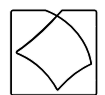




HALA
EZZEDDINE
IN SEARCH OF LIGHT

HALA
EZZEDDINE
IN SEARCH OF LIGHT





Hala Ezzeddine engages in a kind of ethnographic painting. For the better part of the decade, her object of study has been the landscape of Aarsal – her hometown near Lebanon’s border with Syria – and the children with which it is populated. Having worked there as a public-school teacher of the fine arts during the Syrian Civil War, she produced portraits of the refugees who had traversed the border into Lebanon and landed in her classes. In the past year, the scope of her painting practice broadened in response to the popular uprisings against the ruinous economic conditions in Lebanon. Her practice has since shifted from the localized context of Aarsal to include portraits and landscapes of Beirut, evoking a more generalized state of destitution.

Ezzeddine gives form to the destitution that was already growing in Lebanon before the uprisings but only recently has come to the fore. Her paintings explicitly play on a dynamic of visibility and invisibility. Through a rich palette of bold colors – fuchsia, purple, forest green, burgundy, mustard and turquoise – and expressive gestures, she renders the foreground of the picture indistinguishable from background. She seemingly obscures her figures and enmeshes portraiture in landscape. In doing so, she paradoxically exposes her figures’ social invisibility – their legal inexistence.

Beyond the social context gleaned in her biography and the titles of her paintings, Ezzeddine paints destitute human figures without giving them identifying traits. But they are human – this much is clear. Although they appear to melt into the landscape, they are larger than life; they occupy the expanse of the picture plane. Ultimately, her work entails a resolutely humanist gesture, attesting to the plenitude of the human individual, despite his or her legal status or position in the social sphere. By making her figures visible in their invisibility, she intimates that they ought to be dignified in the act of being *seen*.

