

An abstract painting featuring a vibrant palette of colors including deep reds, oranges, yellows, greens, and dark blues. The composition is characterized by thick, expressive brushstrokes and bold, curved lines that create a sense of movement and depth. The background is a mix of these colors, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and emotional intensity.

# Sumayyah Samaha

Lines and Forms

LEILA HELLER GALLERY



**LEILA HELLER GALLERY.**







## Lines and Forms

"Lines and Forms" explores the combination of oil paint and charcoal on the same canvas, aiming to harmonize their interaction. This approach has been both exciting and challenging for the artist.

As a colorist, Samaha uses the element of color to reflect light, interweaving techniques of watercolors and acrylics and bringing together the effects of transparency and flatness onto the same page. The works are painted in stages so that the progression of the work as multiple elements play together, can be observed and enjoyed. The magic of harmony and play is brought by the artist's subjects that span and combine landscapes and cityscapes, abstract forms, and forms of nature. Through this technique, each work tells its own story.

Following her intuition, Samaha has let the "Lines and Forms" series evolve over ten years. During those years, techniques like mono-printing and working with handmade paper have influenced her relationship with the works as she faced challenges like dealing with free edges and negative space, re-examining their role in the construction of the artwork.

Art critic John Haber encapsulates the deconstructed essence of Samaha's works in a description of her series "My Studio" as "Episodes in a Myth."



