



البارح  
للفنون التشكيلية

المدينة  
معرض شخصي

Cityphilia  
a solo exhibition

Zena Assi  
زينة عاصي

Albareh Art Gallery presents “Cityphilia” a solo exhibition by the Lebanese artist Zena Assi.

To portrait the metropolis, the city, or any urban space nowadays, one has to involve the social, cultural, political angle and to acknowledge a factor of compressed dynamics and pauses, silences and energies, that make the architecture seems vitally, soulfully human. While trying to shape our environment, with its regulations, requirements, and agreements, we end up being shaped ourselves by the structure we’ve built, conformed to its dimensions...

In this collection, Zena is trying to portray the intertwined relation between the society and its spatial frame, the bond between the city and its inhabitants. And according to her “to be able to put a city like Beirut on canvas, one should take into consideration the layers of its history and heritage, the complexity of its social organizations, the diversity of its cultures, and the peculiarity of its universality... in an attempt to finally convey the soul and spirit of its cityscapes”.

The artist is trying to find the physical similarity between a citizen of Beirut and the city itself; a certain reciprocal dependency between the capital and its inhabitants... through which, she finds the point where they merge, lose their singularities and end up forming this body of matter that forms a whole with no definable shape. And also she raises some questions throughout her work for the audience to consider and think about; Is it a convergence phenomenon, or a contagious one? Is it the result of an artificial product of administrated modern life or just a search for identity? Is it orchestrated or unconscious?

Assi believes that there is a certain debt man has to pay over the years to the city he lives in... an ancient pact that ties the two of them, a certain unspoken deal that each will fulfill his pledge when the other is in need...

## About the Artist

Born in 1974, Lebanon, Zena Assi lives and works in Beirut. She graduated with honors from l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA) in advertising, worked in the field for two years and taught in different universities. Her contemporary work on canvas, that draws inspiration from the relations and conflicts between the individual and his environment, has been part of numerous collective and solo exhibitions in Beirut, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. She received two awards in 2009, and was auctioned in Sotheby's London in 2010.

## Selected Participations

- 2010 Solo exhibition 'Cityphilia', at Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain  
Collective exhibition "Stare at the other side" at Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain  
Solo exhibition 'Mass Movement' at Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai  
Collective exhibition at Contemporabilia, Beirut
- 2009 Solo exhibition 'un peu de beyrouth' at Alwane Gallery, Beirut  
Collective exhibition at Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai  
Solo exhibition 'Public Space' at Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai  
Collective exhibition at Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi
- 2008 Solo Exhibition 'cite et citadins' at Alwane Gallery, Beirut  
Collective exhibition at Salon d'automne, Sursock Museum, Beirut

## Selected Prizes

- 2009 BMW, Mini Cooper's 50th Anniversary, Best Design for the Middle East  
Mention spéciale du jury, XXIX salon d'automne, Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon







My city en hommage a magritte | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 200 x 100cm | 2010









News of my city 2 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 200 x 100cm | 2010



My city trees 2 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 200 x 100cm | 2010





Portrait of my city 1 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 170 x 50cm | 2010



Portrait of my city 2 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 170 x 50cm | 2010



Portrait of my city 3 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 170 x 50cm | 2010



