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HADY SY | DIARY OF AN ARTIST IN INTERESTING TIMES

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Taking up this issue's theme of 'The Diary of an Artist in Confinement Interesting Times', Selections invited artists to share their thoughts on work, art and life in general since the beginning of the year. We guided them with the following questions:

- What image(s) illustrate(s) 2020 for you so far?
- If you were to write a note, a reminder, a memory to yourself, or to the world, in a time capsule, and you were to open it 15 years from now, what would it say?
- If you had to describe the year 2020 in brief, what would it sound like?
- Some of you have dedicated this year so far to working continuously in your studio; some others have found themselves completely demotivated and have halted everything. What have you been doing? Please describe in detail and share with us the work you have been doing during this period.
- The pandemic has changed our perception of time and our relationship to our homes. What is your experience?
- How do you see the future of art?
- Have you been reading?

The image that represents 2020 for me is August because the blast was so strong that it erased all the memories of 2020: it erased corona, and it erased everything in my head. That's why I did a sculpture called 609. It was the time I looked at my watch while I was running to check on Roula in all the hospitals because she was wounded. From that time 609 stayed in my head and I made a sculpture out of it. Because I know that 666 is the number of the devil, bizarrely I checked 609 and, this is not something I knew by the way, 609 tuned out to be the number of the angel. For me, 609 was the time of silence, when after the blast everything went quiet and then all the alarms went off in the street. I did three different sculptures. I could integrate the eight and the nine in the three of them because some people were saying it was 608 and others 609. It was good in graphics to integrate the two zeros to become an 8 so it is 608, 609.



<https://selectionsarts.com/agenda/609-sculpture-of-2020/> Artist-609 Sculpture, 2020. Corten steel, 150 cm.



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609 Sculpture, 2020. Corten steel, 150 cm.

If I were to write a note for a time capsule, I would wish to put Lebanon in a bottle and open it beautifully in 15 years from now, because what's scaring me is what is going to happen. I wish it would tell me that I am still here, standing, and more beautiful. You know Lebanon might not exist anymore.



(<https://selectionsarts.com/wp-content/uploads/selections-art-theme-issue-53-Hady-Sy-Hady-Sy-Bottle.jpg>).

If I could save time in a bottle... I would save Lebanon.

During the lockdown, I went through different phases. In the first phase I did nothing at all and I found that it was a bit vulgar because confinement is not something special for me. I am used to working for weeks and months without seeing anyone. But this time I felt that I was a prisoner, knowing that I was forced to be alone. So, it was a totally different feeling and I couldn't work. The second thing is I wanted to get closer to my friends. I have a lot of friends in Lebanon and abroad. My mother wasn't here as well so I was totally by myself. I felt that it was a bit vulgar to work when the important thing was to talk and listen to my friends because we were all confined at the same time and it was a common prison. That was the major thing because people were not used to being alone.



<https://selectionsarts.com/wp-content/uploads/selections-art-theme-issue-53-Hady-Sy-Atelier-2.jpg>

Hady Sy's atelier

I read many books during this time, even though I don't have a great deal of concentration. I read small books. I like philosophy so I read Lao Tzu and Sun Tzu, The Art of War. I read things that are very philosophical. I always read one or two pages or paragraphs to get inspired. I watched a lot of movies, like Gandhi, American Beauty, It's a Wonderful Life, Life is beautiful. It is weird that I wanted to watch movies that I have watched before. I needed a human touch because this is what I was missing.