

Sign up for our free daily newsletter:

Your email

Subscribe!

BEIRUT

11 THURSDAY
JULY 2019

Search...



Subscribe Now >

Login

THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON



NEWS

BUSINESS

OPINION

SPORTS

ARTS & ENT

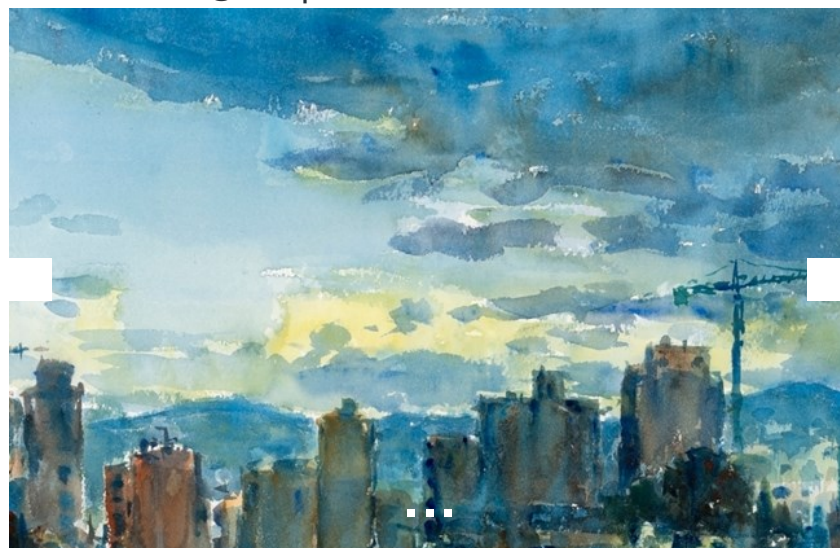
LIFE

Culture

Jul. 10, 2019 | 12:09 AM

Advertisement

Lebanon glimpsed in watercolor



Summary

A vortex of color and light welcomes visitors entering "Watercolors," the exhibition now up at Agial Art Gallery off Hamra. With this collection of 30 watercolors, realized over the course of a year, Oussama Baalbaki presents inspiring glimpses of Lebanon

More from
Veronica Merlo



Violinist Luca Ciarla brings Mediterranean to

Veronica Merlo | The Daily Star

BEIRUT: A vortex of color and light welcomes visitors entering "Watercolors," the exhibition now up at Agial Art Gallery off Hamra. With this collection of 30 watercolors, realized over the course of a year, Oussama Baalbaki presents inspiring glimpses of Lebanon, encountered during his long habitual walks in and around Beirut.

Baalbaki graduated from the Lebanese University's School of Fine Arts in 2002 and has exhibited in a wide array of institutions in Lebanon and abroad, from Abu Dhabi and Dubai to Munich, London, New York, Washington and Miami.

These works on canvas mark a departure from the Lebanese artist's previous works, which have predominantly focused on such heavy subjects, as isolation and war.

With "Watercolors," Baalbaki instead turns to represent the beauty around him.



LIVE NEWS

VIEW ALL

Geagea slams Bassil's rhetoric for raising tensions

21 minutes ago

Iran's Guard says it killed 5 gunmen who entered from Iraq

29 minutes ago

Iran to cut nuclear commitments 'strongly' if Europe does not keep promises: MP

48 minutes ago

Car bomb kills 13 at Syria's rebel-held Afrin

1 hour ago

UK concerned by Iran actions, calls for de-escalation: PM May's spokesman

1 hour ago

Huge fire erupts at power station outside Moscow

1 hour ago

Palestinian fighter killed by Israeli fire near



Sign up for our free daily newsletter:

Subscribe!

Entities

Countries

Educational Institutes

Locations & Natural Formations

Publication

Political Group

Outlets

Advertisement

could spontaneously reproduce what I see while walking. Despite the absence of a precise subject driving the work, the "Watercolors" exhibition is not short on meaning. The artist seeks to lure people's attention to ordinary elements from everyday life that are often neglected. "Especially in Beirut," he explains, "people do not look up to the sky." For this reason, sky and clouds, in a multiplicity of shapes, hues and shades, often take pride of place in these pieces.

Baalbaki's work largely derives from his personal connection with the street. He is eager to highlight that street life constitutes an essential part of his identity and is a great source of inspiration. Baalbaki defines it as "a place of movement," where the meeting of people and events produce a unique dynamism on multiple levels.

These pieces focus equally on some aspects of Lebanon that, in Baalbaki's view, distinguish it from other places.

"Lebanon is characterized by a special light," he explains. "It is extremely rich, including tones of both the Sahara and the Mediterranean." This, he says, is why shades of yellow, orange and blue dominate the gallery.

The works in this show evidently combine emotion with technical dexterity. Due to the difficulty in making corrections, watercolor technique requires a great mastery of the brush and close attention while painting.

Despite these challenges, Baalbaki's creativity flows freely onto the canvas, giving shape to a variety of representations that stimulate different reflections.

One of the pieces that stand out depicts a car parked beneath a tree, vividly expressing the tension between the old and the new.

"These two very different objects are pulled together in a kind of paradoxical way," Baalbaki suggests, "because I wanted to create a dialogue between contrasting elements, the old and the new, tradition and modernity.

"It is a series of paintings that come directly from the heart," Baalbaki concludes, "where feelings constitute the main target."

"Watercolors" is up at Agial Art Gallery through July 20.

A version of this article appeared in the print edition of The Daily Star on July 10, 2019, on page 12.

▲ Interesting

1

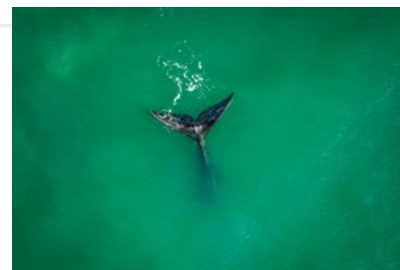
▼ Not Interesting

Recommended

Advertisement



GALLERIES



Pictures of the day

Jul. 11, 2019

STAY CONNECTED



MOST READ

ALL

Jul 10, 2019 | Lebanon News
Lebanon regrets sanctions, will follow up with US: Aoun

Jul 10, 2019 | Lebanon News
Labor Ministry starts crackdown on foreign labor

Jul 10, 2019 | Lebanon News
Speaker calls Parliament session to endorse 2019 budget

Jul 11, 2019 | Lebanon News
Progress on Aley mediation but no breakthrough

Jul 11, 2019 | Lebanon News
Sanctions won't stop Parliament, Cabinet work as 'gloves are off'

Sign up for our free daily newsletter:

Subscribe!

We invite all our readers to share with us their views and comments about this article.

Disclaimer: Comments submitted by third parties on this site are the sole responsibility of the individual(s) whose content is submitted. The Daily Star accepts no responsibility for the content of comment(s), including, without limitation, any error, omission or inaccuracy therein. Please note that your email address will NOT appear on the site.

Alert: If you are facing problems with posting comments, please note that you must verify your email with Disqus prior to posting a comment. Follow this link to make sure your account meets the requirements. (<http://bit.ly/vDisqus>)

comments powered by Disqus



CLASSIFIEDS



Today's Paper

[Full list of today's paper »](#)

[View our e-paper »](#)

[Subscribe »](#)

STAR'S COLUMNISTS

[VIEW ALL](#)



David Ignatius
Trump played a hunch with Kim.
Now what?



Fareed Zakaria
Why American conservatism failed



BECOME A STAR FAN

Sign up for our free daily newsletter:

Subscribe!



Be the first of your friends to like this