

MIA ART COLLECTION

الجمال

POETRY & ART

La Belleza

POETRY AND ART EXHIBITION by MIA ART COLLECTION
May 13th - June 14th, 2024
The Gate at DIFC - West Lobby
Dubai, UAE

MIA
ART COLLECTION



ALEJANDRA CASTRO RIOSECO

A word from the Founder and Executive Director of MIA ART COLLECTION

MIA ART COLLECTION - an international private and not-for-profit art collection that unites, visualizes and supports the role of women artists and their works, reaching across borders to over 33 countries and 900 works of art. The philanthropic nature of this collection is recognized in the art world for its work for over a decade.

MIA ART COLLECTION, in its efforts to collaborate with education and culture, permanently creates non-for-profit art exhibitions and presentations, with the goal of bringing the community closer to the world of arts and literature.

This particular exhibition is profoundly sensitive to me, because after living six years in the United Arab Emirates, I feel I now have developed a better grasp on and understanding of the world of poetry, and as such am able to capture poetry within the arts and involving young Arab poets in doing so makes us deeply happy. We are certain that this new chapter of MIA ART COLLECTION will continue to grow with time.

I want to especially thank my friends in the Arab community, DIFC, the Emirates Literature Foundation, and of course our new partner on this path, the wonderful MONTBLANC brand that entirely represents our values and vision.

🌐 www.miaartcollection.org
📷 [instagram.com/miaartcollection](https://www.instagram.com/miaartcollection)
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الجمال - La Belleza

P O E T R Y & A R T

Curatorial Statement

MIA Art Collection's view on art and culture undoubtedly includes the direct line between art and poetry. Historically, art and poetry have been related and have been fundamental to the training of artists in the world, especially in this region. Poetry and the role it played in trying to sensitize the world of its banalities will take on value in this exhibition.

"Beauty" is inspired by the vital need to connect with the sensitivity and beauty of the simple, from the minimum to what sublimely passes before our eyes in everyday life, daily examples of everyday acts that when transformed into poetry turn into something beautiful.

MIA Art Collection, together with its team is creating this exhibition, aimed at delivering a month full of poetry and international art.

The curatorial line will be based on literature as a cornerstone of the beauty of culture. We will combine new art works with works from the MIA Art Collection, the DIFC collection and new pieces by poets and artists, to create an aesthetically beautiful and deeply sensitive exhibition.

This Art & Poetry exhibition is the second exhibition by MIA ART Collection in collaboration with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Dubai, Dubai's most sought-after business and lifestyle destination.



الجمال – La Belleza

P O E T R Y & A R T

A glance into the exhibition

This exhibition seeks to integrate poetry and art and unify them through this wonderful journey that contemplates historical and outstanding poets from the world of art, giving special emphasis to women poets and their role in the society of poets of the Arab world, one of the cradles of poetry and prose.

Poets and artists will develop pieces of art that will be exhibited during the exhibition that will be curated under the direction of Alejandra Castro Rioseco. The exhibition space in DIFC allows for an estimated 25 pieces of art, displayed for 1 month. The artworks will be based on poetry and sculptures and graphic artworks.

The exhibition enjoys an active collaboration with The Emirates Literature Foundation, home of the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature, a not for profit non-governmental organization that supports and nurtures a love of literature in the UAE and across the region through a program of varied cultural initiatives.

Established in 2013 by Royal Decree issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, the Foundation aims to foster a life-long love for all literature.

Recognizing the distinctive contribution that literature makes to children's lives, the Foundation focuses on introducing and cultivating a spirit of reading while acting as a catalyst for writing and cultural exchange.

مؤسسة الإمارات للأدب

Emirates Literature Foundation

The "La Belleza" Exhibition Co-Curatorship



For the "La Belleza" exhibition, the MIA ART Collection and lead curator Mrs. Alejandra Castro Rioseco has invited as special co-curator Mrs. Namal Siddiqui.

Born and raised in the UAE with roots in Pakistan, Namal Siddiqui has written poetry since childhood. Namal has a Masters of Arts – Creative Writing degree, distinction, from Birmingham University. After working in the advertising and tech industry for over a decade, she took a long sabbatical to further her skills in writing and mountaineering.

