

TRENDING

The cars of the future are here

Search...



# EXECUTIVE LIFE

DESIGN ▾

ART & CULTURE ▾

CULINARY ART ▾

AUTO ▾

TECH ▾

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LIFESTYLE ▾

YOU ARE AT: Home » Art & Culture » Art and attitude



Marie Haddad was known as the 'painter of bedouins' | photo: Agop Kankadjian

## Art and attitude 7th Beirut Art Fair inspires discovery and patriotism



BY OLGA HABRE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

ART & CULTURE

When foreign journalists flock to Beirut it can be cause for alarm, but an increasingly compelling annual art tradition is attracting more and more press to Lebanon for all the right reasons. Over 20 international journalists, as well as artists, gallerists, collectors, experts and others in the industry flew in from around the world for the 7th edition of the Beirut Art Fair, to discover Lebanon's rich artistic heritage, quickly-expanding art scene and its growing potential as an international destination for art – much to the delight of local hotels, several of which were reportedly at capacity during the busy week.



A curious visitor inspect a painting | photo: Greg Demarque

Held this year from September 15 – 18 at Beirut International Exhibition & Leisure Center (BIEL), BAF features a total of 1,500 artworks by 300 artists of 30 nationalities, with a special focus on renowned Lebanese women artists of the modernist period, a new platform dedicated to emerging talent, as well annual staples like the Bank Byblos Award for Photography. The fair's VIP program also includes visits to local museums, galleries, exhibitions and private collections.

BAF is a must-see for the international community, but for the Lebanese who have witnessed the cultural boom over roughly the last decade, it should also be a source of pride. "BAF is not our pride [as organizers], it should be the pride of the Lebanese," says fair founder and director Laure d'Hauteville, adding, "Look at the wealth of your country; Lebanon has always been ahead of its time in the region and even in the West, and you should be proud of your rich heritage."

### ADVERTISEMENT

### POPULAR



JUNE 19, 2015



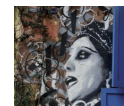
Working as a collective



JUNE 1, 2015



Starting from zero



JANUARY 24, 2017



Living in a street artist's paradise



MAY 6, 2016



You are what you wear: Patrick Gharios

### RECENT POSTS

Fusion at the palace

Beyond Arab politics and parties

Asking important questions

Traveling with the roof down

Historic year for Lebanon at Cannes



Bel Air Fine Art gallery's artworks include Banksy street art | Courtesy Bel-Air Fine Art, Switzerland, Italy, France, Middle East



Cici Sursock's Grand nu paysage blanc | photo: Agop Kanledjian

That heritage was on display in what is probably this year's most exceptional feature: Lebanon Modern!, sponsored by Bankmed. An homage to 13 progressive Lebanese women artists from 1945-1975, the exhibit brings together pieces offered by private collectors and the Ministry of Culture in Lebanon, showcasing artworks by well-known artists like Saloua Raouda Choucair and Helen Khal; Etel Adnan, who is also known for her literary pursuits; as well as lesser-known talents from earlier years, like Bibi Zogbé.



Etel Adnan is a painter and writer | photo: Agop Kanledjian



Juliana Seraphim sketched erotic subjects | photo: Greg Demarque

These women pioneered styles, techniques and controversial subjects, and some were pioneers just for being artists at all. Huguette Caland, the daughter of President Bechara El Khoury and Cici Sursock of the famous clan came from families that often didn't condone women getting their hands dirty with paint. Juliana Séraphim depicted erotic taboos, Marie Haddad's subjects were bedouins and farmers, while Nadia Saikali began making art out of plexiglass as the material was just becoming popular with Western artists.

Search ... Search

TAGS

- Architect
- Architecture
- Art
- Art Exhibition
- Artists
- AUB
- Beirut
- Beirut Art Fair
- Beirut Art Week
- Cars
- Character
- Contemporary art
- Culture
- Design
- Designers
- Entrepreneurs
- Entrepreneurship
- Exhibition
- Factory Lofts
- Fashion
- Festival
- film
- Galerie Janine Rubeiz
- Gilbert Hage
- Jewelry
- Lebanese Art
- Lebanese Artist
- Lebanese Artists
- Lebanese designers
- Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra
- Lebanon
- Luxury
- Luxury Watches
- Mar Mikhael
- Mercedes
- Music
- Paintings
- Performance Art
- Photography
- Play
- Sursock Museum
- Tech
- Technology
- Theatre
- Watches

ARCHIVES

June 2017

May 2017

April 2017

March 2017

February 2017

January 2017

November 2016

October 2016

September 2016

August 2016



Nadia Saikali's progressive plexiglass art | photo: Greg Demarque



Huguette Caland's work is said to contain more subtle eroticism than some of her contemporaries | photo: Agop Kanledjian

The selection is not only a display of beautiful works by prominent artists, but also “a move towards the broader public recognition of creations by women,” according to BAF Artistic Director Pascal Odille, who emphatically praised the work of these strong, forward-thinking women that marked Lebanon’s art scene with their creative energy, but some of whom are still little-known to the general public.

According to d’Hauteville it’s also a tribute to the Lebanese woman – strong, soft, creative and free – something rare in the region and even in the West, she says. “These women were very important to modernism,” she says, adding, “To know ourselves, it’s important for us to know our history. It will help us in the present and to advance into the future.”



Joseph Khoury's entry in the Byblos Bank Award for Photography | photo: Greg Demarque

The 5th annual Byblos Bank Award for Photography takes up a corner space, displaying the work of photographers that took part in their workshops as well as the selected entries by Lebanese photographers for this year’s prize, with the winner announced on the final day.

Another large section of the fair is dedicated to Revealing, supported by SGBL, a space for discovering emerging talent. Galleries and artists from Lebanon and other countries as varied as Iran, Cuba, Poland and Sudan, showcase remarkable work that spans painting, sculpture, embroidery and mixed media.

There are 19 exhibitors from Lebanon in the general exhibition space. One of the galleries taking part since the very first BAF is EmmaGoss Art Galerie belonging to the famed Guiragossian family of artists that have painted for generations. A striking painting of Baalbek by Paul Gossian, the grandson named after acclaimed Paul Guiragossian, hangs at the Mark Hachem Gallery space close by, which represents the young artist and his brother Marc.

- July 2016
- June 2016
- May 2016
- April 2016
- March 2016
- February 2016
- January 2016
- December 2015
- November 2015
- October 2015
- September 2015
- August 2015
- July 2015
- June 2015
- May 2015