



CHAMOUN

2006 - present

a project by **solidere**



Chamoun, UNTITLED III, 2010, acrylic on canvas, 590 x140 cm

Prior to, during and after the barbaric July War of 2006, and up to my Desert Experience, I undertook several experiments in my painting. Some were a scream against the savage Israeli bombardment. These would be followed by another series of 'Water Reflections' a new experiment with the lakes of the Harriman and Tuxedo Park of upstate New York, followed in 2007 by a series of culturally inspired abstract works.

As of 2008 the desert and its culture, past and present, strongly influenced my eye and my mind. I felt a strong energy empowering me, bringing new images of unprecedented artistic writing to my painting. The desert stole me away from my previous aesthetic worries; my attempts to try to refine or redefine my aesthetic values and goals. It offered me an extended stay in a world of unmatched purity in its simplest and most refined revelations equal only to the land of the Cedars, to Mount Sannine and to

the Bekaa valley, the playground of my childhood, particularly when covered with snow. Painting had felt, again and likewise, so pleasurable, satisfying and thirst quenching. I felt an urgent creative need to paint day and night in full harmony with my environment, my past, my present, my future.

The past few years, were to a certain extent the years of the desert *par excellence*. The wholeness of the experience matters most to me. The desert was not only the sand I carried back with me to spray on my wet canvas, or mix with my colours for texture or for the semblance of reality. The desert is the story of its men, past, present, and future. The desert is the tent, and the desert is a dream; a futuristic civilisation in the process of becoming. My painting is about capturing the essence of the wholeness of the desert's cultural components and their influences on my eye, mind and feelings. The past few years have been years of

heightened energy in my race with time. I strongly but humbly believe that they have been years of unlimited freedom, unfettered even from my own teachings and limitations.

In parallel, my experiments in expressionist written images however, went beyond image writing in the calligraphic sense into a search for a new aesthetic alphabet.

Is it the inherited complex of alphabet discovery that we pride ourselves on having, or the mere calligraphic liberation in search of spiritual exoticism that we are also honoured to retain? The cultural schism which I have witnessed since my early formative years among artists and intellectuals as a reflection of the varying cultural affiliations has posed unanswered questions, and left artists looking in many different directions.

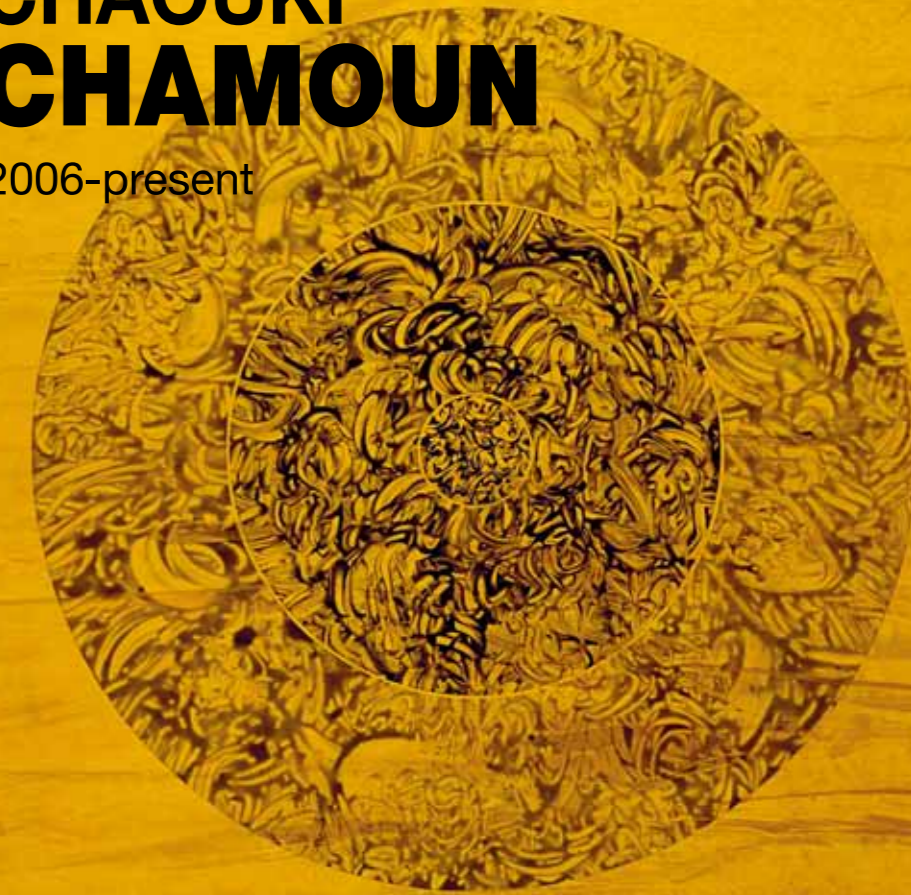
Does art have to be this or that particular direction or affiliation? I have never chosen to shy away from pressing aesthetic calls and needs.

