

Oussama  
**BAALBAKI**



Shadows of Gloominess  
ظلل الوحشة

This catalogue was published on the occasion of the exhibition of  
Oussama Baalbaki held at Tanit Gallery, Beirut, March - April 2014,  
with the collaboration of Agial Art Gallery.

Oussama  
**BAALBAKI**

Shadows of Gloominess  
ظلل الوحشة

GALERIE TANIT - BEYROUTH  
Naila Kettaneh Kanigk

أجناد  
AGJAD  
art gallery



AGJAD  
art gallery

The first time we showed Dussama Baalbaki's work was in "All About...Beirut" (Whitebox - Munich 2010)\*. Back then, we did not meet the artist. We were only introduced to his work. So when we did meet him recently to shape this collaboration with Agial Art Gallery, we found that he resembles his work enormously.

Dussama Baalbaki's paintings may inspire stillness and quiet, but, inwardly, they are full of incantations.

Author, subject and spectator at once, Baalbaki captures in his self-portraits moments of freedom of thought and of intuition. In a state of absolute presence, a thought escapes.

He objectifies it.

Whether aspiring evasion, looking for balance, trapped in an abyss of intellect or even relishing his monster side, he entwines elements of the outside world with his inner self, creating movement in his gut, and ours. After all, these self-portraits, when left alone, will decide what to express regardless of the artist's intent.

In his landscapes, Baalbaki evokes the human intrusion. He brings in defacement of nature, introducing disturbance to his lyrical and serene compositions: electric poles, quarries, soft drink cans or derelict cars. Discreetly, he weaves these elements in the scenery he paints. With extreme subtlety and away from the visual shock, the spectator is faced with two options: either be bothered by these aggressions on nature, or accept them as hidden but necessary scars.

The exhibition "Shadows of Gloominess" is a collaboration we sought because Dussama Baalbaki, far from the fluffy, gets you wandering in what he describes as a closed universe, and in what we see as a field of energy that is his painting.

Galerie Tanit - Beyrouth

\* "All About...Beirut" is an exhibition curated by Galerie Tanit in 2010 in an industrial space called 090000 in Munich-Gymnich. The exhibition intended to show the local contemporary artistic production bringing to the foremost the works of 16 Lebanese artists who were living in Beirut.



Sailing in a Sealed World, 2012

Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 60 cm

أبداع في عالم مغلق

Falling from the highest peak of sadness  
Like a roller coaster ride  
I let my heart slip away in the air  
One more whoop,  
And the world became a blur behind a giggle

من هنا من شاشة فيلم  
لرائحة الورود العطرة  
أهلاً بـ مني مني  
الله يحيى

Aplikasi untuk film yang



Ready to Go! 2013

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 780 cm

على أية المستجد

With a drowsy eye  
I will keep on investigating every look  
As the promise is old  
Hear, Oh Heart, Oh what pleases a butterfly

دیدنی خواهی  
که از گفت و گفته هایی که داشتی  
دیدنی خواهی  
که از گفت و گفته هایی که داشتی



A Spiritual Steadiness, 2012

Acrylic on canvas, 715 x 130 cm

نizar Barout

On their fingers,  
Painters gleam the traces of their artwork.  
And they are scratches.

against all  
against culture against art  
against themselves



**Trimming**, 2013

Acrylic on canvas, 150 x 180 cm

Svenja





A Tremendous Anticipation... Familiarity, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm  
ترقب هائل... آفة

There...

