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Arab News Thursday, April 28, 2022

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Updated 09 January 2021

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January 07, 2021 09:05

4124



DUBAI: The Lebanese artist discusses her latest body of abstract work, available to view online at Beirut's Saleh Barakat Gallery's website.

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Our Dreams are a Second Life” — is loaded with layers. There’s

this notion of exploring the concept of dreams and hopes throughout the trajectory of my work over the past 15 years. I think it’s quite impossible to separate the geopolitical, sociopolitical context we live in and belong to from the process that happens inside the studio.

The work is autobiographical, because it reflects daily life and how we go on through trauma and what we hold on to as humans or as an individual female artist — being a mother and a daughter — coming from this specific descent.

Books, psychoanalytical texts and the

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Beirut in October

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thrown into
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somehow I fell
on Patti Smith’s
2017 book “Year
of the Monkey,”
which deals with
existential
questions.



The artist’s abstract work is on view at Beirut’s Saleh Barakat Gallery until January 16. (Supplied)

Going through lockdown in the last few months, I was in this space of high awareness of the present that took me back to this book. I had a very strong memory of it. I decided these fragments of sentences from the book would be most fitting,



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These canvases started by SAUDI ARABIA (/SAUDIARABIA) MIDDLE EAST (/MIDDLEEAST) WORLD (/WORLD)

unfolding them BUSINESS (/ECONOMY) MEDIA (/MEDIA) LIFESTYLE OPINION (/OPINION) SPORT (/SPORT)

on the streets of

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revolution began.

I would follow spots in Downtown, where they were burning wheels. I would rub the canvases on the ground and it was as if the stains on them were a witness of this moment. Then I would go back to the studio and working on them with layers of watery acrylic inks.

I aim for the work to hold this kind of binary world where opposites can coexist fluidly on the surface of the canvas. If you get closer, there are visual, defacing elements that are a bit shocking to the eye:



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hand doesn't

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I've put you more

in a floating

space where you

can breathe.



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