

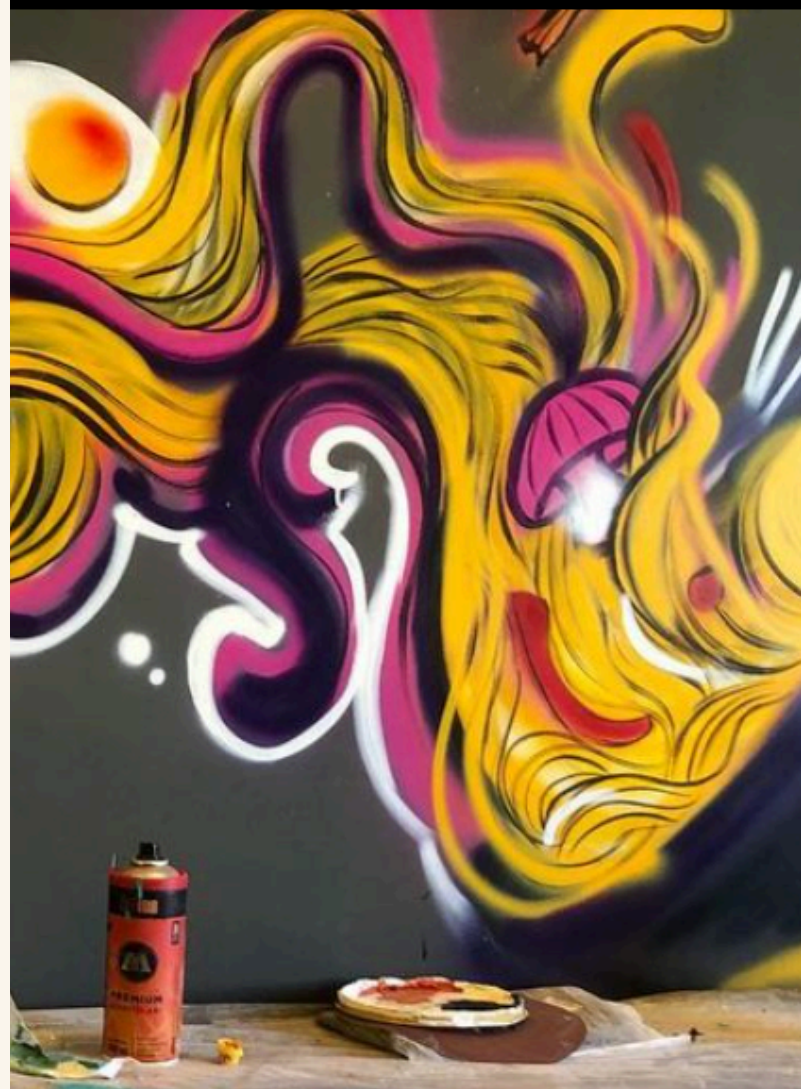
Al Jaw

The Artistic Journal of the Arab World



“Art is a language that anyone can understand.