She found her way to the Emirates Literature Foundation where she manages year-long cultural events and is currently working on a poetry book for publication.

Her writings delve on the subjects of identity, migration and nature.

The “La Belleza” Exhibition Project Director



Hana Sammak El Kurdi is an art advocate and an education expert with more than twenty years of experience in the education field in Lebanon, with a focus on management and communication.

She is a graduate from the American University of Beirut and holds degrees in English Language, Sociology and Journalism, and has recently acquired a certification in Art Management from ESA Business School.

She is the founder of Sundara, a platform based in Abu Dhabi, dedicated to promoting Art and Cultural Exchange through launching impactful humane and cultural initiatives and showcasing the work of emerging and established contemporary artists from around the world.

In addition to *“Finding Place”*, an exhibition that offered a timely reminder of the importance of art in documenting and processing complex personal and political experiences, El Kurdi is currently organizing *“Beyond Barriers”* an exhibition featuring the works of artists with autism, behavior disorders and social challenges, with the aim of collecting funds for artists and their respective NGOs.

Her role in MIA Art Collection is being our Middle East Curator. Hana previously collaborated in our *“Lavinia”* exhibition and now, in our *“La Belleza”* exhibition as Project Director.

THE ARTISTS

The Artists

Shahla Hosseini

She is a multidisciplinary artist based in Tehran with a degree in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran University. Her mixed media and collage artworks reflect on the perennial flow of time and the delicate balance between life and death and address the natural process of erosion, aging, and returning to dust. Shahla has held numerous solo exhibitions, and her work is part of several national and international collections.



Louma Rabah

Graduated with a bachelor of Fine Arts and Graphic Design from the Lebanese American University (LAU) in 2004. Known for her strong combination of colors in her landscape and still life works, Rabah depicts nature in all its glory. Her canvases exude vibrancy with every expressive brush stroke.



The Artists

Suzi Fadel Nassif

Suzi is a contemporary artist born in Lebanon but has been based in Dubai for over twenty years. From a very young age, Suzi was aware of her orientation towards visual arts and is a self-taught artist, who explored different techniques and mediums whilst Lebanon was going through tough times during the war. Driven by the artistic expressions of Salvador Dali, she developed a keen eye for minute details, analyzing colors and texture. Journeying into groundbreaking abstract impressionism and surrealism, Suzi gains inspiration from the interconnectedness of people on different walks of life, cultural diversity, mysteries of existence and semblance of emotions.



Sara Biassu

Spanish artist specialized in ceramic sculpture arts, painting and audiovisual art with a passion for objects and imaging. Fascinated by matter and the essential, inspired by her own reality, Sara's work arise from the intention of creating a disturbing suggestion in which to discover what is really hidden – in a world as beautiful as it is perverse.



The Artists

Monelle Janho

She is an Egyptian artist from multicultural roots and accomplished her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence. Her paintings and sculptures are present in collections throughout the world. Her first concern is Women because « *who better than a woman can reveal what a woman is?* »



Teresa Giarcovich

She was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1979. The work of Teresa develops from accumulation processes, which result in constructions made with textiles, plastics and inks, among other materials. With them he combines fields of vision appealing to the incubation of layers of color, interspersed to form silhouettes and shadows, giving rise to a kind of illusionism of various dimensions.



THE POETS



MONTBLANC

The Poets

1. Mariam Al Zarooni: UAE based poet and writer, member of the Emirates Writers Union. Member of Emirates Fine Art Society. She has published two poetry collections "Murmurs" 2017 and "No Longer Important" in 2021. Mariam has participated in several poetry festivals like Tanta International Poetry Festival and The Spanish Studies Days. Her poetry collections have been translated into French and Spanish.

2. Debra S Mascarenhas: She is UAE based artist. She has composed more than 5,000 poems in English and published a book "Whisper of the Heart" . "It could be the rising sun or the rough sea, the trees dancing or people walking. I am inspired to write about them."

3. Dhuha Awad: She is a British Yemeni Geneticist who is passionate about the powers of words and music through poetry and creative writing. She runs workshops where she teaches writing poetry/free prose to music as a form of art therapy, emotional rebalancing and self-awakening.

4. Mahmoud Ali is a spoken words artist from Somalia born and raised in UAE. He started writing poems since he was 13 years old and started performing on stage with Rooftop Rhythms with collaboration with NYUAD in 2019.

