

Nissa Raad

The Sweetness of Lemons

SEPTEMBER 21–NOVEMBER 4 2018 | OPENING SEPTEMBER 21, 6:00 PM
DIRIMART NIŞANTAŞI



Nissa Raad
NRO8
2018
Mixed media on canvas
120 x 150 cm

Dirimart is pleased to host Nissa Raad's first solo exhibition in Istanbul. In this new series, which would be exhibited for the first time, the artist embraces spontaneity and the freedom of abstraction. Emphasizing the artistic process rather than the final product, the artist employs a method involving the creation of layers through a series of random impulsive actions. Reexamining the outputs in the end, Raad searches for what is of value and what is dispensable. "This pleasantly challenging process is repeated several times, layer after layer of chaos followed by 'sanity', until the work tells me that it is complete," and this process results in multilayered organic forms with rich texture.

Paintings in the exhibition highlight the concepts of optimism and positive thinking. Raad makes the best of chaos or adversity in circumstances beyond control, and therefore seeks value, light, color, humor, joy, and beauty in her paintings. "The 'search' for sweetness amid life's sourness becomes a must" the artist expresses, and ponders chaotic canvases, searching for what is essential and beautiful. Texture, an important component of her works, is employed extensively in this exhibition, and the result is layered, complex but happy and fresh artworks, "just like lemonade."

Nissa Raad (b. 1981, Amman), completed her MSc at University College London Department of Urban Design in 2004, after graduating from Brown University History Department in 2002. She started a career in visual arts, which has been her passion since childhood. The artist lives and works in Amman. Her works have been exhibited at several institutions and galleries including Wadi Finan Art Gallery, Amman (2018); Jacaranda Images, Amman (2017); Beirut Art Fair (2017); Al Bareh Gallery, Bahrein (2016), as well as Dar al Anda Gallery, Amman (2016).

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