Constructed Imagination  
2023  
Oil and mixed media on paper  
132 cm x 42.5 cm



*Untitled*  
Acrylic on 100% cotton paper  
193 cm x 142.2 cm





*Untitled*  
2010  
Watercolor and Pastel  
129 cm x 96.5 cm





Lines and Forms XX  
2017  
Oil and Charcoal on Canvas  
91.44 cm x 122 cm













My 2nd Voyage  
2020  
Oil and Mixed media on canvas  
122 cm x 274.32 cm



Lines and Forms XX  
2017  
Oil and Charcoal on Canvas  
91.44 cm x 122 cm













Lines and Forms XVII  
2017  
Oil and Charcoal on canvas  
91.44 cm x 122 cm









A Universe  
2019  
Mixed Media on paper  
55.88 cm x 76 cm



Lines and Forms XXI  
2018  
Oil and Charcoal on canvas  
91.44 cm x 122 cm





Untitled Construction  
2023  
Oil on canvas  
152.4 cm x 132 cm





Echoes  
2020  
Oil and mixed media on canvas  
91.44 cm x 365.76 cm





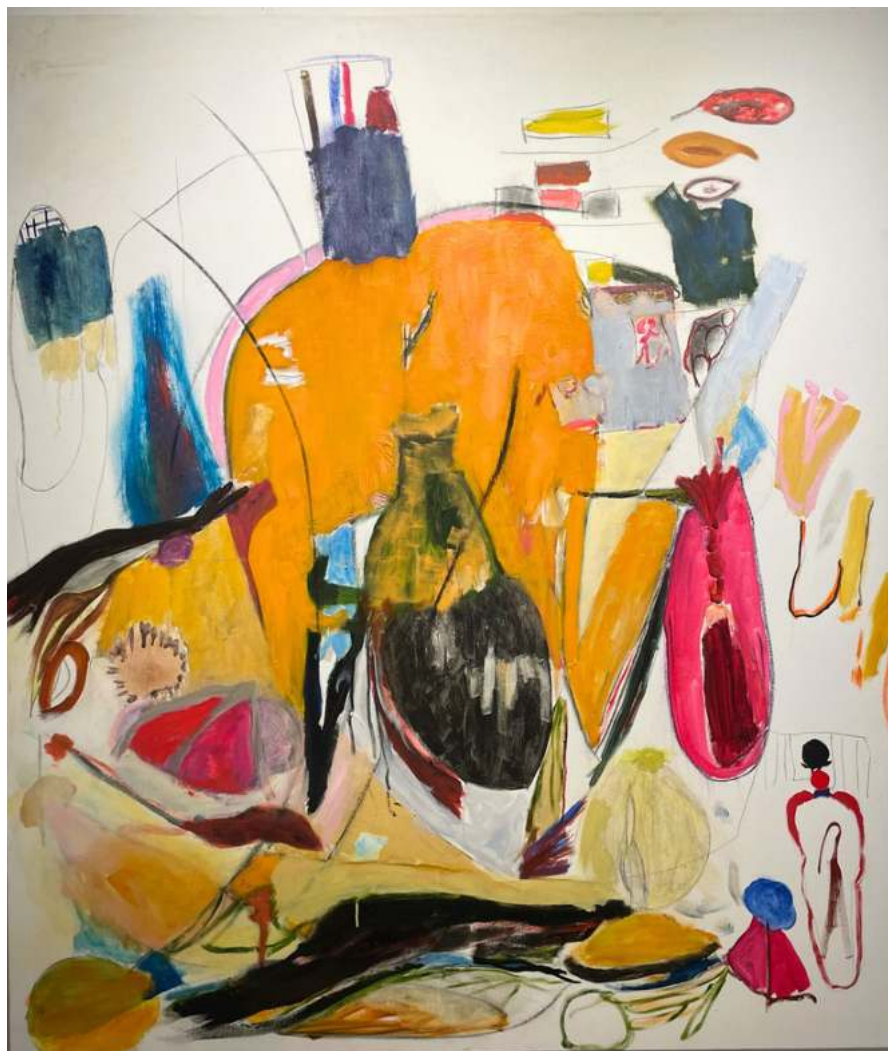












The Ultimate  
2022  
Oil and Mixed media on canvas  
152.4 cm x 132 cm





Sonnet  
2024  
Oil on canvas  
152.4 cm x 132 cm



Fighting Back  
2024  
Oil on canvas  
122 cm x 289.5 cm





Anonymous Red  
2022  
Oil and mixed media on canvas  
157.4 cm x 182.8 cm











My World  
2019  
Oil and Mixed media on canvas  
99 cm x 243.8 cm





Double Reality  
2024  
Mixed media on paper  
132 cm x 43.18 cm



Silent Music  
2024  
Mixed Media on paper  
129.5 cm x 43.18 cm



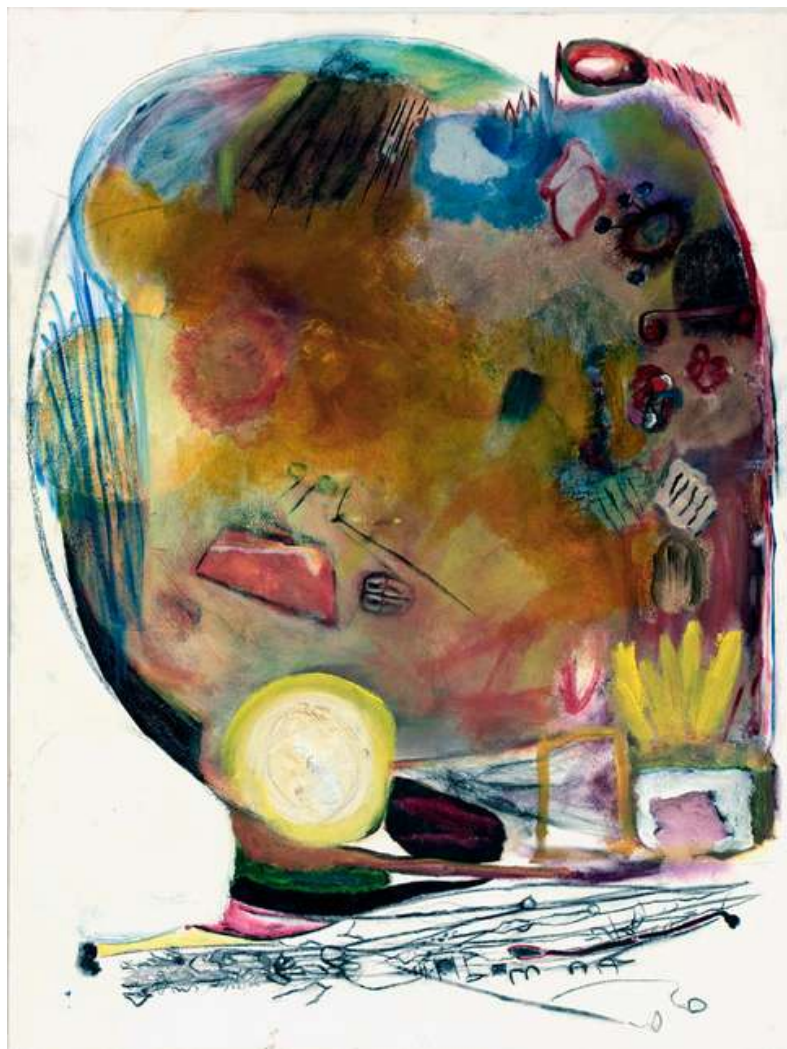


Inspiration  
2024  
Mixed Media on Paper  
108 cm x 40.6 cm





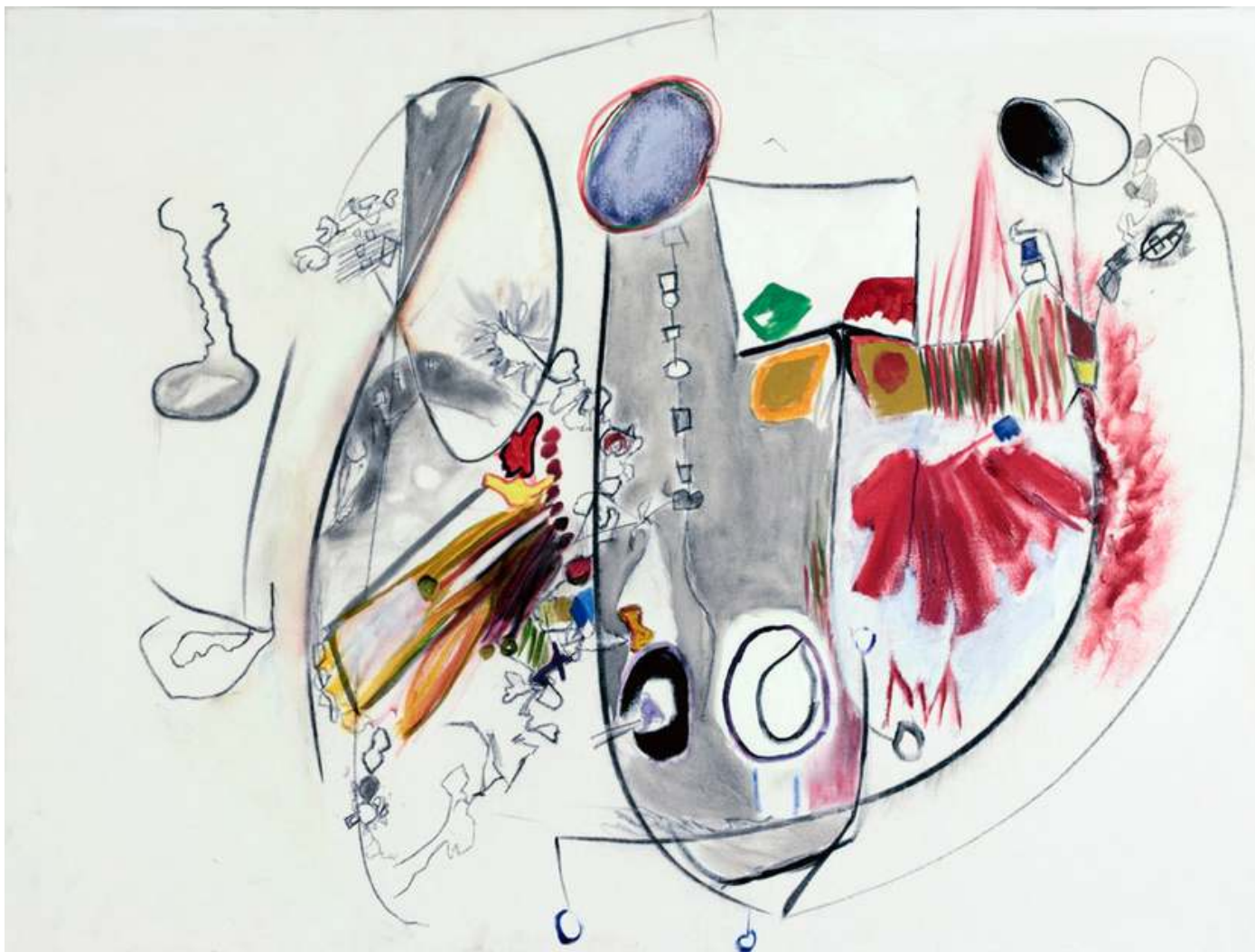




Lines and Forms XII  
2015  
Oil and charcoal on canvas  
122 cm x 91.44 cm







Lines and Forms XIII  
2015  
Oil and charcoal on canvas  
91.44 cm x 122 cm



Mountain Village  
2021  
Oil and Mixed media on canvas  
122 cm x 91.44 cm