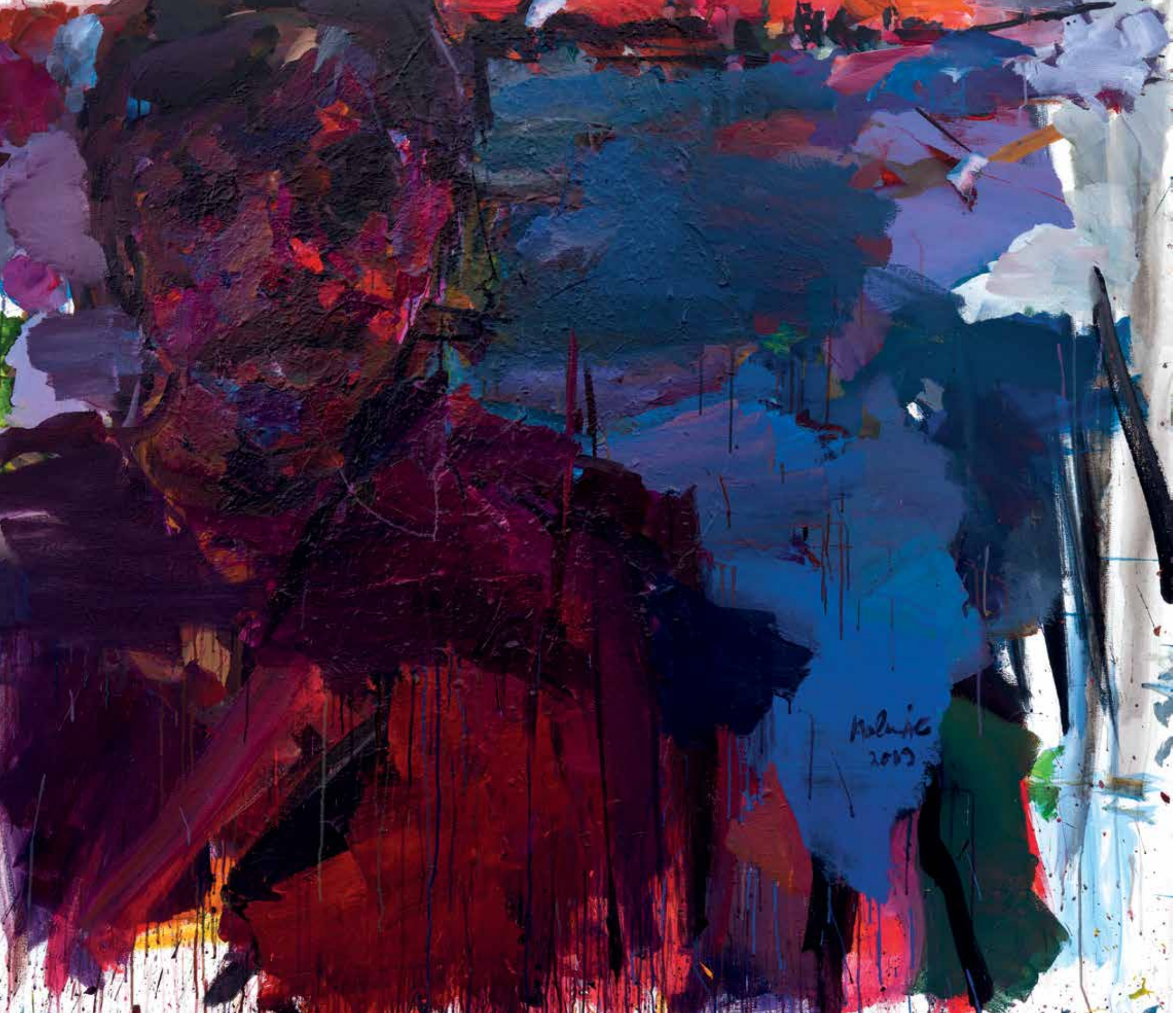
Natasha Gasparian, 2020



Spontaneous Portrait | Acrylic on canvas | 180 x 160 cm | 2019



Untitled | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 120 cm | 2019



Clown Girl | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 160 cm | 2019



Marwa I | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 120 cm | 2019





Marwa II | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 120 cm | 2019



Waiting | Acrylic on canvas | 165 x 200 cm | 2019



Ammar | Oil on canvas | 150 x 190 cm | 2019



Shahd | Oil on canvas | 190 x 150 cm | 2020



Before and After 4 August | Acrylic on canvas | 78 x 140 cm | 2020



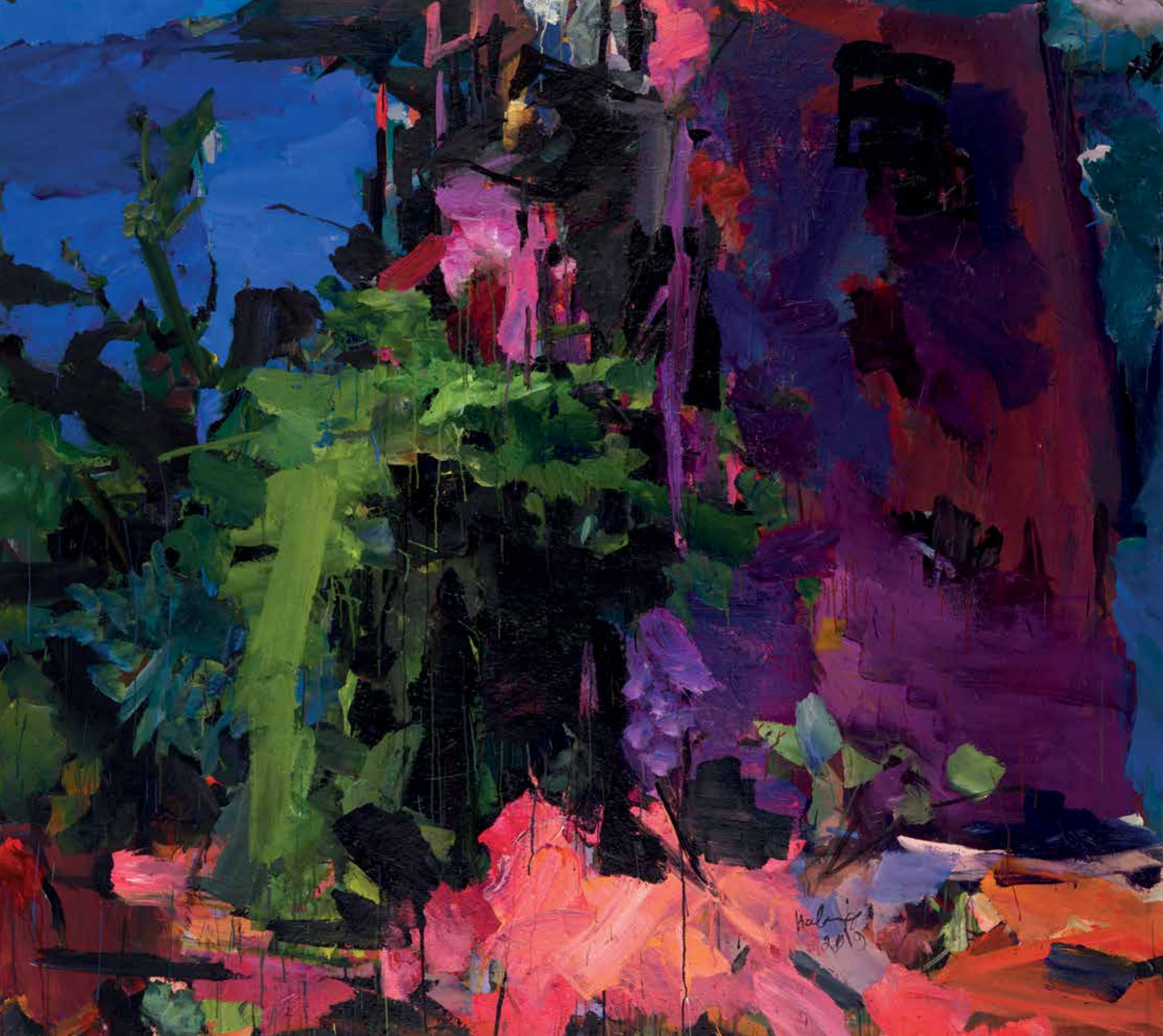
Beirut | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 140 cm | 2019



