



Press release
29 September 2016

BEIRUT ART FAIR 2016 : INCREASED SALES & MORE PRESTIGE

When **BEIRUT ART FAIR 2016** drew to a successful conclusion on 18 September, it had welcomed more than 23,000 visitors (compared to 21,000 in 2015). The 7th edition of the fair registered a turnover of \$3.2 million, representing a 25% increase in average earnings per gallery compared to the previous year, while 87% of galleries present achieved sales.

BEIRUT ART FAIR has thus reinforced its position as an indispensable meeting place for collectors from Lebanon and the surrounding region. The decision to narrow the focus of the 2016 edition paid dividends, with a marked increase in quality that supported the fair's twofold mission: to uncover the region's brightest young talents, and to offer a unique stage for spotlighting the most important artists from previous generations.

This spirit of discovery and affirmation was illustrated by **REVEALING by SGBL**, the fair's new section dedicated to presenting young talents, and by **LEBANON MODERN!** - an exhibition devoted to Lebanese women artists active from 1945 to 1975.

Photography also enjoyed pride of place at the 7th edition of BEIRUT ART FAIR. To mark its fifth year, the **BYBLOS BANK AWARD** invited Franco-Algerian artist Halida Boughriet to conduct a workshop for five young photographers selected from among the finalists for previous years' awards. These included Myriam Boulos, Ghaleb Cabbabe, Tarek Haddad, Lama Mattar and Carmen Yahchouchy. This year's prize was awarded to the young photographer Elsn Lahoud for his series "Ehtiyat" ("Military Reserve"), marked by an intensely personal approach to the latest group of draftees to Lebanon's compulsory military service. The prize consists of a program of professional counselling and support including mentoring from photographer Serge Najjar, and an exhibition to be hosted at the bank's headquarters.

Elie Saab also presented Evangelia Kranioti's remarkable series UNLIGHT / SUNLIGHT in a vast, dedicated space. Kranioti produced the series during an artistic residence that formed part of the Elie Saab Fellowship, won during the 30th International Fashion and Photography Festival in Hyères (France) in 2015.

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Lebanese Minister of Culture M. Raymond Araygi said: "BEIRUT ART FAIR is a flagship event for the Lebanese arts and culture scene. This 7th edition helped to highlight not only the extraordinary effervescence of this art scene, but also Beirut's capacity to attract international galleries."

Lebanese Minister of Tourism M. Michel Pharaon said: "Thanks to the quality of Lebanese and international artists presented, BEIRUT ART FAIR has become an eagerly anticipated event in Lebanon, the region and the world. Lebanon's image is increasingly positive thanks to the fair and the energy that it creates."

**The 7th edition of BEIRUT ART FAIR featured 45 galleries based in 20 countries.
The new REVEALING by SGBL section presented 27 promising young talents.**

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BEIRUT ART FAIR 2016 STANDS - FACTS AND FIGURES

- **Emmagoss Art Galerie** sold 9 paintings by Emmanuel Guiragossian, in addition to 3 large sculptures and numerous works on paper.
- **Mark Hachem Gallery** (Stand B10) sold, among other works, a painting by Chaouki Chamoun, several mixed-technique works by Charbel Samuel Aoun and Ghazi Baker, several large-format works by Paul Gossian and Marc Guiragossian, and 3 paintings by Helen Khal.
- The participation of **Hamazkayin Lucy Tutunjian Art Gallery** was a resounding success, with oil paintings by artist Hammoud Chantout.
- **A & V ART Gallery** (Booth A9), with several paintings by Alexandr Nekrashevich.
- **Xol Art Gallery** (Stand A10), with paintings by Serwan Baran, Nabil Shehadeh and Ammar Khammash, along with several sculptures.
- **Sud Gallery** (Stand A11) sold all the tribal art figures on offer, in addition to a dozen mixed media works on canvas by Guy Ferrer.
- **South Border** (Stand A13) sold, among others pieces, two works by Alejandro Gomez Cangas, two works by Renelio Marin, two works by Ben Abou Nassif, one work by Roberto Valentin and one work by Agustin Bejarano.
- **Espace Jacques Ouais** (Stand B11) sold a dozen works by Carla Barchini, sculptures by Nayla Romanos Iliya and works by photographer Diana Mehrez.
- **Wadi Finan Art Gallery** (Stand B12) sold more than a dozen ceramic "bulb" sculptures by Katia Al Tal and a work by Hamza Bounoua.
- **Albareh Art Gallery** (Stand B13) sold a triptych by Semaan Khawam and three works by Annie Kurkdjian, in addition to orders for works not on display.
- **Art on 56th** (Stand B1) sold, among other works, a sculpture by Edgar Mazigi, in addition to innumerous orders for works by artists presented at the stand.
- **sland6** (Stand B2) enjoyed great success with the collective Liu Dao, selling five digital installation pieces.