I have always believed, artists must have the freedom to probe into every aesthetic question, to help galvanize and deepen our appreciation of it; for art, like science, must not be confined to one area of inquiry, to one man or one culture. Particularly, I make no attempt to free my art from its alignment with my past, from its place in my heritage, which never ceases to contribute to world art. The freedom I have enjoyed in the making of the new images has matched every other in-depth quest into creative undertaking that I have ever tackled or that may still be waiting for me to unveil.

Chaouki Chamoun

CHAOUKI CHAMOUN

2006-present



7 March - 14 April
Open every day, 11 am - 8 pm

Curated by Amal Traboulsi
Photography by Albert Saikali

Organized by:

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Chamoun, THE EIGHTH REBIRTH OF THE PHOENIX, 2006, acrylic on Canvas - 150 x 160 cm

Chamoun registered at CHRISTIE'S auction, 2007, a record sale for a living Lebanese artist, and was ranked by ART PRICE in the top 25 newly auctioned Artists world wide. In 2011, THE ARABIAN BUSINESS MAGAZINE named him one of the power-500 most influential Arabs in the World

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 1942 | Born in Sariine Tahta, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon | 1996 | Parliament Hall, Beirut, Lebanon World of Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE |
| Education | | 1997 | Cultural Center, Tripoli, Lebanon Alwan Art Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Martyrs' Square Exhibition Hall, Beirut, Lebanon Biennale, Kaslik University, Kaslik, Lebanon Cultural Center, Tripoli, Lebanon Art Deco/La Fiad, Beirut Hall, Beirut, Lebanon Graphic Art, LAU, Beirut, Lebanon Graphic Art, Amman, Jordan International Art Exhibition, Vienna, Austria Aspects of Lebanese Art, Museum of Modern Art, Cairo, Egypt |
| 1968–1972 | Fine Arts Institute, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon Diploma of Higher Studies, Painting | 1998 | Lebanese Plastic Art, Cairo, Egypt Lebanese Painting, Dubai, UAE Unesco Palace, Arab Art, Beirut, Lebanon Unesco Palace, Collectors Exhibition, Beirut, Lebanon National Council of Culture and Art, Kuwait Lebanese Art, Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon Karami International Exhibition Hall, Tripoli, Lebanon Lebanese Artists Association, Verdun, Beirut, Lebanon Lebanese Artists Association, (small work), Beirut, Lebanon Lebanese Artists Association, Verdun, Beirut, Lebanon Emile Lahoud Cultural Center, Dbayeh, Lebanon Tripoli 1 st Sculpture Symposium, Tripoli, Lebanon Lebanese Museum, Beirut, Lebanon Al-Khorafi Arabic Biennale, Kuwait (prize winner) Lebanese Artists Association (50 years of the Lebanese Art Movement), UNESCO, Beirut, Lebanon Pan-Arab Art Exhibition, Algiers, Algeria (representing Lebanon) Sotheby's, Exhibition and Auction, London, UK (work sold) Christie's, Exhibition and Auction, Dubai, UAE (record sale for a living Lebanese artist) Art Paris, Abu Dhabi, UAE Christie's, Exhibition and Auction, Dubai, UAE Alexandria Biennale, Alexandria, Egypt (representing Lebanon) Pan-Arab Art Exhibition, Sanaa, Yemen (representing Lebanon) Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon Art Paris, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Epreuve d'Artiste) UNESCO Palace, Beirut, Lebanon (presentation and tribute by the Lions Club) Katzen Museum, AU, Washington, USA (Convergence: New Art from Lebanon) Menasa Art Fair, Biel, Beirut, Lebanon (Epreuve d'Artiste) Old Beirut City Center, Beirut, Lebanon Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Epreuve d'Artiste) Rebirth, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon Menasa Art Fair, Biel, Beirut, Lebanon (Epreuve d'Artiste) Sandaram Tagore Gallery, New York and Los Angeles, USA ('The Written Image') Sandaram Tagore Gallery, Hong Kong ('The Written Image') MENASA Art Fair, Biel, Beirut, Lebanon (Epreuve d'Artiste) Epreuve d'Artiste Thirtieth Anniversary Show, Beirut, Lebanon |
| 1972–1975 | College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA Master of Fine Arts, Painting | 1999 | |
| 1975–1979 | Department of Art and Art Education, New York University, NY, USA Studies in Studio Art and Aesthetics | 2000 | |
