



# قراءات Readings

فاطمة الحاج  
Fatima El Hajj

albareh  
art gallery





## Albareh Art Gallery presents **“Readings”** a solo exhibition by Lebanese painter **Fatima El Hajj**

The book and the act of reading is what inspires Fatima’s painted meditations, through colorful interstices staged in the familiar textures of the gardens she has admired: Her family estate in Wardanieh, the beautiful garden of roses in Rmaileh and the paintings of the Impressionist masters.

The book opens as a timeless familiar space, filled with presences from other times that we must discover by ourselves: Reading memories from the past as if they never happened before, as if nobody had ever read them before.

The painter is inviting us to take a pause from the intoxicating business to living, to find comfort and solace in the timelessness of knowledge, but her paintings are not depicting the enigmas of the written word; rather, she is showing us the traces, the fleeting presences, the contours of the light.

While reading, we are not only leafing through imagined landscapes, but also opening the vessels of the soul and being transported to worlds of serenity. The work of the artist is carpeted with delicate shadows that never remain suspended; they are flooded with natural light and sound.

In this homage to the book – the postal system of human cultureThe exhibition is a friendly warning against a bookless society in which the joy of conversation and friendship is replaced by the rapid and the fleeting, distorting the memory and displacing us from our own lives.

Contemplation is in her paintings a privilege: The ability to become absorbed in ourselves and in each other, in order to begin to live the present moment. The painter becomes a mediator between the image and the word, allowing us to travel through the world as if it were an open book.





## Fatima El Hajj

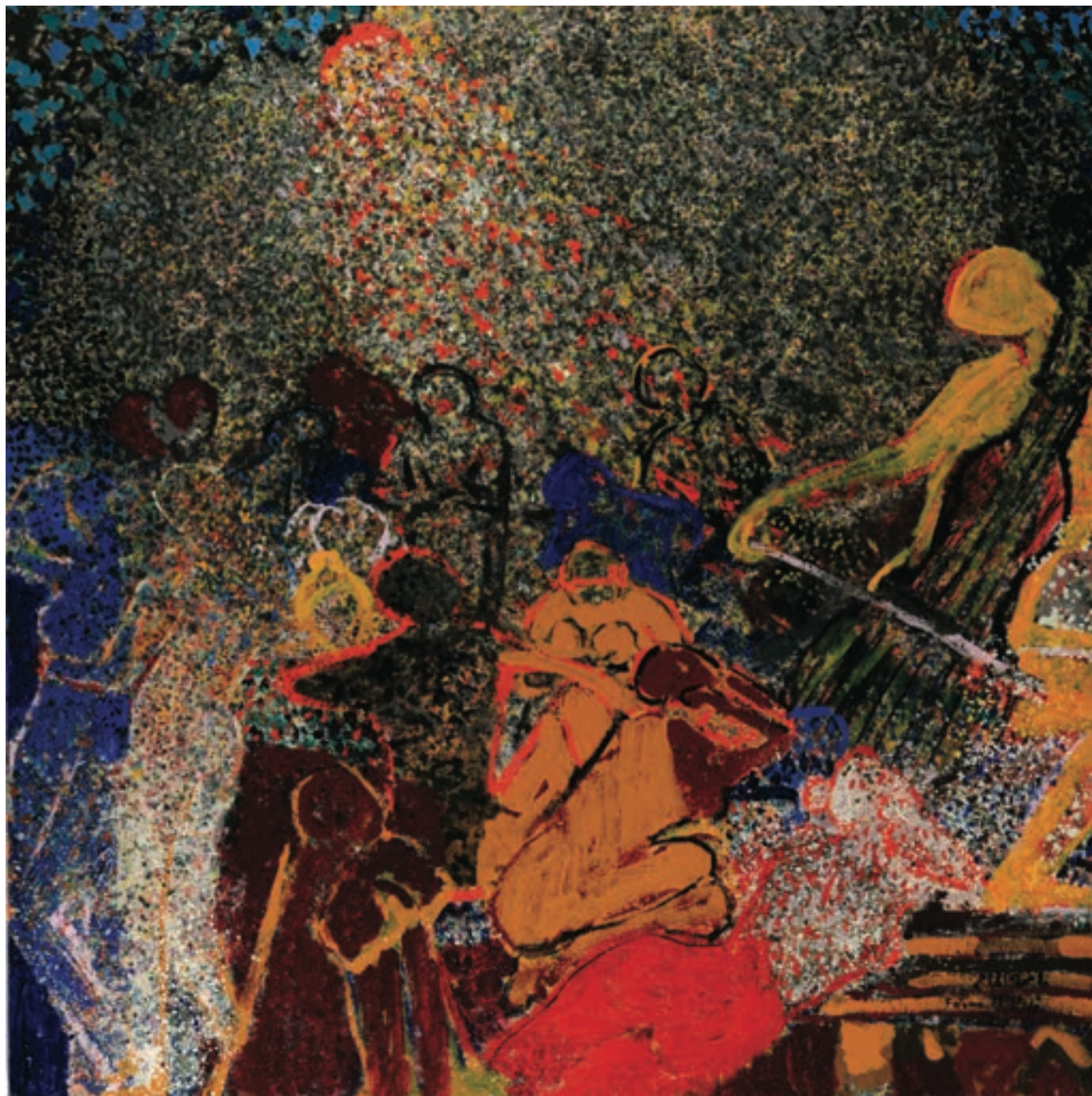
Fatima El Hajj was born in Wardanieh, Lebanon, in 1953. She is a graduate from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Lebanese University and received art training in Leningrad and Paris. At present, she is a professor of art at the Institute of Fine Arts in Lebanon. Since her first solo exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Center in Beirut, 1985, her work has been showcased extensively throughout the world and is part of several important public and private collections.

