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The Essence of an Artist

The Dubai International Art Centre will be presenting the "Underwater" art exhibition, featuring new abstract paintings and poetry by artist Wafa El Hilali. The art show begins on the 29th of September, up until the 13th of October. Fortunately, READ managed to get a hold of Wafa who gives us an insight about her artwork and the

exhibition.

Artists are often loved by everyone, what role do you think you have as an artist in society?

This forthcoming exhibition will be my first solo exhibition, hopefully the first of many. As an artist I will definitely aspire to share my art, my nature but most importantly use painting to create

awareness about LIFE in general (experiences, challenges, lessons). I often accompany poems with my artworks. Words do not replace paintings and vice versa, however I like that by combining the two you can encourage visualizations and reflections. What is essential? How do we progress as human beings? I want people to read through my artworks as if it was theirs. I want people to see the beauty of life; I will keep sharing what life teaches me as I go.

What has been an influential experience for you as an artist?

From a very young age I was scribbling, drawing on paper. I knew there was a part of me who wanted to do more. After my 20's I decided to take the brush and started painting. I travelled quite a lot with my studies and my several jobs. Travel, people, nature inspired me immensely up until today, and all my travels, my observations, my experiences, people and nature have always been great influences in my work if not the key sources.

What art do you most identify with? Or what work do you enjoy doing most?

I primarily use acrylics to produce abstract paintings only. I like to however experiment a lot and might move to other mediums in the future. I believe in constant evolution and progress. All my paintings are all very different

and unique. As I grow my eyes will continue capturing the light differently. I am looking forward to discovering new perceptions, ideas and contemplations. My writing will also always be a part of my work.

Name an artist who has always inspired you and whom you would like to be compared to.

The last artwork that took my breath away was "Around the Blues" from Sam Francis at the Tate Museum in London. I connected with the colours, the gaps, the shapes. I am very fond of forms and contours. It looked so balanced, flawless and fluid. Matti Sirvio who is a Finnish painter said to me once: "I am a slow life appreciator with a fast soul". Well that is exactly how I see myself as well. I found this description so accurate and descriptive of me.

What can people expect to see in the Underwater art exhibition?

"Underwater" is a collection of poems and paintings that is thriving to explore a world that is full of symbolism. Underwater is a vast theme that touches on so many levels: physical, spiritual and emotional. Each painting and poems are very unique and visitors will love to read, observe, imagine and create their own images. They will be transported by colours and by words. They will also be invited to contribute. I strongly welcome art lovers to visit Gallery 76!

Ford's Warriors in Pink

By Nenwa Touma

Ford Motor Company has been empowering brave warriors in their battles against breast cancer, for the past 21 years. Keen on providing all the support needed by breast cancer patients, Ford has developed, along the years, various activities. Amongst Ford's precious efforts, is the "Warriors in Pink" clothing and accessories line which was introduced to the international market in 2006 and aims at funding numerous organizations supporting this

cause.

However, Ford regards a solely financial support as insufficient to help patients in their journey. Therefore, it aspires to support them emotionally as well, and to raise adequate awareness, through sharing inspirational stories of breast cancer survivors. Following the notable success of last year's activity, Ford organized several photo sessions for survivors, across the Middle East region and hopes that their Models of Courage will inspire patients in their battles and encourage women to get regular check-ups.



In this respect, Warriors in Pink, organized by Ford Middle East & North Africa, made its way to United Arab Emirates with the hope of raising awareness to millions of other women. Daiane expressed her joy for taking part in this inspiring campaign, inviting all women to get regular check-ups. She added, "Don't undermine the importance of an early diagnosis, as it could guarantee a rapid recovery."

Judelyne stressed the importance of remaining positive throughout the treatment. Sawsan and Tanya both affirmed that, "positive Energy is the real cure", encouraging all

women "to be fighters, not just patients."

Sue Nigoghossian, General Manager of Communications at Ford Middle-East and North Africa, said, "Supporting women in the fight against breast cancer is fundamental for their recovery, which is why we believe that it is each and everyone's duty to join the battle. We are delighted and proud of the Warriors in Pink campaign success, and hope to further raise awareness around the importance of early detection in the UAE and across the Arab region."