

PRESS RELEASE

Ayyam Gallery
Beirut Tower, Ground Floor
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Mon-Fri: 10:00am-8:00pm
Sat: 12:00pm-6:00pm



Ginane Makki Bacho & Fathallah Zamroud:

Material Remains

3 April - 31 May 2014

Opening reception: Thursday, 3 April from 7:00 - 9:00pm

From 3 April to 31 May 2014, Ayyam Gallery Beirut is pleased to announce *Material Remains*, a joint exhibition of veteran painter and sculptor, Ginane Makki Bacho alongside newcomer Fathallah Zamroud.

Featuring a twelve-part steel architectural installation amidst modern Impressionist style canvases, *Material Remains* displays each artist's unique engagement with the brutal reality of war and their individual response to its aftermath. In Zamroud's canvases, the thick and gestural application of paint gives way to a landscape representing the misery of Syrian refugee camps. For Makki Bacho, her installation takes as its focal point the iconic Burj El Murr, a concrete tower in downtown Beirut designed to be a state of the art trade centre, whose fate was to be a stronghold for sniper and militiamen during the civil wars.

Zamroud's earthy-toned canvases depict temporary dwellings of refugee camps and discarded belongings, bringing to centre the makeshift nature of life after war. In one painting, orange and brown dominate a desolate alleyway, littered only by windswept garbage and the inanimate. Devoid of figures, Zamroud's paintings lay bare the state of places where people have fled or been forced to evacuate.

Makki Bacho has diligently created her mixed steel installations over the last two years. The subject matter which she engages is older still. The Burj El Murr remains tethered to a difficult past around which other towers have cropped up in the vicinity and elsewhere. However, for a Beiruti, the significance of this tower cannot be replaced by any other. Like the landscape in which the Burj El Murr sits, within the gallery space the audience is confronted with not one, but multiple Matryoshka-like steel replicas of the original. The multiple iterations of the tower reflect the various moments this tower and its violent history have impacted the artist's life and memory.

Zamroud's canvases with their monochromatic colours, gestural brushstrokes and fluid lines provide a direct contrast to Makki Bacho's city of steel, so abrupt, rigid and non-conforming. Yet as a singular viewing experience, the two bodies of work resonate together; providing audiences the opportunity to reflect upon the aftereffects of war and its material remains. For the tangible marks that remain after tragedy are upon the buildings, residences and locations, which serve as testament not only to bloodshed and strife, but also to perseverance and determination.

Notes to Editors

About the Artists

Ginane Makki Bacho was born in Beirut in 1947, where she currently lives and works. She received a Master's of Fine Arts in Printmaking and Painting from Pratt Institute, New York (1987) and a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the Lebanese American University, Beirut (1982). Recent solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery, Beirut (2013); ArtCircle, Beirut (2010); Agial Art Gallery, Beirut (2004); and a retrospective of her works at the French Cultural Center, Beirut (2005). Group exhibitions include Fa Gallery, Kuwait (2012), Beirut Art Center (2009); the Lebanese Association of Artists and Sculptors in Beirut (2013, 2012, 2010, 2009); the Biennale Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria (2008); and Surssock Museum, Beirut (2006).

Her work is held in a number of public and private collections including the Centre Culturel Francais, Beirut; the Museum of Digne les Bains; Cabo Frio Museum, Rio de Janeiro; the Arab League, Washington DC; the Hariri Foundation, Washington DC., and the Biblioteca Alexandrina, Alexandria. She is also known for her artist books, such as *Face to Face, the Artist as Woman and Mother* (1985), *Ginane, Diary of a Woman* (1986), *Extraordinary People* (1998) and *Dichotomie en Blanc et Noir* (2009).

Fathallah Zamroud was born in Beirut in 1968 and is a painter of Syrian-Lebanese background. He studied Interior Architecture at the Lebanese American University after which he trained privately in painting and drawing. As a jewelry designer, Zamroud has been involved with Zamroud Est. The artist's recent paintings echo the violence and misery of war in Syria, and were inspired after collecting photographs of sites of destruction and abandonment.

About Ayyam Gallery

Founded in Damascus in 2006, Ayyam Gallery is recognised as a leading cultural voice in the region, representing a roster of Middle Eastern artists with an international profile and museum presence. Spaces in Beirut, Dubai, Jeddah, and London have further succeeded in showcasing the work of Middle Eastern artists with the aim of educating a wider audience about the art of this significant region.

Exhibition Facts

Exhibition Dates: 3 April – May 31, 2014

Location: Beirut Tower, Ground Floor, Zeitoune Street, Across from Beirut Marina, Solidere

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