

Rima Amyuni, Oussama Baalbaki, Anachar Basbous, Chaza Charafeddine, Tagreed Dargouth, Hala Ezzeddine, Fadia Haddad, Nasser Hussein, Hiba Kalache, Semaan Khawam, Nathalie Khayat, Hala Matta, Ginane Makki-Bacho, Samar Mogharbel, Nadia Safieddine, Carla Salem, Samir Sayegh, Hala Schoukair, Gebran Tarazi, Katya Traboulsi, Shawki Youssef, Mona Saudi and Afaf Zurayk

Out of Context

Saleh Barakat Gallery

May 3-June 22

This exhibition, according to curator Natasha Gasparian, "invites the viewer to engage in an activity which has been under increasing duress - to look, seriously and quietly, and see." This rather noble goal was achieved by selecting one work by each participating artist and displaying them together without a clear intent or context. An exhibition that lacks a didactic or expository framework is rare, and the act of thoughtful appreciation widely undervalued. By placing seemingly unrelated works together, the curatorial approach distinguishes itself by valuing observation over explanation. Arguably, the purposeful omission of an overarching narrative does in fact create a structure to the exhibition anyway, so that the lack of a framework is the framework itself. This may be true, but in all cases the intention of the exhibition is refreshing and boldly goes against popular curatorial trends, even if it could be proven contradictory. Each work, some which might be familiar to frequent visitors of Saleh Barakat Gallery, and others that have never been shown, is a testimony to the diverse skill of Lebanon's top artists. By creating the conditions for appreciating the artworks in their singularity, the exhibition also allows for a deeper appreciation of these beloved local artists all under one roof.



| Nadia Safieddine



| Nasser Hussein



| Fadia Haddad