| One Man Show | | 2001 | |
| 1975 | International Living Center, Syracuse, NY, USA | 2002 | |
| 1976 | Anti-War Manifestation, UN, Plaza, NY, USA | 2005 | |
| 1977 | New York University, NY, USA | 2006 | |
| 1985 | La Toile Gallery, Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon | | |
| 1986 | Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1987 | La Toile Gallery, Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1988 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1989 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Fakra Club, Fakra, Lebanon Opus Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1990 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1991 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Hotel Carlton, Beirut, Lebanon Woodex Gallery, New York, NY, USA Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Marriott Hotel, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1992 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Kaslik, Lebanon Marriott Hotel, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1994 | French Cultural Center, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1995 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1996 | Hariri Foundation, Saida, Lebanon | | |
| 1997 | 50x70 Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Coffey Art Gallery, Kingston, NY, USA Emagoss Art Gallery, Zalka, Lebanon Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Beirut Hall, Beirut, Lebanon (Installation 'Cana') Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1998 | Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1999 | Beirut Hall, Beirut, Lebanon (Installation 'Cana') | | |
| 2001 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 2005 | Epreuve d'Artiste Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Beirut Exhibition Center, Solidere, Beirut, Lebanon Experimental Studio, Saifi Village, Beirut, Lebanon Experimental Studio, Saifi Village, Beirut, Lebanon Emile Lahoud Cultural Center, Dbayeh, Lebanon Beirut Exhibition Center, Solidere, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 2006 | Experimental Studio, Saifi Village, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 2008 | Experimental Studio, Saifi Village, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 2011 | Emile Lahoud Cultural Center, Dbayeh, Lebanon Beirut Exhibition Center, Solidere, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 2013 | Beirut Exhibition Center, Solidere, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| Group Show | | | |
| 1968–1973 | Spring Salon, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1974 | Rochester Museum, Rochester, NY, USA Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA | | |
| 1975 | Low Art Center, Syracuse, NY, USA Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA New York University, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1976 | Fall Salon, Zouk, Lebanon | | |
| 1979 | New York University, New York, NY, USA | | |
| 1984 | Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon | | |
| 1991 | Platform International Gallery, Washington, DC, USA | | |
| 1995 | Ministry of Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon World of Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon Aquarella Gallery, Collina Club, Rabieh, Lebanon Martyrs' Square Exhibition Hall, Beirut, Lebanon Contemporary Lebanese Art, National Museum, Kuwait | | |
| | | Teaching | |
| | | 1974–1975 | Syracuse University, New York University, USA (T.A.) |
| | | 1979–1980 | New York University, USA (TA with Dr Bob Kapelus) |
| | | 1982–1984 | Holy Spirit University, Kaslik, Lebanon |
| | | 1982–1989; 1994–1997 | Lebanese University, INBA II, Beirut, Lebanon (Chairman, Art Department) |
| | | 2007–2008 | American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon |
| | | 1997– | Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon |



Chamoun, AN URBAN ENCOUNTER, 2007, acrylic on Canvas, 160x150 cm



Chamoun, Beirut Exhibition Center, Exhibit Layout, March 7 - April 14, 2013

Chamoun, CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUND, acrylic on Canvas, 290 x 230 cm