## ***Biography***

Sumayyah Samaha is a Lebanese painter and mixed media artist who has lived and exhibited work in New York since the early 1980's. She had a recent solo exhibition at Carter Burden Gallery, New York, NY, in September 2019.

In addition to numerous solo exhibitions at 22 Wooster Gallery, Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba House, Denise Bibro Fine Art, and Skoto Gallery, Samaha also has an extensive group exhibition history at venues throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Highlights include American Abstraction: A New Decade at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto, PA; New York Chronicles at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, Qatar VCUQ Gallery, Doha, Qatar (2010); Art in Embassies, US Embassy, Kuwait City, Kuwait (2008-09); In/Visible: Contemporary Art by Arab American Artists—the opening exhibition of the Arab American National Museum and Cultural Center in Dearborn, Michigan (2005); and New York Collections 2002 at the Albright Knox Museum Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2002).

Samaha's work can be found in public collections that include the Arab American National Museum and Cultural Center in Dearborn, Michigan; Centrum Sztuki in Warsaw, Poland; Kenkeleba House in New York, NY; Pfizer Pharmaceutical in New York, NY; and Bank Audi in Beirut, Lebanon.

Publications include *At the Edge of the City: Reinhabiting Public Space Toward the Recovery of Beirut's Horsh Al-Sanawar*, edited by Fadi Shayya; *Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists* by Faye Oweis; and *The Women Artists in Lebanon*, by Helen Khal, prepared for the Institute of Women's Studies in the Arab World.