5. Mirella Dicancro: Born in Uruguay in a mixed heritage family. Her interest in poetry began at very young age; she was 8 years old when people around her acknowledged her talent by means of a long poem she wrote at the wedding of her cousins. She was awarded a short story prize at the National competition of Radio Carve.

6. Yasmine El Kurdi is a Lebanese with French nationality who recently moved to Dubai from Vienna. She has a broad artistic background in photography (3rd Prize in the EUNIC film competition), dance, theatre and finds solace in writing and poetry.

7. Tamara Khodr: She is a 32 year old Lebanese artist whose philosophy of mankind's innate existence within nature and the divine were strongly reinforced as oneness rather than separation. This concept has been the main inspiration of the artist who writes and paints to express the spectrum of human existence.

8. Deya Rita Schray: Deya is a 26 year old Lebanese/German. She is a sport enthusiast, with love for gastronomy and art. Deya writes poetry occasionally, her writing is inspired by her life experiences, that she shares mainly with family and friends.

9. Rawad Raidan is writer of creative non-fiction and prose poetry based out of the UAE. His work explores themes of belonging at home, and being on the outside looking in. His style of writing tries to give shape to an inner world, that lies unseen. work presented in collaboration with multidisciplinary artist Marwa Salah.

The Poets

10. Jennah Fakhoury is an award winning poet, writer and wandering spirit who seeks new experiences and destinations to tame her insatiable wanderlust. She uses her voice to provide divergent perspectives on global issues related to refugees due to her own Palestinian American heritage. Her poetry often draws on her time volunteering in Morocco, Egypt and the West Bank, and her own struggle to reconcile her fragmented identity into a cohesive destination called home. Work presented in collaboration with Farah Al Zeer.

11. Maie El Hage is an architect, art historian, journalist and curator with a Master of Arts degree in Art History and Theory from the University of Essex (UK). She has curated shows in Beirut and Dubai and collaborated with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Beirut. Her research and writings cover contemporary artists and exhibitions, reporting from Beirut, Dubai, New York and Istanbul. She has a decade of University teaching experience and is a well-known lecturer about art, architecture and art history.

12. Hanadi El Solh, is a renowned interior designer based in Abu Dhabi with a degree from the American University in Beirut on Radiology Technology and BFA Interior Design from New York Institute of Technology. She is the head curator of the of the cultural affairs of Abu Dhabi – Lebanese Business Council and chairs the Lebanese Women subcommittee.

13. Noura Ramahi, is a Lebanese-born Emirate self-taught artist. Her work is abstract expressionist with human figures being a prevailing subject in many of her early paintings. She has produced artworks on metal using mixed media. She also produces sculptures using plastic bags. She works with a wide range of material such as cardboard that she recycles into works of art. Her practice also has a focus on repetition and meditation. Work presented with ceramist EKaterina.

14. Saira Banu, is born and brought up in Dubai, UAE and is of Indian origin. She moved to Edinburgh for university and now lives in London where she writes frequently for anthologies and zines. She has published work in poetry journals as well as academic ones and is constantly working towards honing her craft. Her current project is a fortnightly Zine based in South London titled brainworms.

15. Agustina Walker Castro Rioseco is a first-year university student in Paris in International Relations, Political Sciences and Philosophy. She is a humanist in heart and soul with a soft spot for animals and everything beautiful, in simplicity and complexity. She discovered her interest in poetry at young age and started writing based on her personal feelings, impressions of her surroundings and the world through the eyes of a young worldly woman. She was selected for an Artist Residency in Focus Bugarol Foundation, Spain in 2022 and completed her first poetry and art book before her 19th birthday.

THE

POEMS

The Poems

Poet: Mariam Al Zarooni

قصيدة (فرضية تفسر الجمال)

مريم الزرعوني

تأتي لتنصت للحكايات القديمة،
لثقبيل غربة روحها،
ثمّة امرأة تتوسد حجر جدّها،
تترنم بقصّة ذات الرداء الأحمر،
أيقظت نمشة الذئب على خدّها.

توسّلت لرَبّة الأفكار،
أن تمنحها السعد المؤمل،
سألتها الخلاص الأبدي من الصّباية،
أرادت نثارًا من الخدر المذخور في الصلوات،
يطل عقدة الصمّث بين قلبين.