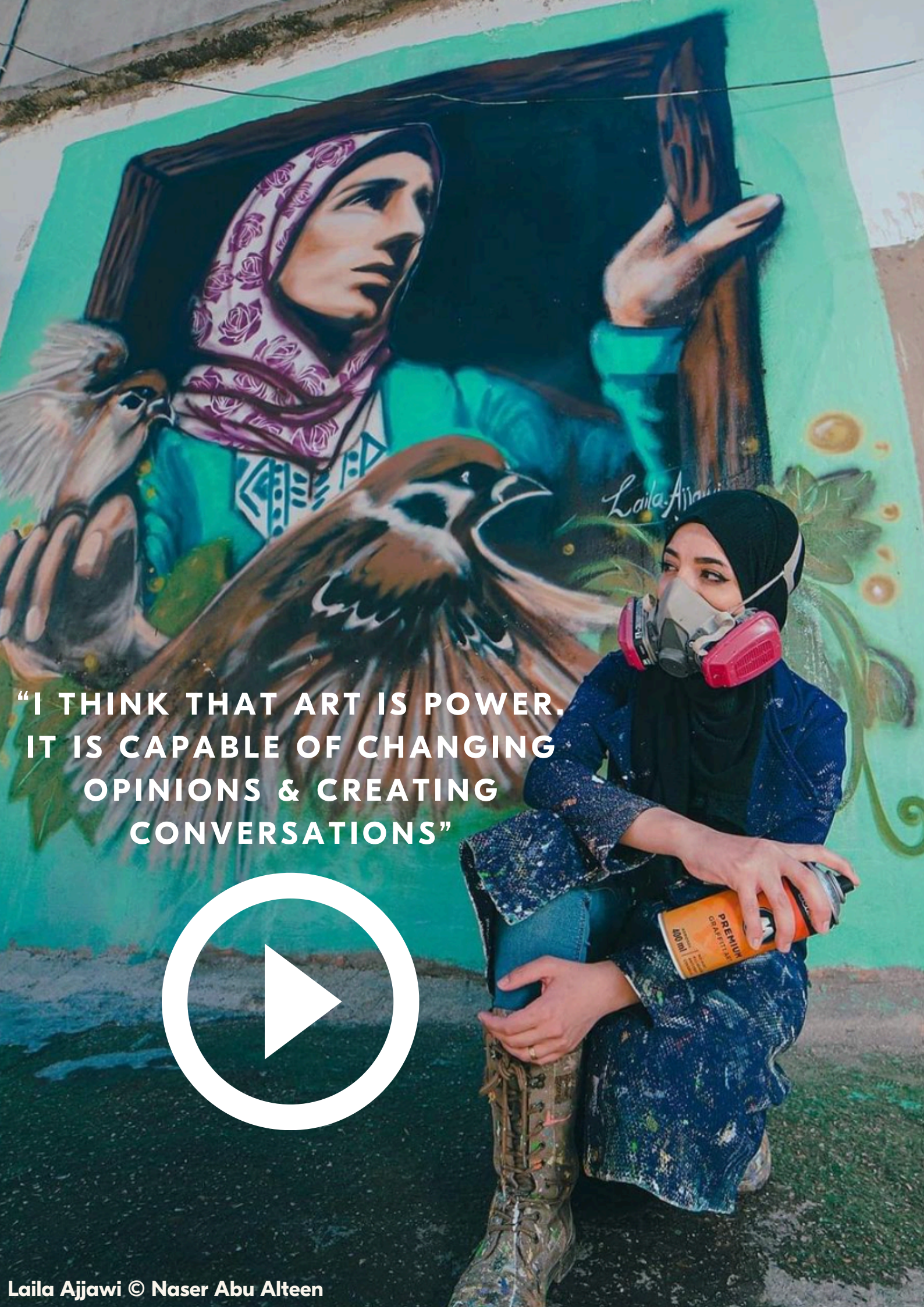
I truly believe that it can inspire a certain energy in people. It plants a seed in the passerbyer’s mind, one that could potentially transform into a thought, feeling, or positive action.”



Laila Ajjawi is a Palestinian street artist raised in Irbid’s refugee camp - home to 30,000 people. She quickly turned to walls to express herself & painted her first mural at 17.

Mainly focusing on women’s empowerment & the Palestinian cause, her art seeks to uplift people, avoiding colours which might trigger feelings of anger or hostility.

“This is why I never use red in any of my works. Seeing that colour every day can really affect people’s behaviour”



**“I THINK THAT ART IS POWER.
IT IS CAPABLE OF CHANGING
OPINIONS & CREATING
CONVERSATIONS”**



The Beirut Museum of Art chose to digitize Sayegh's work as part of the Wasl Beirut Program supported by UNESCO's Beryt fund.

Samir Sayegh is a famous calligraphers in the Arab world. Born in 1945, he was influenced by his years in Paris in the 1960s, where he was immersed in an atmosphere of cultural freedom and emancipation.

Two collections to know: "The Notebooks of Freedom" & "Anchored/Ancestral Cities".



Under the patronage of Prime Minister Muhammad Shia Al-Sudani, the activities of the 14th session of the Arab Theater Festival kicked off at the National Theater in Baghdad this Wednesday evening.

The festival, organized by the Arab Theater Authority, will continue from January 10 to 18.

The event will see the participation of more than 600 artists through theatrical performances, seminars and debates.