Samaha was a Co-Founder of 22 Wooster Gallery in New York (1978-1988), has participated in panels, including *Turning Writing into Art: Artists Talk on Art* at New York University's Department of Middle Eastern Studies, and was a juror of painting for the New York Foundation of the Art's 1998 grant season.

Awards include grants from the Pollock Krasner Foundation (2016) and the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation (2015). Samaha is a two time resident at the Emily Harvey Foundation Residency in Venice, Italy.



## SOLO SHOWS

2023	Leila Heller Gallery, "Long Voyage," New York, NY
2019	Carter Burden Gallery, "Lines, Forms, Substance," New York, NY
2017	Carter Burden Gallery, "On the Wall," New York, NY
2017	Artscoops.com, "Featured Artist," Online Exhibition
2010	Art Circle Gallery, "Aesthetics: Art & Politics," Beirut, Lebanon
2008	Skoto Gallery, "Darkness Ushers Dawn," New York, NY
2007	Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba, "Love, Life and Pain," New York, NY
2004	Blink Gallery, "Personal Landscapes," Andes, NY
2002	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Strange Fruit," New York, NY
2000	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Recent Paintings," New York, NY
1999	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Beyond the Brush," New York, NY
1998	Farleigh Dickinson University, "Paintings," Hackensack, NJ
1997	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Recent Paintings & Pastels," New York, NY
1995	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Works in Process," New York, NY
1994	Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Landscapes: Where My Soul Roams," New York, NY
1993	Kenkeleba Gallery, Four Artists-Solo Shows, New York, NY
1982	22 Wooster Gallery, "New York, NY 1981," 22 Wooster Gallery, New York, NY
1981	22 Wooster Gallery, New York, NY

