

WALKING IN THE SHADY CLOUD OF SAMAR HUSSAIN

By: Omar Donia



Untitled, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 100x100cm. Courtesy of the artist.

In the year long ago... stood a lonely worrier over the high cliffs of the cold land, gazing in the sea watching the time passing by. As time passed, the worrier watched the end of the boats' sails sailing to the Promised Land.

The Promised Land is what Samar promises us to experience in her canvases. A land with no fear, a land with no war, just a mystic approach to what she believes to be her fulfillment of what she describes as "quacking of the society" through exposing the multi layers experiences that we endure in every day of our lives. The muse in her artworks is the sensual women body... The body that the Middle Eastern society we consider a taboo and have to wrap it in colorless veils to hid its beauty from the eyes of the beholder.

Samar studied in the Faculty of Art in Alexandria, Egypt graduating on 2008. On conversation with her about the reason of her use of sensual bodies she indicated "I grew up with a liberal family that encouraged my free thinking and supported me in my choices. When I was young I always heard of how model where invited to the faculty to be drawn by the students. In the nineties, while I was walking home from my high school one day, I heard a discussion between two people about the decision to ban real life modeling. They were talking about it proudly and how it was a "sin" to model the human figure let alone a naked one. That moment was a turning point in my life, I started to realize the cultural invasion that was concerning our minds and taking control of our free thinking that was coming to us from the "Wahabi" movement - at this age, I couldn't quantify the effect nor really define what was it, I was in a state of quite anger".

Such experience at young age started shaping her attitude and approach to people. "I can't say exactly when or how I started to feel the urge to battle this ideas, yet I knew that I needed to do something, I needed to express myself in a way I do best, I needed to paint. I needed to ensure myself being a free-willed, free-thinking individual that is equal to every one and not being less just because I was born in a body of a female. I NEEDED to be artist".

Going forward and the effect of such "sick-minded" masses that imposed covering the women else they will considered sinners, infidel,

etc... she started to be the worrier watch the time passing by, the worrier that decided not to give us and takes us to her own journey towards the promised land of peace and serenity.

"I find it immoral for people to preach something and practice the opposite" she says, in our society every single taboo is being practiced undercover, they put the mask of virtue while deep inside their deep grot of soul, Lucifer flourish with shameful ideas. Most of the society today is a bunch of disgusting liars living in other skin than theirs". she adds.

Her works is no less stronger than her personality, her brush strokes and colors utilization express her feeling of longing to empower every woman she impersonalizes in every canvas.

The viewer is faced with a multi layer scene where sometimes the artwork is very transparent - as much she wishes transparency exists - . and sometimes full of waves of bodies interacting forming a strong knitted fabric.

The running between mediums is also distinctive about Hussain. "I love to play and I am a very serious person too - running between a tough job and an even tougher job of an artist - hence I believe that all my work is fun and all my fun is work. This is how a human being should think: the Devine created us free hence we should be doing only what we believe in. This is also the main ingredient to excel in any profession" indicates Samar adds the artist. "I love the feel the stiffness of oil being one of the hardest medium to manipulated and with its strong presence especially when playing with shadows. When I work, Ideas start flowing into my head, kind of a "Rubik Cube" puzzle that I need to decode hence my love to acrylic that gives me the freedom of expression and the speed of execution putting all the ideas in my head before they run away from me. Charcoal is indeed my first love, my first experience with large canvases and my first wings that took me high over the clouds. Mixing all of them is indeed a big challenge.. joyful pain" concluded the artist.

Looking at Samar's canvases, is like listening to a silent scream of a woman who want to break through the boundaries of the societies.



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