

LAU Alumni Art Exhibition
The Homecoming



Mireille Merhej

{ *Fine Arts, Minor Graphic Design* }

Mireille Merhej was born in Lebanon where she is now based. After completing her AA in graphic design and BA in fine arts in LAU Beirut, Mireille headed to Paris where she lived and obtained her master in decorative painting. Since the year 2000 Mireille has been working with renowned Lebanese interior designers painting murals, ceilings, walls with different techniques and textures for residential and commercial spaces. In 2009 Mireille abandoned her work to create her own art work, painting on canvas. Mireille deals with her nostalgia for her past memories and childhood using images from magazines, newspapers or pictures taken by the artist herself.

My hands are means of expression like a pen to a writer.

In my paintings, I try to transform scattered images floating in my mind into an interesting work of art. It is the ability to convert imagination into something concrete which lies at the basis of my art; and this process is always influenced by the state of mind I am in at the time. Images come from things to which I have been exposed to and had an impact on me through my life journey observing where I noted that everything was created and designed. Deep expressions on people's faces or whatever I depict, all express what I have an urge to say, the shredding or the paper tearing transcends the creative act into an obsessive statement, one meant to show traces left with time, underline a subject or to simply draw past and present. The overlapping of pictures show the amount of images our mind is bombarded with everyday of our life. I am a person who admires the past and cherishes what it contains. I find it romantic, mystic and sometimes a refuge... each one of the pictures I choose is relating a story whose importance has faded with time except to me. In few words, I travel in time, I get nostalgic to all the little stories, the history of the heroes we used to admire and look up to in our childhood. I visit them all again and bring them back from this hidden corner of my memory and give them life again... this attempt of putting back together all those memories and images good and bad into an acceptable form is like putting together a broken piece of pottery, however one tries, there is no escaping the fact that traces of fractures will always remain.

