



mer of discontent...

Lebanon is witnessing what is being baptized as a revolution. The use of the word "revolution" according to Marwan Chamaa. True, the voices of the people are loud, the social media pages all full of selfies, and selfies in the midst of the demonstrators, all in support of change and accountability. The angle, viewpoint, and aspect is being broadcasted live on most local TV channels. Even eager to participate in the action, sometimes losing their objectivity and credibility. This is bold, brave, innocent, and "revolutionary" says Chamaa, "it brings out the creativity of many" but is this enough to make it a true revolution? Or is it just a rebellion? A "revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one group overthrows another."

Marwan uses his surroundings as his muse as he sets forth two large paintings. Inspired by the likes of Che Guevara, and Alexander Kosolapov who use communist propaganda symbols as a base to convey a message, Marwan is not criticizing the communist drives but rather using the original propaganda posters of the People's Republic of China, as a backdrop to *Lebanize* his message. The success of the artist lies in the similarities to the success of McDonald's mass branding according to Marwan.

McDonald's was founded around the same time - China has the world's largest population, and a chain of restaurants - the Chinese revolution affected in one way or another millions around the globe; the success of McDonald's in 119 countries - they both lead and reorganize their operations using production line methods. McDonald's and the People's Republic of China is the well-greased organization and purposeful



"Ma huwa al-sir?" (What's the secret?), Ecstatic series, 2015, acrylic paint, latex emulsion paint on canvas, 100 x 200cm (39.37 x 78.74inch).

"Ana A7ubuh" ('I'm lovin' it), is another McDonald's slogan. Marwan superimposes this famous phrase on another Mao propaganda poster. The original poster says that soldiers and civilians can jointly overcome the puzzle of the heads of the people. What is loved exactly? How is a successful revolution achieved? The puzzle are all there on the 100 x 200cm canvas.

