

Art on 56th

Art on 56th Gallery - Beirut

Opening: Exhibition "OFF THE GRID" «اشترك»

Exhibition Date: Thursday July 2nd, 2026

Immediate Release



Art on 56th Gallery Presents OFF THE GRID: New Works by Dyala Khodary Beirut, Lebanon

Art on 56th Gallery is pleased to present OFF THE GRID / اشترك , a new body of work by Lebanese artist Dyala Khodary, whose practice moves between abstract and figurative approaches within a conceptual framework.

The exhibition reflects on Lebanon's ongoing electricity crisis and the hybrid energy systems that have reshaped Beirut's urban landscape. The widespread reliance on private generator subscriptions, commonly referred to as ishtirak, has produced a dense network of exposed wires, improvised connections, and visible electrical infrastructure across the city.

Over time, these tangled cables have become part of Beirut's visual identity. What first appears as urban disorder gradually transforms into a familiar visual language, an ongoing scribbling across the cityscape where infrastructure becomes inseparable from the city's appearance.

The exhibition also points to what remains unseen. Beyond the visible wiring and connections, these systems generate noise, pollution, and emissions that permeate the urban environment. What began as a temporary solution has become a lasting condition of the city, carrying environmental and social consequences that are often overlooked.

Through OFF THE GRID / اشترك , Khodary reflects on infrastructure, adaptation, and the normalization of instability in everyday urban life.

– Noha Wadi Moharram

Artist Statement

Lebanon's ongoing electricity crisis and the hybrid energy systems that emerged from it have profoundly reshaped Beirut's urban landscape. The widespread reliance on private generator subscriptions, commonly referred to as ishtirak, has produced a dense network of exposed wires, improvised hookups, and visible electrical infrastructure across the city.

Over time, these tangled cables and overlapping connections have become part of Beirut's visual identity. What first appears as urban disorder gradually transforms into a familiar visual language, a continuous scribbling across the cityscape. Beirut becomes, in this sense, a scribbled city.

Yet these networks extend beyond what is visible. The same system that powers daily life also produces noise, pollution, and emissions that permeate the urban environment. What began as a temporary solution has become a permanent layer of the city. Alongside the cables and hookups runs a less visible reality of air pollution and long-term health risks, consequences that often remain overlooked. Through these forms, the work reflects on infrastructure, adaptation, and the normalization of instability in everyday life.

أعدت أزمة الكهرباء المستمرة في لبنان وأنظمة الطاقة الهجينة التي نشأت عنها تشكيل المشهد العمراني لبيروت بشكل عميق. فقد أدى الاعتماد الواسع على اشتراكات المولدات الخاصة، المعروفة شعبياً باسم «الإشترك»، إلى ظهور شبكة كثيفة من الأسلاك الظاهرة، والتوصيلات المؤقتة، والبنى الكهربائية المكشوفة في أنحاء المدينة. ومع الوقت، أصبحت هذه الأسلاك المتشابكة والتوصيلات المتداخلة جزءاً من الهوية البصرية لبيروت. فما يبدو في البداية كفضوى عمرانية يتحوّل تدريجياً إلى لغة بصرية مأووفة، أشبه بخربشات متواصلة تعبر المشهد الحضري. وهكذا تصبح بيروت، بطريقة ما، مدينة مخربشة.

لكن هذه الشبكات تتجاوز ما هو مرئي. فالنظام نفسه الذي يزود الحياة اليومية بالطاقة ينتج أيضاً الضجيج والتلوث والانبعاثات التي تتسرّب إلى البيئة الحضرية. وما بدأ كحلّ مؤقت تحوّل إلى طبقة راسخة في نسيج المدينة. وإلى جانب الأسلاك والتوصيلات، تمتدّ حقيقة أقلّ ظهوراً تتمثل في تلوث الهواء والمخاطر الصحية طويلة الأمد، وهي تبعات غالباً ما تغيب عن الأنظار. ومن خلال هذه العناصر، يتأمل العمل مفاهيم البنية التحتية، والتكيف، وتطبيع عدم الاستقرار في الحياة اليومية.

Artist Biography

Dyala Khodary (b. 1979, Beirut) graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Lebanese University in 2002. She belongs to a generation of Lebanese women artists whose work engages with the urban, social, and cultural fabric of Beirut, exploring themes of place, memory, and the city's evolving identity.

Working primarily in painting, Khodary has developed a distinctive visual language that combines conceptual inquiry with both abstract and figurative approaches. Rooted in close observation of architecture, everyday environments, and local patterns of life, her practice transforms familiar spaces into richly constructed compositions. Through intricate surfaces, vibrant color palettes, and carefully orchestrated forms, she examines the relationship between individuals and their surroundings, reflecting on the ways personal and collective experiences become embedded within the built environment.

Moving fluidly between abstraction and representation, Khodary employs painting as a means of investigating the visual and emotional dimensions of contemporary urban experience. Her works often translate observations of the city into layered compositions that balance structure and fragmentation, presence and memory.

Over the course of her career, Khodary has presented several solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions and international art fairs in Beirut, London, Paris, and Cairo. Her work contributes to ongoing dialogues surrounding contemporary Lebanese art and the cultural narratives that shape the experience of place.

Khodary lives and works in Beirut.

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