Bouquet on orange table | Mixed Media on Canvas | 195 x 195cm | 2010





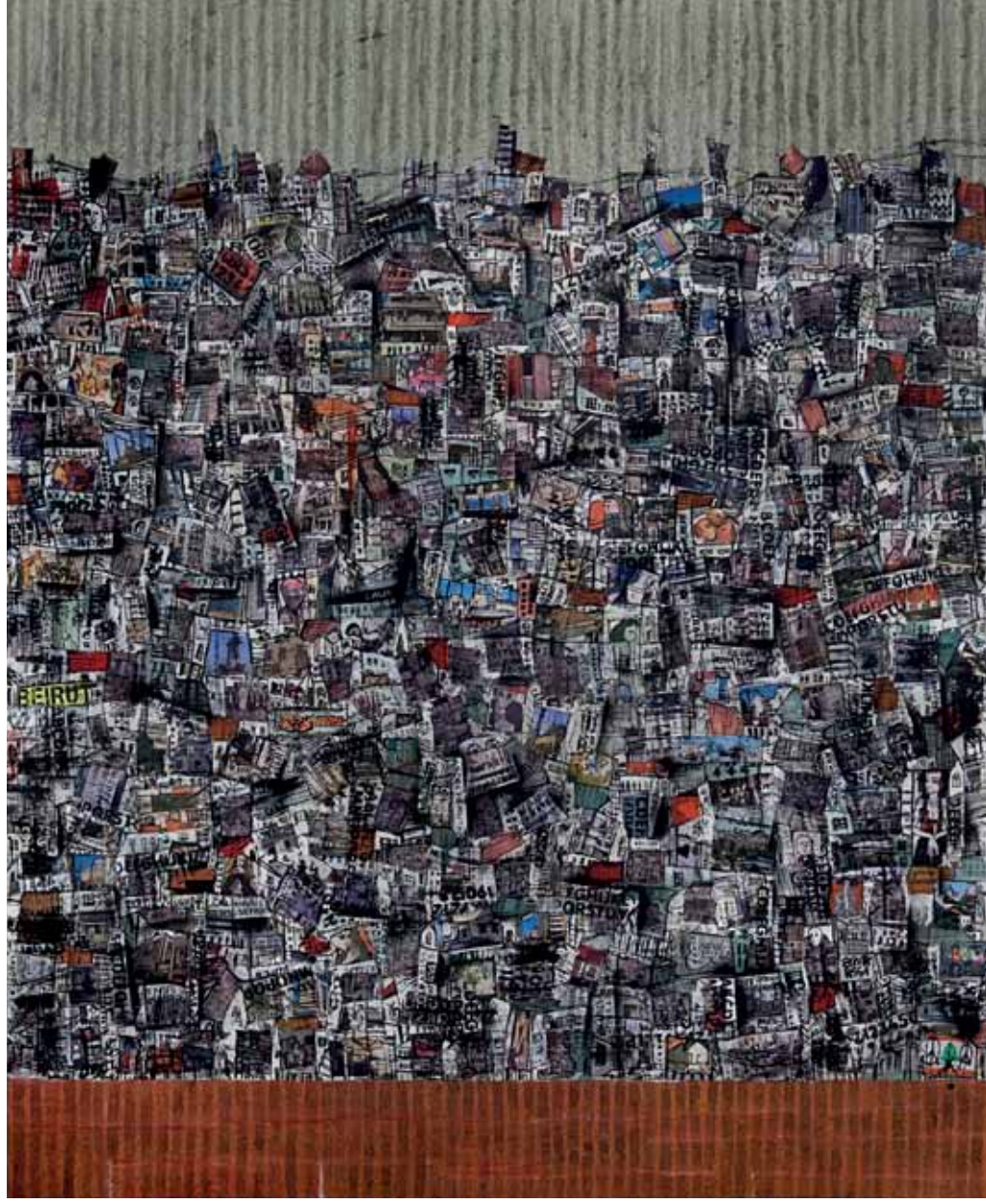
My city in April 10 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 120 x 120cm | 2010





Bouquet on green table | Mixed Media on Canvas | 195 x 195cm | 2010





My city my love 2 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 220 x 180cm | 2010



My city trees 5 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 220 x 180cm | 2010



