, auction to support education for children refugee, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2017 Summer collective, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2016 An encounter with Beirut Women, Boshahri art gallery, Kuwait
- 2015 Art 15 London, Art on 56th, London, UK
- 2014 Syrian Art auction 101 works of Art for Syrian Children Refugees, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014 Humanitarian Art Show «Syrian Art of today», London, UK
- 2014 Art 14 London, Art on 56th, London, UK
- 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Art on 56th, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2013 Summer Collective, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Beirut Art Fair, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Kettaneh gallery, Artist from Syria Today, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Mashrabiah art gallery, Artist from Syria Today, Cairo, Egypt
- 2012 Mustafa Ali gallery, Small Painting, Damascus Syria
- 2012 Kozah gallery, Damascus, Syria
- 2012 Auction sponsored by Jusoor Foundation to support Syrian educational aspirations. Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Auction sponsored by Jusoor Foundation to support Syrian educational aspirations. New York, USA.
- 2011 Rewaq al Qeshla gallery, Sketch, Damascus, Syria
- 2011 Subhi Shuaib gallery, Homs, Syria
- 2009 Exhibition at the museum of modern art, sponsored by UNDP, Latakia, Syria
- 2008 Exhibition at the Arab Cultural center in occasion of the international day for the elimination of violence against women, sponsored by UNDP Mezzah, Syria
- 2007 French cultural center, Graduates exhibition, Latakia, Syria
- 2006 French cultural center, Graduates exhibition, Damascus, Syria
- 2009 Youth Exhibition, Damascus, Syria
- 2005 Cultural week for students, Golan, Syria