طويلٌ هو انتظار الصبح للضوء،
لنقرة العصفور فوق النافذة،
للبراعم كي تصير وردًا يطوّق المعاصم،
للأحلام حتى تلقي طلاسّمها،
فيحققها الوجود.

The Poems

Poet: Debra S Mascarenhas

"Calm Sea"

*I stand by the sea in the early morning,
Watching the now peaceful sea,
inhaling the fresh saline floats in the air
my lips too feel the saltiness in the air.
I watch the calm sea flowing gently,
as the wind makes little waves
and they crash on the shore.
The fish now again pop up for a breather
and dive back quickly lest their predator gets them.
The little boats standing by the edge,
sway as the wind pushes them to and fro.
The cotton clouds bobbing in the sky,
crash into one another, spreading across the skies.
The trees and branches dance with the morning breeze
creating a whistling sound in the air.
Today, the air seems cooler
and the sea flowing gently.*

"Sunset over the village"

*As the sun sets over the village
The red sun paints the village in its bright colors.
Painting everything around him
camouflaging the trees, the fish, the boats,
and the running stream.
The fisherman in boats casts their nets.
waiting for their catch, they gently
sail down the stream.
The beauty of nature in its fullness.
bringing its beauty as the day comes to an end.*

The Poems

Poet: Mirella Dicancro

"La Bellezza I"

A word
With an inner rhythm
Rolling of the "L" s
And pressing of the "Z"
Against the palate...
Bellezza
An expression of a word
Holding as many versions,
As the number of those
Wanting to trap it
On a dictionary...
A word
Which has to be set free
Not listed
Not bound
Not caught between the lines
Bellezza
Not only an aesthetic
Vision,
Much more than
Sensual wellbeing
Of the touch.

What a joy invading cells
And eyes when
Pigments, textures and
Shapes become all
Puzzles of a painting.
When Vibrations transmitted
With talent and skill
On an instrument,
Pound our senses:
Isn't there a powerful storm
Murmuring:
Bellezza?
Such is the complexity
Of this word
Which cannot fully be
Apprehended.
As it changes
It moves from one land
To the other.
Bellezza is
Being part of other skies,
The lights shine so bright
They dim the darkness
Of our minds,
Embracing our souls

"Bellezza II"

A word
Seen in a mother's eyes
When first looking at her
Newborn,
The physical sensation of joy,
The opening of the pores
When we see her cuddling
A new life.
Bellezza
The sight of children
captivated by the tales
Of old family members,
Stories from the past
Enriching the present,
Enlightening the future.
Bellezza
Has the powerful means
To give a sense of belonging,
Creating a space of security
A protected universe
Of aesthetic balance.

أبوظبي مدينة الجمال

بقلم الشاعر/ مح مود علي
في داخلي نبض يرن و للفضاء،
يشدو القلب بأنغام الأمل والسعادة .
أبوظبي هي مدينة الأحلام الساهرة ،
ترسمي ن البسمة على شفاه الأحاب .

من بين الأفق ترتقي أحلام عالية ،
تتسابق الأمنيات لتحقيق الأمجاد .
في بن ي ياس ينبت الأم ل والحياة ،
تتفتح الأزهار في مشه د مليء بالجمال .

أبوظبي تعلو بروعتها وسحرها،
تتألق بأضوائه وألوانه البهية .
في قلب العاصمة تتسامى الآمال ،
تلمع النجوم في سماء الأحلام الساهرة .

منارات الأم ل تضيء لن الطري ق ،
نمضي بثقة وإيمان نحو المستقبل .
أبوظبي هي مدينة الفرح والجمال،
أن ت قصيدة ترويها القلوب بك ل ح ب واحترام .

