

LIFE GALA DINNER

NOVEMBER 14TH 2014
GUILDHALL, LONDON

AUCTION LOTS

14

“UNTITLED #10” BY MIREILLE MERHEJ, 2011
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 118,5 X 160 CM



Copyright Mireille Merhej
Courtesy Art Sawa

Looking at the paintings of Mireille Merhej from a distance, one instantly recalls the works of Jacque de la Villegle, Mimmo Rotella and Raymond Haines among many artists who have adopted the iconic style of de-collage or ripped street posters.

When we get closer to Merhej 's canvases however, we discover when scrutinizing their surface material that her images are in fact painstakingly painted in Acrylic and are not simply collaged or de-collaged torn printed posters and pages of colour magazines. This leads us to place her work into the realm of photo-realism and brings to mind -in particular- Malcolm Morley's photo realistic paintings in the mid sixties which were drawn from mundane post cards of ships."

Mireille's work is based on small collages, which she makes out of carefully chosen

torn bits and pieces of pages from colour magazines. Accordingly, the statement of Mireille's works is not merely about the final visual outcome but also about the process of making them which underlines the differences between the "apparently" accidental act of tearing strips of paper to create an original collage on the one hand and the act of carefully working out the blown up paintings on the other.

Born in 1973 in Lebanon, Mireille lives and works in Beirut. 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.