Hell | Acrylic on canvas | 130 x 180 cm | 2019



Nonpresidential Chair | Acrylic on canvas | 120 x 140 cm | 2019



Strange Combination | Acrylic on canvas | 180 x 200 cm | 2019



A Tree in Sanayeh | Acrylic on canvas | 140 x 120 cm | 2019





Flower Vase | Oil on canvas | 170 x 200 cm | 2019



Aarsal | Acrylic on canvas | 100 x 150 cm | 2018



Aarsal | Acrylic on canvas | 130 x 230 cm | 2018



Untitled | Acrylic on carton | 50 x 70 cm | 2020



Untitled | Acrylic on carton | 70 x 100 cm | 2020



Burj El Murr | Pencil on carton | 50 x 70 cm | 2020



Whirl | Pencil on carton | 50 x 70 cm | 2020

Hala Ezzeddine

Born in 1989, Lebanon
Lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon

Education

- 2014 MA, Fine Arts, Institute of Fine Arts, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2011 Training program in Teaching, Ministry of Education, Lebanon
- 2009 BA, Fine Arts, Institute of Fine Arts, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 Looming Landscapes, Agial Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2020 In Search of Light, Agial Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon.

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 33rd Salon d’automne of Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2018 CAB International Art Symposium 4, Amman, Jordan.
- 2017 Group exhibition at Beirut Art Fair – Agial Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2011 Group exhibition at Talia’s charity associations, Lebanon.
- 2010 Group exhibition at Fine Arts Institute, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 Jeux de la Francophonie Lumen GA group exhibition, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2008 Silk-Screen Exhibition, Unesco Palace, Beirut, Lebanon.

Residencies and Awards

- 2020 2-month residency at Atelier AMI, Galerie Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2019 Emerging artist prize, 33rd Salon d’automne of Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2016 Génération Orient First Prize.
- 2015 Boghossian Prize for Painting.



© Agial Art Gallery - All rights reserved
Design by Carol Chehab
Photography by Paul Hennebelle and Mansour Dib
Printed by Salim Dabbous Printing Co. sarl
12 November, 2020
Agial Art Gallery | 63 Abdel Aziz St. | Hamra
Beirut | Lebanon
www.agialart.com | info@agialart.com

 @agialgallery
 Agial Art Gallery
 @AgialArt
 Agial Art Gallery