The Poems

Poet: Mahmoud Ali

"The Beauty of Georgia"

*In the whisper of wind on mountains so grand,
Georgia's beauty reveals, as if by command.
In Kazbegi's snowy peaks, near Russia's border,
Nature's secrets whispered, in silent order.*

*In Signagi's embrace, the city of romance,
Where love's essence blooms, in every glance.
Churches stand tall, with histories to trace,
Echoes of faith, in a sacred embrace.*

*Ziplining through forests, with views divine,
Beauty's magic woven, in every pine.
The Great Wall of Georgia, a symbol of pride,
A divide and connection, where history resides.*

*In Telavi's ancient streets, the oldest tree stands,
A witness to time, in distant lands.
More than nine centuries, its branches reach high,
Legends say, dreams come true if you try.*

*In every moment, in every sight,
Beauty's essence shines, in radiant light.
In Georgia's embrace, the greatest gift we find,
A tapestry of beauty, in heart and mind.*

The Poems

Poet: Dhuha Awad

أغنية طائر السنونو الوحيد 'A Lonely Swallow's Song'

كلمة "Kalima"

I hear... I listen... I feel

How many words are there to describe what an ear can capture?

How many words can define what I sense?

How many words exist in how many languages that can tell of the one?

How many tongues can click it, just as they utter it?

Smash it into the well of plenty... the cemetery of forgotten letters.

صوت "Sawt"

Hazy... blurry sounds

Rendezvous... every night... everyday, every moment

The sound is here, the sound is surreal... seeping through the reality I desire

And it haunts me

Follows me like my shadow. Is it my shadow?

The one around me, the one in me

In my home, in my car, in my bowl of cereal

In my mug of green tea, in my tooth brush, in my contact lens

In my dreams, in my hopes... in my despair.

نفس "Nafas"

Your sound breathes me, inhales me, but never exhales the end of me

Your eager inhalation absorbs me, draws me in whole

White noise... a halo of vibrations orbits around me

Silver circles floating, merging into a flat two-dimensional rainbow

I close my ears with my hesitant index fingers

And drop the heavy curtains over my sore eyes.

The Poems

Poet: Dhuha Awad

"Qalb" قلب

*Peace, I seek you... cease it all, the torture to listen... to yearn for
Silence, oh blissful silence, beloved long lost silence
Come to me, invade me, remain inside me
Alas, a rebel is on the rise, the only one to answer my calls
My defiant heart, ah, playing the tune to perfection
And that I cannot mute, without closing the tap on the oxygen supply
A lonely swallow's song, asking the stars for the way home.*

"Shawq" شوق

*The throbbing hum is here... marching on me, with sharp glistering spares
Waves flowing through me with the same beat
As I run from me... only to meet my entranced reflection
The same crossroads, the last junction, just as you made it for your exit
And I hear... your voice again and again and again
The one I love, the one that torments me
The one I run away from, only to land back into your own darling frequency
And I collapse on the solid rough ground .*

"Helim" حلم

*I hear... I listen... I feel
I cry... I scream... I gasp
I curl up... I hug my knees... I fall asleep
And I dream, the constant old dream
Every day's dream, Your dream
The precious sound, Your sound
Calling my name...
Goodnight... Tomorrow is another echo
Sweet dreams... are about to sail.*

The Poems

Poet: Yasmine El Kurdi

*Beauty, Beautify, Beautiful
Beautifully incomplete
and yet fully whole
when sadness feels wonderful
when one emotion gracefully
flows into another
being mindful
about abundance in the emptiness
that sparkle in the darkness
becoming more beautiful
as I absorb the beauty of the things that surround me
beauty is a way of life, a state of mind
slow down, notice, reflect and accept
every dent, crack, scar and wrinkle
the beauty in being human
embrace the transient nature of earthly things
You see, there is beauty in the unseen
the unsaid, the subtext,
in the suggestion and the implication
The bridge between the artist and the viewer
that word on the tip of your tongue
in the memory you can feel but can't recall
I choose to see beauty in the
uneven, unfinished, unpolished, unprocessed
In that Wabi-Sabi,
the beauty of imperfect things
as we are imperfect
imperfectly perfect
I choose to see beauty
in my imagination, in my dreams
beauty in nature and the divine
beauty is love
especially messy love.*

The Poems

Poet: Tamara Khodr

"Make Lemonade"

*Lemon zest rests on my chest,
A fragrance dressed in bitterness,
Were lemons planted just to address
The stuck, the old or the unimpressed?*

*Things in yellow were meant to stress,
The eyes, the tongue of the oppressed,
Who added sugar wished to digest,
The beauty of life, unexpressed.*

*Lemonade was made to protest,
Blindness squeezed and cold-pressed,
I may be lemons, and not the rest,
Willing to settle, unrefreshed.*