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- **Galleries Françoise Livinec** (Stand B3) sold three works by Matthieu Dorval on the journey of Marco Polo, two works by Kwang Jang Bum and two works by Rabi Korla.
- **Galerie Tanit** (Stand A1) sold a work by Simone Fattal and a work Fadi Yazigi.
- **Galerie Janine Rubeiz** (Stand C17) enjoyed great success with works by Zad Moutaka (representing Lebanon at the next Venice Biennale), many of which found buyers from international collections. The audience also enjoyed new work by Hanibal Srouji.
- The participation of **Bel Air Fine Art** (Stand A3) was a huge success, with the sale of six sculpted balls by Nina Khemchyan, one sculpture by Philip Hiquily, and a sublime calligraphy installation by US-Pakistani artist Simeen Farhat.
- **Aida Cherfan Art Gallery** (Stand B6) sold six paintings and three sculptures by Hussein Madi, in addition to works by Assadour and Mouna Bassili Sehnaoui.
- **La Art Gallery** (Booth B8) sold, among other works, three large paintings by Lucas Pertile, three works by Paula Otegui, a ceramic by Alita Olivari, a box by Mariana Villafane and a work by Silvina Resnik.

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REVEALING by SGBL - FACTS AND FIGURES

- **Wadi Finan Art Gallery** (Stand C10) sold two works by Lebanese artist Fatima Mortada.
- **Galerie Les Ateliers Sauvages** (Stand C9) sold drawings by Algerian Adel Bentounsi and authorized a solo show by the artist in Beirut at the end of the year.
- **La Baignoire Expérience** (Stand C8) sold works by Fella Tamzali.
- **Zaarura Edition** (Stand C14) sold all exhibited prints by French artist Benjamin Receveur.
- **South Border** (Stand C23) found a buyer for the video installation by its Cuban artist Ernesto Rancaño.
- **Artlab** (Stand C15) sold three oil on canvas paintings by Iranian artist Morteza Khosravi.
- Galleries **Artspace Hamra** (Stand C21) and **ASH** (Stand C22) received pledges to buy for works by Lebanese artists Hassan Samad and Ghada Zoughby.
- **Mashrabia Gallery** (Stand C20) sold four mixed media on cardboard works by Egyptian artist Ali Abdel Mohsen.
- **392Rmeil393** (Stand C27) sold three paintings by Syrian artist Mohamad Khayata.
- **Galerie Janine Rubeiz** (Stand C17) sold an installation by Lebanese artist Christine Kettaneh.
- **Vincenz Sala** (Stand C7) sold a work by Franco-Moroccan artists Myriam El Haik, and received requests from many collectors to see more of the artist's production.
- **Dar al-Anda** (Stand C6) sold several photographs by Jordanian artist Ghadeer Saeed.
- **Baudoin Lebon** (Stand C5) sold several acrylic on canvas works by Korean artist Hur Kyung-Ae.
- **Mark Hachem** (Stand C2) sold several works in mixed media on wood by Lebanese artist Charbel Samuel Aoun.
- **Gowen Contemporary** (Stand C1) sold out its works by Pakistani artist Waseem Ahmed.
- **Gallery One** (Stand C19) sold two oil paintings by Palestinian artist Rafat Asad.
- **Endjavi Beard Art Projects** (Stand C12) sold several acrylic on cardboard works by Iranian artist Maryam Hoseini.

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