

BUG SOLDIERS ZENA ASSI



2013. ZENA ASSI "BUG SOLDIERS"

artsawa



ZENA ASSI

"BUG SOLDIER # 29799"

Mixed media on canvas

50 x 50 cm, 2013

© Zena Assi, Courtesy ArtSawa





ZENA ASSI

"BUG SOLDIER # 16 # 495 # 1278"

Mixed media on canvas

180 x 150 cm, 2012

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ZENA ASSI

"BUG SOLDIER # 73 # 74"

Mixed media on canvas

50 x 50 cm, 2013

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ZENA ASSI

"BUG SOLDIER # 7719"
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 50 cm, 2013

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ZENA ASSI

"BUG SOLDIER 7813"
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 50 cm, 2013

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"BUG SOLDIER # 8963"

Mixed media on canvas

125 x 125 cm, 2012

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"BUG SOLDIER # 11714"

Mixed media on canvas

125 x 125 cm, 2012

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"BUG SOLDIER # 43701 # 43702 # 43703"

Mixed media on canvas

220 x 180 cm, 2012

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"BUG SOLDIER # 88 # 89"

Mixed media on canvas

135 x 135 cm, 2012

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"BUG SOLDIER # 59742"

Mixed media on canvas

125 x 125 cm, 2013

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"Newsflash from Syria # 1-25"

Mixed media and collage on canvas

150 x 200 cm, 2012

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"TOY SOLDIER"

Bronze-1/3

68 x 58 x 52 cm, 2013

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ZENA ASSI

Born in 1974, Lebanon, Zena Assi lives and works in Beirut.

Regardless of any analysis, judgment or speculation concerning the Arab Uprising, regardless of all the tens of thousands of pages written on the matter, debating it, endorsing or doubting it, the common man's reality remains intact; the common man unarmed, unprepared, sometimes unwilling is being dragged from his regular daily job or routine and shoved into an unrehearsed, unimaginable condition transformed into a soldier, a sniper, a killer and a victim, without any prior formulation, military training or psychological aptitude to face the horrific violence of such turbulences. We, the outside borders' world, simply hear the news about the injured, the raped and the killed day after day ... until somehow we get accustomed to the numbers of the victims, who in turn and over time are transformed inside the mind of the masses into mere numbers, their individual lives lose its usual value, they die in the hundreds, then the thousands ... they take less and less space in the world media. As time passes, and with this phenomenon of no tangible reaction from the world watching from a distance, no real interference to stop the bloodshed, the human nature gets accustomed to the unfairness, the brutality, the misery and the violence ... and these men turned soldiers, start growing on their backs a fragile insect wing. A metamorphosis occurs, a slow mutation takes place and they become insignificant bug soldiers, with their numbers as their only strength.

Are we witnessing Kafka's Metamorphosis, or Golding's Lord of the Flies? Are we observing the frightening parody of man's return to the state of darkness from which it took him thousands of years to emerge, or is it only a transitory moment of disintegration under the pressure of raw nature?

Assi graduated with honors from l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA), worked in advertising for two years and taught in different universities. Her contemporary work on canvas draws inspiration from the relations and conflicts between the individual and his spatial environment, society and its surroundings. The artist uses various supports and mediums to document and explore the cultural and social changes of her country. Her work takes shape in installation, animation, sculpture, and mainly paintings on canvas.



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Margaret, Obank, "Zena Assi: Cover Story", Banipal Magazine, issue . 32, London, cover and first pages: (2009).
- Al'Ali, Nawal, "Cite et Citadins", Min Wa Ila Magazine, Jerusalem, cover page and p10-13: (August 2008).
- Mallamé Harfouche, Nicole, "Cité et Citadins: Peintures Signée Zena Assi Farah", La Revue du Liban , issue. 4165, Lebanon, p34: (5-12 July 2008).
- Khalaf, Colette, "Dans le Mégapolis de Zena Assi", L'Orient le Jour, Lebanon, p6: (2 July 2008).



She has been present in the salon d'automne of the Surssock museum Beirut Lebanon, since 2005 where she received the prize 'mention speciale du jury' in 2009. She also won the BMW mini cooper's 50th anniversary, 'best design for the middle east', 2009. Her work was repeatedly auctioned in Christie's Dubai and Sotheby's London, is part of the Barjeel art foundation Sharjah UAE, the ALBA University, the Aoude collection and took part in the 12th Cairo biennale in 2011.

Assi has exhibited in solo as well as collective shows across Europe, the Middle East, and Northern America including- Salon d'Automne Surssock Museum (Beirut Lebanon), Alwane gallery (Beirut Lebanon), Artsawa gallery (Dubai UAE), Zoom (Miami USA), Contemporabilia Dome (Beirut Lebanon), Paris Abu Dhabi art fair (Abu Dhabi UAE), 12th Cairo Biennale (Cairo Egypt), Albareh gallery (Adliya kingdom of Bahrain), Shubbak (London UK), Menasart fair Biel (Beirut Lebanon), Rebirth Beirut Exhibition Center (Beirut Lebanon), Abu Dhabi art fair (Abu Dhabi UAE), Subtitled Appeal Royal college of art (London UK), Espace Claude Lemand (Paris France), Contemporary Art Platform Gallery Space (Kuwait), and Overture Show of Contemporary Art (Miami USA).

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Still Nature - Solo - Art Sawa - Dubai - UAE
- 2012 The Lebanese Creations 1959,2012 - Paris - France
- 2012 XXXI salon d'automne musée surssock - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2011 Subtitles - Royal College of Art - London - UK
- 2011 Omissions selectives - Solo - Alwane Gallery - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2011 XXX salon d'automne musée surssock - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2011 Shubbak - London - UK
- 2011 Menasart Fair - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2011 Abu Dhabi Art Fair - Abu Dhabi - UAE
- 2011 Rebirth - Beirut Exhibition Center - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2010 Cityphilia - Solo - Manama - Bahrain
- 2010 Biennale of Cairo - Cairo - Egypt
- 2010 Zoom - Miami - USA
- 2010 Mass Movement - Solo - Art Sawa, Dubai - UAE
- 2009 Abu Dhabi Art Fair - Abu Dhabi - UAE
- 2009 Un peu de Beyrouth - Solo - Alwane Gallery - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2009 XXIX salon d'automne musée surssock - Beirut - Lebanon, prize: mention
- 2009 Public Space - Art Sawa - Solo - Dubai - UAE
- 2008 Regards d'artistes III - Alwane - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2008 Cité et citadins alwane - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2008 Regards d'artistes II - Alwane Gallery - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2008 Creative Expressions - Art Sawa - Dubai - UAE
- 2008 Art Paris Abu Dhabi art fair - Abu Dhabi - UAE
- 2008 Opening - Art Sawa - Dubai - UAE
- 2008 Cité et Citadins - Alwane Gallery - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2008 XXVIII Salon d'Automne - Musée Surssock - Lebanon
- 2006 Collective Exhibition - Alwane Gallery - Beirut - Lebanon
- 2006 XXVII Salon d'Automne - Musée Surssock - Lebanon
- 2005 XXVI Salon d'Automne - Musée Surssock - Lebanon