



FAVIE

FEMALE ARTISTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

WOMEN OF RESILIENCE

Mireille Merhej



Untitled

Acrylic on canvas - 150 cm x 175 cm - 2012

After completing her AA in graphic design and BA in fine arts at LAU Beirut, Mireille headed to Paris where she obtained her Master in decorative painting. Since the year 2000 Mireille has been working with renowned Lebanese interior designers painting murals, ceilings and walls using different techniques and textures for both residential and commercial spaces.

In 2009 Mireille abandoned her decorative work to concentrate on her own creative art production, consisting mostly of painting on canvas where she deals with expressions of her nostalgia for the past

using images from magazines and newspapers as well as photographs taken by the artist herself. "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 the 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 color 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.

"In my works, I try to transform scattered images floating in my mind into an interesting work of art", she said. It is her ability to convert imagination into something more real which lies at the basis of her art. It is her attempt of putting back together all those personal and nostalgic memories into an acceptable form like putting together a broken piece of pottery, knowing that however one tries there is no escape from the fact that traces of fractures will always remain. Mireille admires her past and cherishes what it contains and represents.



Untitled

Mixed media on canvas - 130cm x 145 cm - 2016