The Poems

Poet: Deya Rita Schray

"Beautiful memories"

*At a young age I recall a memory that I hold dear to my heart, the moment of sitting with my mom
filled with questions, as she coursed my hair and would sing-
When I was just a little girl
I asked my mother
What will I be? will I be famous , will I be rich, here is what she said to me.
Qué será, será
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Qué será, será
What will be, will be*

*Memories are beautiful
Take a simple chair for example
The white bare plastic chair I sit on while watching a majestic sunset
The white bare plastic chair I sit on while enjoying a fish feast with family
The white bare plastic chair I sit on while the sun kisses my face
The white bare plastic chair I sit on while sharing laughs and stories
How much this bare chair may seem simple to others but not to me, to me it carries beauty from the
memories it has helped me create*

*Memories are beautiful
She jumped out of the car wearing her customized vans as I wore mine
We held hands and crossed the street while swinging them back and froth
We picked out projects and begun
Of course talented her chose something difficult, something that turned our remarkable
No one would think that someone that young could produce such beauty
But little did anyone know she was filled with all kinds of beauty
She sat across from me painting delicately and slowly
So focused so pure
With every dot of paint a wider smile formed
With every brush stroke her eyes
Glittered
To watch her is beautiful to hold onto this memory is beautiful
To forever have this moment with one another is beautiful*

*Memories are beautiful
Hold onto the moments big or small as the memories formed you will hold onto wherever you may go*

Memories are beautiful

The Poems

Poet: Rawad Raidan

"Beauty knows your name"

Beauty is wild. Beauty changes everything. Beauty is sharing a meal. Beauty is sharing a view. Beauty is having nowhere else to be. Beauty is being okay. Beauty is waking up next to you. Beauty is waking up alone after you. Beauty is lying about loving independence. Beauty is taking slow walks. Beauty is walking amongst fast walkers. Beauty is taking the next metro. Beauty is wanting to start a family. Beauty is realizing you don't know how to be alone with someone else. Beauty is wanting a five year plan. Beauty is five years of nothing going to plan. Beauty can seem like a good idea, to pursue, to preserve, to fall in love with. Beauty can be a mistake to pay attention to. Beauty can be an expression of self worth. Beauty can be a currency. Beauty can be harmed. Beauty can heal. Beauty can break apart. Beauty heals. Beauty can be famous. Beauty can tell you you are necessary. Beauty is necessary. Beauty is scary. Beauty is terrifying. Beauty can show up when you are not ready. Beauty knows when you are pretending to be ready. Beauty knows your name. Beauty is remembering each other's name. Beauty is friendship outside of time. Beauty is I feel I've known you my whole life meeting for the first time. Beauty is I didn't feel the hours go by. Beauty is I didn't have to pretend around you. Beauty is I can make a mistake and still be. Beauty is not too late for us. Beauty raises the standard of our aspiration. Beauty is exclusive. Beauty is not exclusive. Beauty is selective. Beauty is in everything. Beauty is sacrificing to save a life, raise a life, create a life. Beauty is being the person sacrificed for. You and I, we are the sacrificed for.

The Poems

Poet: Jennah Fakhoury

*There are memories
trapped in doorways
in homes that turned
into houses
in the silences between
sentences
i see them in eyes
that do not focus
that lost their shimmer
that do not smile
as they used to
before the war
memories do not need
to be big to hold meaning
they are whispers of life
buried with the bodies
of the martyrs
lost stories in mass graves
undisclosed by occupying forces
with eyes wide open
we see memories being made
so i hold on to the ones
that turn tragedies into
moments worth remembering
there is a kitten in the lap of
a child, lapping at food
that the child can scarce afford
to smuggle
but the smile
crinkled at the corners
make my own lips twitch
there is kindness
and it is beautiful
as i look, i see hands
around shoulders
embraces and laughter
and jostling into craters
left by missiles.*