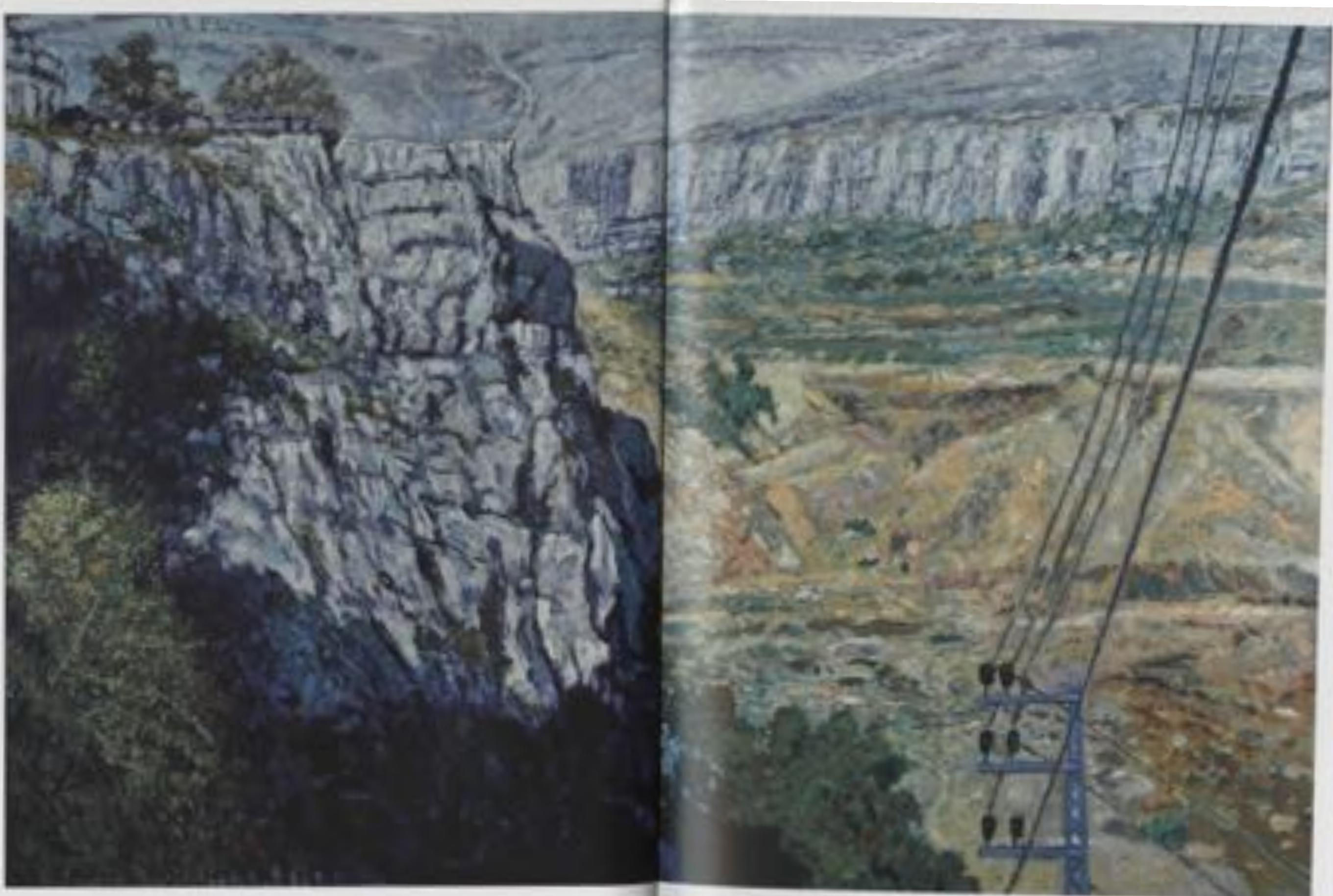
In the highest altitudes  
Where the scene is serene as in a schoolbook  
And the paths and the attitudes look as if purified for a party  
The horizon is a wave of devout and tenderness  
There...

Where things go on repeatedly  
The whisper of hay and the wailing of sheepfolds  
Sheafs and contractors  
Monasteries and quaries  
And ancient villages waiting curiously the summer scorching  
There...

I visit my homeland in the echoes  
And wish to cry under a cliff.

في العمالق، هناك

تحت الصمها بالليل وبالنهار  
تحت الضباب والغيوم  
تحت الرياح والبرد  
المرئى نسمة مع عطرة  
هناك حيث تموت النيمة  
نفس الشئ وينبض الرغام  
أوتوكار وجرار  
أديرة ومساجد  
وهي الشوارع  
البلدة القديمة، تلك  
تحت لون ملائكة في الليل  
وأيام من الماء تتدفق





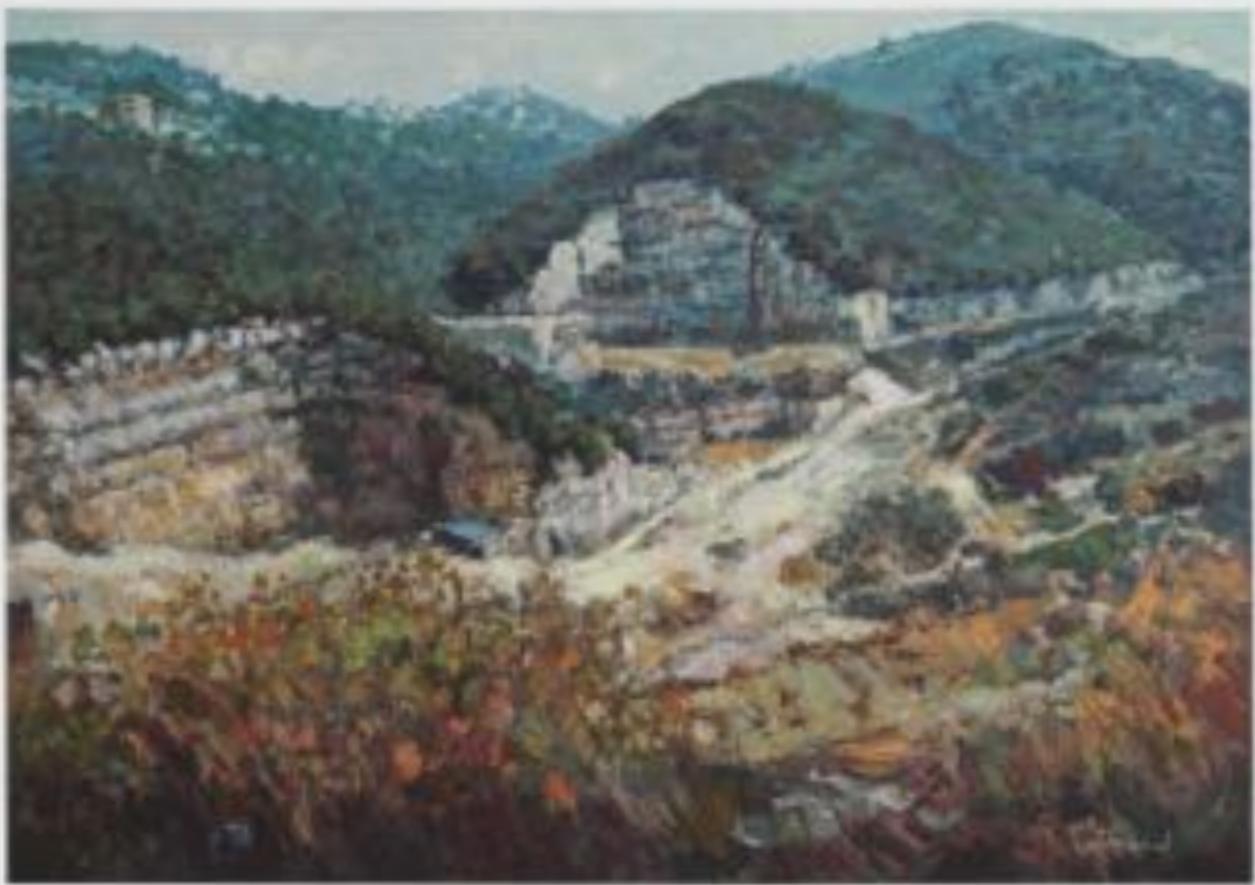
Untitled, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas, 115 x 130 cm  
يله عوالي



The Whispering Hills, 2012

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm

نizar Mneimneh



Untitled, 2012  
Acrylic on canvas 70 x 100 cm  
مکان غیرنام



Perished Car 2, 2012

Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 60 cm

© Akela Iglesias



Perished Car 5, 2010

Acrylic on canvas, 175 x 130 cm

سيارة ناجحة ٥



The Death Leap, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm  
Capell Art



The Hidden Home, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm  
البيت المنهاري

Beyond is an arming with no arm,  
A distant haze appealing to my sight  
A skyline of mountains hiding what lies behind  
A skyline made of broken plates.

فوقها سوار من طين  
عندلها بسمة دافق بالغصون  
أفق السرور، لا ينتهي بما يكتبه  
أفق من حشاد رائفة



A Skyline Made of Fake Plates, 2013

Acrylic on canvas, 120 x 120 cm

أفق من صفالح والماء

Under a dazzling sun  
An old nero can buried amid the grasses and the soil  
Radiates like a dull pool  
Overlooked by a sharp row of aligned cypresses.

تحت أشعة الشمس  
 ينهر العجوز في التراب والأتربة  
 ينبع كالبحيرات المائية  
 يراقبه صف من الصنوبر المنظم



The Breathless Path, 2013

Acrylic on canvas, 190 x 220 cm

الدرب الذي لا ينفخ

## أسامي بعلبكي

فنان لبناني، من مواليد عام 1978. متخرج من الجامعة اللبنانية كلية الفنون الجميلة عام 2002. أقام أربعة معارض فردية في بيروت، أطلقها «لوحات بالقصور» في دار الندوة عام 2004. نفذ «مشهدية العرفة» في غاليري ساهاكا عام 2007. تم «أفضل مذكرة وائل» في غاليري أبوالnasr عام 2009. وعرضها في معرض FFAestival عام 2010. عام 2011، أقام في غاليري أبوالnasr معرضاً يعنون «رسوم العزف».

شارك بين عامي 2003 و 2012 في فعاليات ملتقى الدریف الذي يقام سنوياً في متحف سرسيق في بيروت. كما شارك في «التمويل التدريجي لدعم الفنانين للرسم والكتاب» الذي أقيم في قصر المؤتمرات في بيروت عام 2007. شارك عام 2009 في الملتقيين الدوليين Connecting في أبوظبي Art Abu Dhabi، Art Dubai، "Heavens" في غاليري Green Art في دبي، و «متحارات» الإيجارات الجديدة للرسم والتصوير اللبنانيين في الندوة قطر.

وشارك أيضاً في "Convergence, New Art of Lebanon" الذي تظممه متحف الجامعة الأمريكية، مركز Katzen Arts، في واشنطن. الولادات المتعددة الازمة، كذلك شارك في معرض "Self-Portraits, Mirror on the Wall" في غاليري آر في دار المسعودية، إسلامabad في مهرجان غاليري أبوالnasr في معرض "Zoom Art Fair" في ميامي، عام 2011. شارك في "Art Fair Beirut" في مركز "All About... Beirut" في White Box في ميونخ، ألمانيا. قد وجه معرض "Subtitled" الذي أقيم في Royal College of Art في لندن.

عام 2012، شارك مجدداً في Art Dubai. وعام 2013، شارك في معرض "Unspeakable Surface" الذي نظم في المركز الثقافي الفرنسي الفونيسي في بيروت. دار عام 2009 على العديد المحمية عن مسابقة الرسم في اللعب الفيزيكوفونية الدولية التي أقيمت في بيروت.

## Oussama Baalbaki

Born in 1978, Lebanon.

Graduated in 2002 from the Lebanese University, School of Fine Arts.

### Solo Exhibitions:

- 2004 "Paintings in Black", Dar El Nadiw, Beirut.
- 2007 "Scenes of Isolation", Safana Gallery, Beirut.
- 2009 "Less smoke, and more...", Agel Gallery, Beirut.
- 2010 Painting exhibition hosted by IFA Private Bank, Beirut.
- 2013 "Rituals of Isolation", Agel Art Gallery, Beirut.

### Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2003 to 2012 Consecutive participations in the Salon d'automne, Sunack Museum, Beirut.
- 2007 "Golden Jubilee", the Association of Lebanese artists for painting and sculpture, Unesco Palace, Beirut.
- 2009 Figured in "Art Dubai" and "Art Abu Dhabi" International Art Fairs.
- 2010 "Connecting Heavens", Green Art Gallery, Dubai.
- "Convergence, New Art of Lebanon", American University Museum, Katzen Arts Center, Washington D.C., U.S.A.
- "Self-Portraits, Mirror on the Wall", Athar Gallery, jordan, Saudi-Arabia.
- "Zoom Art Fair", Miami, U.S.A.
- 2011 "All About... Beirut", White Box, Munich, Germany.
- "Beirut Art Fair", Beirut, Lebanon.
- "Subtitled", Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 2012 Figured again in Art Dubai.
- 2013 Participated in the exhibition "Elmcondeko surface", held in the French Cultural Centre in Beirut.

### Awards:

- 2009 Holder of the Silver Medal in the painting contest at the International Jeux de la Francophonie, in which he was selected to represent Lebanon.

## Previous works

2010-2013

Acrylic on canvas



50 x 60 cm



50 x 60 cm



700 x 100 cm



700 x 200 cm



150 x 100 cm



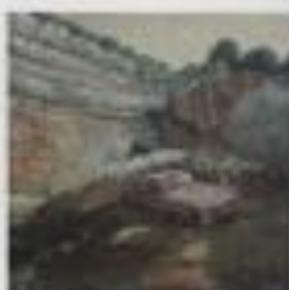
110 x 200 cm



150 x 100 cm



150 x 100 cm



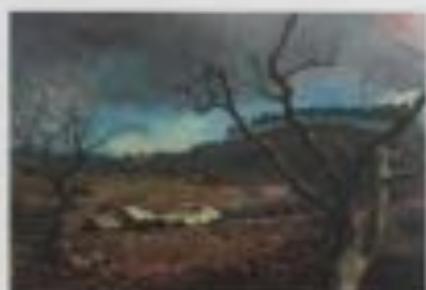
150 x 100 cm



100 x 100 cm



100 x 100 cm



100 x 100 cm



110 x 100 cm



110 x 100 cm

Photos by Elie Abi Hanna and Agial Art Gallery.  
Design by Bassam Kahwagi, Beirut.  
Printed by 53 Dots, Beirut.