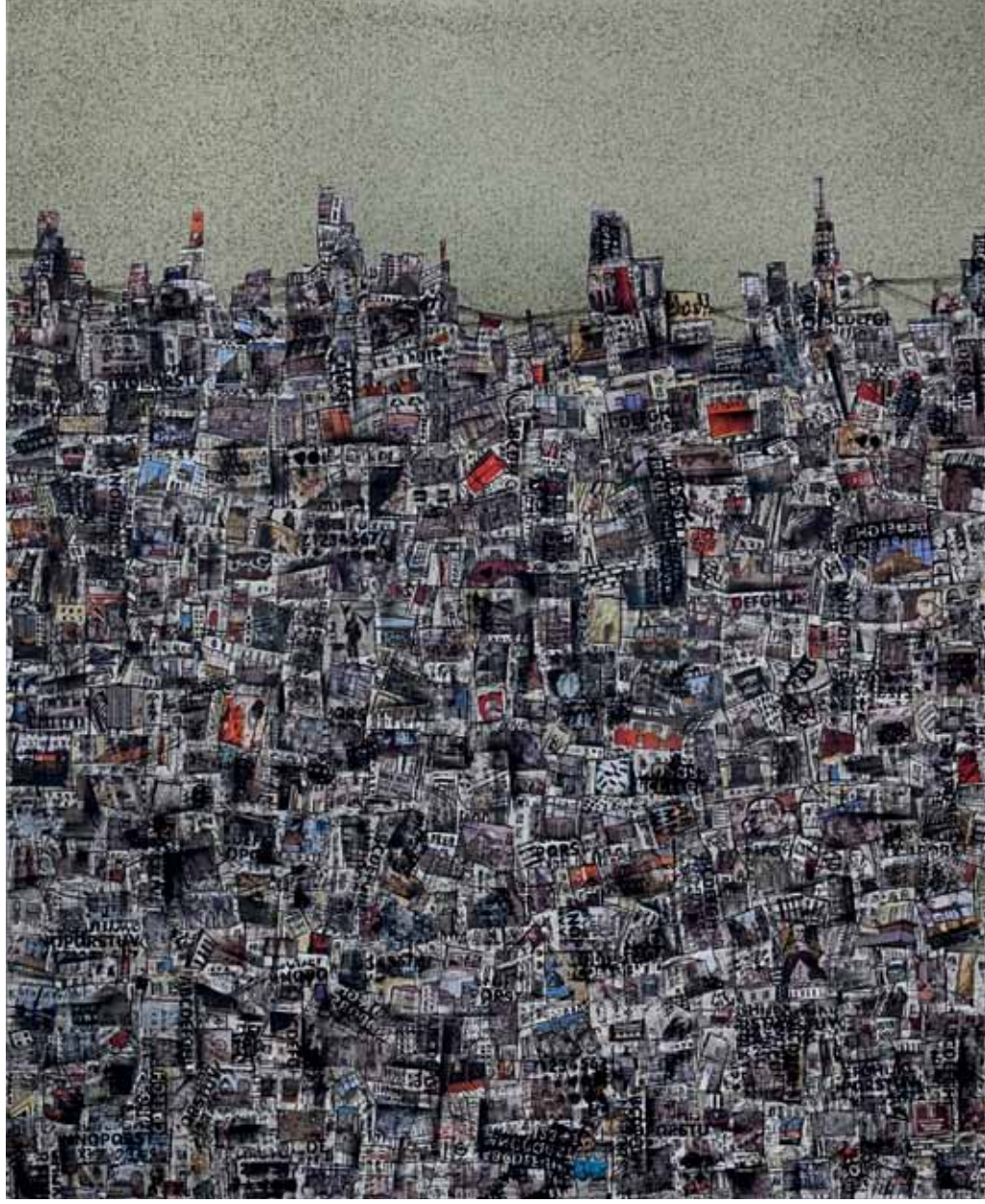


My city in cy hair 2 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 120 x 120cm | 2010



There's a poet in my city | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 120 x 120cm | 2010





My city my love 1 | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 220 x 180cm | 2010



City trees en hommage a schiele | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 220 x 180cm | 2010





My city in a frame | Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas | 120 x 120cm | 2010



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