EVENING S

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home



RAISING STARS IN ARAB CINEMA

And just like that, 2023 came to an end! It is time for a quick top 10, celebrating all directors who rocked last year and will surely slay in 2024! Key facts: women took the lead and documentary is the new trendy genre.



The poster does not have enough space anymore to gather all of its awards. After the success of “The Man Who Sold His Skin” in 2020, she continues her cinema revolution with the most unique documentary: “Four Daughters”. Melting fiction with reality, the film scooped the Canne’s Golden Eye award & made it onto the shortlist for the 2024 Oscars in 2 categories. Ben Hania represents Tunisia at the Oscars for the 2nd time!

Impossible not to mention Maryam Touzani and her “Le Bleu du Caftan”. It would be a shortcut to compare this multi-award-winning feature to “Jules and Jim”, although the love trio in Salé reminds us of Truffaut's eponymous characters. Touzani, juror at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, is currently working on her 2024 movie, “Touda”, co-written with Nabil Ayouch.



News in Focus

The difference between being at home & being in this foreign land is the fact that there will always be that fear of doing something... anything that may jeopardize my status.

Being photographed behind blurry glass represented the reality of me as the "Unknown"

But, I shall rebel... by writing my thoughts on old newspaper rather than clean cut white paper.

Similarly, I shall rebel with dignity to become the "known"

Still with Northern Africa, Asmae El Moudir continues her rising career with her documentary "The Mother of All Lies" which also got Cannes' Golden Eye, won the Etoile d'or at Marrakech Festival and represents Morocco on the run for the Oscars.

Last - but not least - Lina Soualem! The young gem enjoys one success after another. "Leur Algérie" was a success (Best Arab documentary at El Gouna) and her latest film, "Bye Bye Tiberias", is more than promising, with testimonies of 3 generations of Palestinian women from her own family.



Then, the Keserwany sisters, of course. The Lebanese duo collects awards for short film "Les Chenilles". It tackles women's migration in the Mediterranean basin, starting from the relationship between the women of Mount Lebanon and foreign silk factories in the 19th century. It won 'Best Short Film' Golden Bear at Berlinale.

Going further East, there is Farah Nabulsi, the Oscar-nominated Palestinian director and winner of the 2020 Bafta, who has released "The Teacher", in the spotlight at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah (RSIFF). And let's conclude with Emirati director Nayla Al Khaja, whose first feature film, "Three", hit the RSIFF like a bombshell.



And let's not forget men, starting with Amjad Al Rasheed.

The Jordanian filmmaker has enjoyed international success since the release of 'Inshallah a Boy', which became the first Jordanian film to be screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

Staying in the kingdom, congrats to Bassel Ghandour, whose film 'The Alleys' was at the center of attention and many heated debates.

This non-exhaustive list ends with Saudi director Ali Kalthami, co-founder of production company Telfaz11 in 2011, and director of acclaimed film "Mandoob".

It tells the story of an overworked delivery app driver in Riyadh, who tries to branch out into bootlegging, in the rarely seen, ultra-modern world of Saudi nightlife.



Beirut: “Ephemeral Escape” by Rawia Ghandou Zantout, until January 19. The exhibition focuses on climate change through textured and colorful landscapes.

IF YOU WANNA SHINE IN SOCIETY THIS WEEK



TikTok star Sabrina Bahsoon, “Tube Girl,” created a fund to support Palestinian children. It will fund the education of Palestinian children at the Marifah International School in Malaysia.

“The Astronomical Revolution: Copernicus, Kepler, Borelli” by Franco-Russian philosopher and historian of science Alexandre Koyré was translated from French into Arabic by Youssef Ben Othman. The original version was first published in 1961.

The market value of Achraf Hakimi and Mohamed Salah, who participate with their respective teams in the final phase of 2024 CAN, now have a value up to 65 million euros each.

Sharjah Festival for Arabic Poetry is on until January 15. It features readings from 60 Arab poets, including Ali Al Shaali (UAE) & Aref Al Saadi (Iraq), winners of Sharjah Prize for Arabic Poetry.

Sabrina Bahsoon, “Tube Girl”

Among our Readers



اللوفا أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

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