Several works of the artist have been sold at important auctions, including

“La Lecture”, sold at Christie’s Dubai Modern & Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art in 2011, and that can be seen as a prelude to the current exhibition, “Readings”. She received the International Picasso Award in 1984 and is a recipient of the first prize for the 2007 Emmar International Art Symposium, Dubai.

The exhibition runs April 9th through 30th.





100 x 80 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012







100 x 100 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012





90 x 75 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012







100 x 80 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012





100 x 80 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012





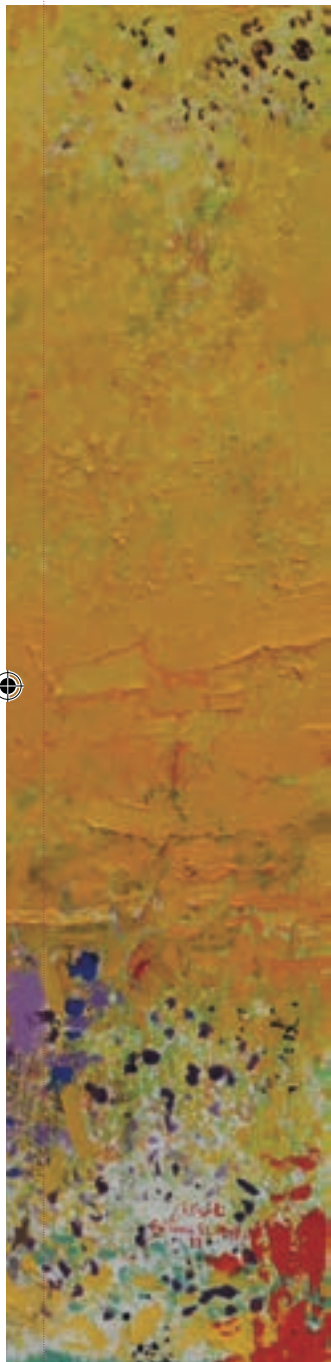


105 x 95 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012









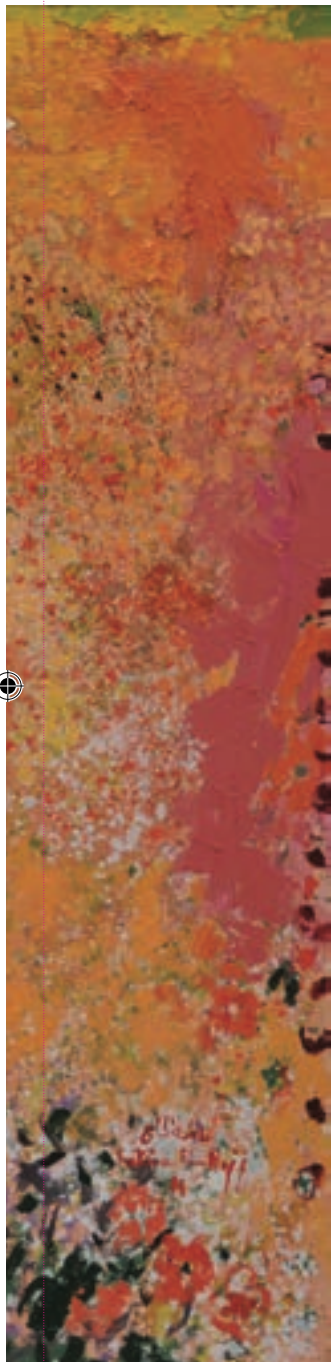
130 x 175 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012



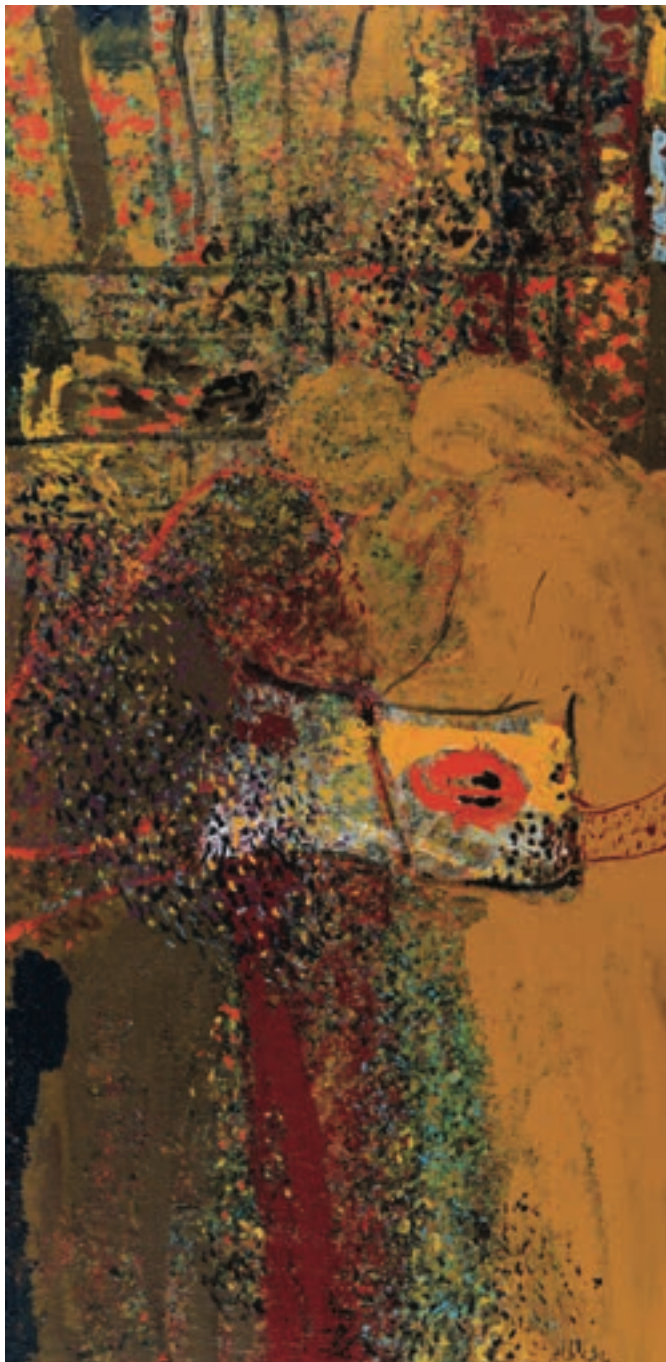
125 x 49 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012







130 x 175 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012



125 x 49 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012





150 x 150 cm / Mixed Media on Canvas / 2012









**albareh**  
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