*children playing in the
holes that were meant
to claim their lives
destruction transformed into
playgrounds for the living
there is resilience
and it is beautiful
i turn my eyes to the skies
kites
so many kites, clearly homemade
stitched crudely with plastic
bits and odd ends
floating high above our heads
with kites, eyes are
drawn to the skies for reasons
that are not fearful
there is life
and it is beautiful
the sun paints the sky red and
i think of all the lives who saw it
rise that did not live to see it set
i think of Refaat and the children
who should be flying kites
i think of amputees and their
phantom fingers
and i think, oddly, of tea
of gardens rich in presence
of people, young and old,
with their fingers wrapped
around
tea cups.*

*of how, even in times of war
there are still fingers wrapped
around tea cups
and as i think it
i see her
sitting around an open flame spea-
king with eyes and hands
and tongue
surrounded by a sea of faces
she speaks for a long time
her audience rapt with attention
as she tells story after story
of a time before the siege
of life across the sea
of villages long forgotten
of houses missing their keys
as she speaks, eyes turned softer
crinkled around the corners
laughter filling the air with more
warmth than any fire
Bisan speaks for over an hour
and when it is finally over
I think,
there is hope
and it is beautiful.*

The Poems

Poet: Maie El Hage

"One color"

*If I had been deaf and suddenly could hear
it wouldn't be as joyful as this is for me,
now that I see.
Your words play like music
and they dance all around
hidden, they come out
a note in deaf silence
so loud
so beautiful, calling
sometimes architects hide them, tuck them away
then give 'em out, I receive this free gift
music to my heart
one color*

"mini Nature"

*My first personal encounter with you was out of my control
I visited sites in Lebanon on school trips
who could control you when I was unleashed in your presence
your waters ran over stones, running over my heart
your caverns held the stillness of the divine, resonating in my heart
I was free and you welcomed me.
When I was taken from myself
You came back to me in glimpses
I cannot be unleashed so you made up for it
You gave me moments
Visions
in series
told me stories
I still grappled with your wonders
enough awe to change me
enough to help me
how kind
O, Nature
till I am unleashed in your presence again...*

ولدتُ من عدمٍ في
عتمةٍ باهرة
خلقٌ تشكّل بصمتٍ
مُتفرد
كنور سراج
كشهب مضيء
كأني كائن من سحر
غطائي دمي المتخثر
مشيمتي سريري
ومهجعي كرة وهم
تحميني

The Poems

Poet: Noura Ramahi

"I go to the trees"

*I go to the trees
For confort
They listen to my silence
They embrace and treasure it
They understand it
It is loud
It is clear*

*I go to the trees
For shelter
From my own thoughts
From my own tears
From the world
It is fast
It is unforgiving*

*I go to the trees
For clarity
When dust clouds my mind
When heat burns my eyes
When air is not air enough
It is there
It is not there*

*I go to the trees
For truth
The kind told in color
The kind told in sweat
The kind told in the shade
It is here
It is not here*

*I go to the trees
For words
That seep through the green
That linger in the grass
That sit with the blue bird
It is singing
It is always singing*

*I go to the trees
For light
Be it in the east
Be it in the west
Be it in the moon
It is full
It is not full*

*I go to the trees
For courage
To love me
To love you
To love all
It is easy
It is never easy*

The Poems

Poet: Saira Banu

"On Beauty"

On beauty; on fickle, evasive beauty

On beauty that stares you in the face and wills you to embrace it

On beauty that pricks you

just as you hold it

On beauty that contorts and deceives, harsh lights and bad angles

On beauty that stabs and curves into crevices you never allowed your heart to heal

On beauty that consumes, makes you want to devour it whole

Beauty that allows you to swim in its depth

A generosity not afforded to all.

On beauty that is the same. Beauty that is expected. Perennial

Beauty that is stable. Beauty that steadies

Beauty that mirrors itself so exquisitely, a constant treat (threat?) to all that observe.

But oh beauty that is aberrant

Beauty that rises and falls like an erratic crescendo

Beauty that catches your breath like a high note; shrill beauty

Beauty that makes you gasp. Beauty that holds you as you take it all in. Beauty that whispers after.