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024	Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
2023	"Over the Sofa," Carter Burden Gallery, New York, NY
2023	Darat al Funun, The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan
2023	"Friends and Family Show," Carter Burden Gallery, New York, NY
2022	CITYarts SoHo Artist History Walk, CITYArts, New York, NY
2011	"Salon Zurcher: Eleven Spirited Women," Zurcher Fine Arts, New York, NY
2011	Auction, Artscoops.com, Beirut, Lebanon
2010	"Abstract Vision" - El Barrio's Artspace PS109, New York, NY
2008	"Summer Show" - Skoto Gallery, New York, NY
2009	"Carter Burden Group Show" - Carter Burden Gallery, New York, NY
2009	"Figuring Abstraction" - Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY
2007	"The Emo Show" - The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY
2006	Berlin Biennale - ArtWiki: Digital Venue of the 7th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art
2006	"25 Years Anniversary Show Part 2", Curated by Kazuko Miyamoto - Gallery onetwentyeight, New York, NY
2005	Skoto Gallery, Exhibition of Drawings, New York, NY
2005	Curate NYC - "Towering," Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, Executive Director, Queens Council on the Arts Skoto Gallery, Summer Show, New York, NY
2003	"New York Chronicles", Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar VCUQ Gallery Doha, Qatar
2003	9 - "ART in Embassies Exhibition" [US Embassy], Kuwait City, Kuwait Skoto Gallery, Group Exhibition, New York, NY
2003	"Small Works; 30 Seconds" - Washington Square Gallery, New York, NY
2002	Blink Gallery, Andes, NY, Three Person Show
2001	"3 Arab Painters in New York: Samia Halaby, Sumayyah Samaha, Athir Shayota," Curated by Maymanah Farhat, The Bridge Gallery, rk, NY
2000	Blink Gallery, Andes, NY, Three Person Show



## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 "Pieces 6," Gallery onetwentyeight, New York, NY
- 2004 "Y W" [Why War, Why Dubya?], Viridian Gallery, Chelsea, New York, NY
- 2003 "New York Collection 2002", Albert Knox Museum Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2003 WAR ART, Judson Memorial Church, New York, NY
- 2003 DEFIANCE, Udi Aloni Project Room 529 West 20th New York, NY
- 2002 Albert Knox Museum Gallery, "New York Collection 2002", Buffalo, NY
- 2001 Gallery onetwentyeight, "Ceramic and Oils," Three Person Show, New York, NY
- 2000 Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, Local papers, Brooklyn, NY
- 2000 A.I.R. Gallery, Generations II: Survey of Women Artists at the Millennium, New York, NY
- 2000 Gallery onetwentyeight, Invitational Exhibition, New York, NY
- 1999 International Exhibitions, Art In Embassies, American Embassy, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1999 Albright Knox Museum Gallery, "New York Abstractions," Buffalo, NY
- 1999 Denise Bibro Fine Art, Group Invitational, New York, NY
- 1995 Gallery onetwentyeight, Group Exhibition, New York, NY
- 1992 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Abstraction I," New York, NY
- 1992 SoHo Art Space, "Juxtapositions, Four Artists," Curated by Virginia Cuppidge, New York, NY
- 1992 Marine Midland Bank, Spare Parts, Collages from the 19 Painters and Printmakers, Curated by Peggy Hadden, New York, NY
- 1991 Platform Gallery, "Three Painters," Beirut, Lebanon

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1989 The Studio American Collection, Traveling Exhibition, Poland
- 1989 Cityscapes, Window Installation, 480 Broome Street, New York, NY, Funded by Con Edison and New York Community for Artists
- 1988 Kufa Gallery, Contemporary Lebanese Artists, London, England
- 1986 Contemporary Arab Art in the US, Sponsored by the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, New York, NY
- 1986 Galerie Pablo Picasso, Chenal Group, Denain, France
- 22 Wooster Gallery, Two Person Exhibition, New York, NY
- 1985 Northside Arts Industries, Artists at Northside, Brooklyn, NY
- 1985 Espace Vendome, Chenal Group, Paris, France
- Peri-Renneth Gallery, Two Person Exhibition, Westhampton Beach, NY
- 1985 Triplex Gallery, "Shapeshifters," Borough of Manhattan
- 1985 Community College, New York, NY
- International Monetary Fund, Two Person Exhibition, Washington, D.C.
- 1990 The Studio American Collection, Traveling Exhibition, Poland
- 1989 Cityscapes, Window Installation, 480 Broome Street, New York, NY, Funded by Con Edison and New York Community for Artists

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Osama Abusitta Collection," Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan
- 2005 "In / Visible - Contemporary Art by Arab American Artists," opening of The Arab American National Museum and Cultural Center Dearborn, Michigan (featured work: "Palestine Fence")
- 1994 Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, "American Abstraction: A New Decade," Loretto, PA

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

American Collection, Centrum Sztuki, Warsaw, