

Art on 56th gallery - Beirut

Opening: Exhibition "Intermediary Spaces"

Artist: **EDGARD MAZIGI**

Exhibition Date: Friday September 29, 2023

Immediate Release



Art on 56th is pleased to announce Intermediary Spaces, a solo-exhibition of works by Lebanese artist Edgar Magizi. Exploring the realm at the intersection between abstraction and figuration, the show symbolizes a return to the essence of art, going back to the root of painting and experimenting with the fusion of subject, space and process.

Celebrating the tension between dichotomies, the exhibition pays tribute to the invisible plane that lies at the cross-roads of boundaries. Some of these include: abstraction versus figuration, objective versus subjective, and preparation versus surrender. Seeking inspiration from the art historical canon, Magizi imbues his canvases with the influence of Titian, de Kooning and Cézanne, producing an amalgam of voices that tell the same story. His works become timeless depictions that recall Renaissance, Cubist, Abstract Expressionist and Modern compositions, seeking to find the perfect equilibrium between the geometric and the organic, the universal and the personal.

Starting with abstraction, Magizi lets spontaneity guide his creative process. The act of painting becomes all about the journey from the unknown to the known. Figures emerge in the field of possibilities, as the artist relinquishes any pre-conceived expectations surrounding the final result. Completely free, Magizi's brush moves across the surface of the canvas, embracing the beauty of uncertainty, and travelling through paint to find the true meaning of art.

Biography

Born in Beirut in 1955, Edgard Mazigi holds a degree in textile engineering from ESITL Lyon (1974-1978) and a certificate with an excellence in painting award from the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture, USA (1995-1998). In 1999 he moves back permanently to Lebanon and starts his career as an artist. He now lives and works in Beirut.

He regularly has solo shows in Beirut and participates in group exhibitions, juried shows and art fairs in Lebanon and abroad, including the Sursock Museum where he showed in every Salon d'Automne the museum has had from 2003 to 2016.

He has taught drawing at the Lebanese American University and at the Université Pour Tous at St Joseph University in Beirut,

Intermediary Spaces

Edgard Mazigi is a painter known for starting his canvases with totally abstract marks that lead to recognizable images as he progresses on. Images that have a classical feel to them while retaining their contemporary identity.

For him each painting is a journey. Starting with abstraction frees him from preconceiving what his image should look like. It opens the door for that space where abstraction and figuration cohabit and fuse, that intermediary space where forms are open to change and where everything is still possible. A fertile ground for creativity where painting is really what matters, the rest is anecdotal, accidental, a pretext to paint.

Nayla Tamraz

Professor and Art Critic

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