The Poems

Poet: Agustina Walker Castro Rioseco

*Like a butterfly, I watch you take flight,
Your wings unfold, capturing their gaze,
Their marvel at your freedom, such a sight,
Chanel's scent hides within your hair's soft maze.*

*Your skin, like silk, a comforting embrace,
With every bloom, you bring life anew,
One sigh from you, and the world finds its place,
Yet beneath your bloom, pains are hidden from view.*

*Those pains that have shaped you, forever deep,
Weariness lies in your olive-tinted eyes,
But still, you flourish where others would weep,
Like a sole rose amid warfare's cries.*

*The dreams you painted since younger days,
Now shadowed by life's hurtful, harsher ways.*

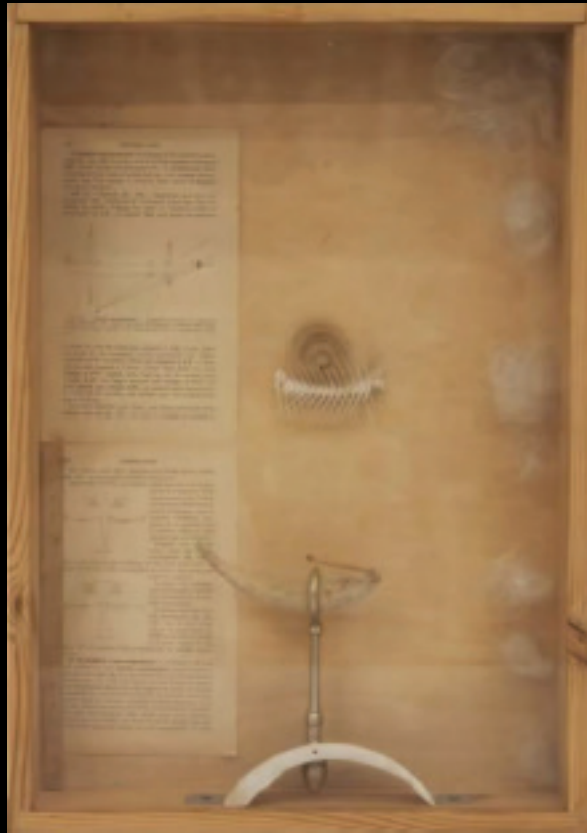
*They try to break you with scratches and scars,
But even frightened, your beauty remains,
The mirror might seem to house only mars,
The weight of doubt, heavy as cold iron chains.*

*Still, I see what you've offered this world,
A beauty that's comforting, tender, and bold,
A sheltering canopy, lovingly unfurled,
A home you've made, with stories untold.*

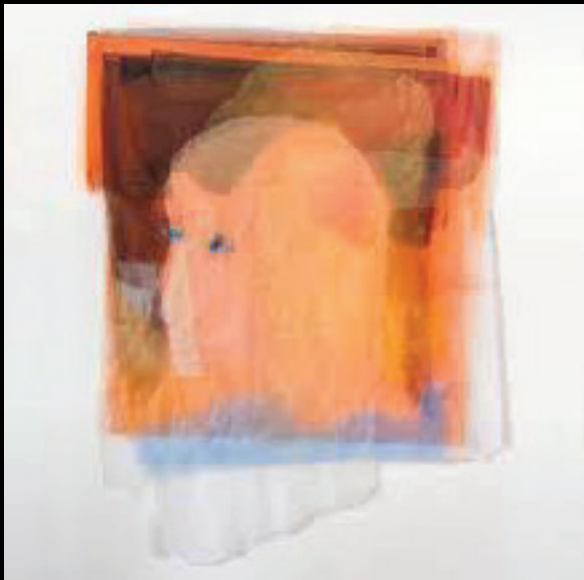
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EXHIBITION

The Exhibition



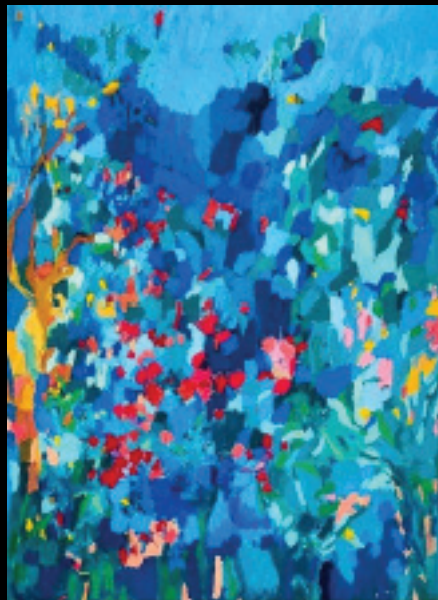
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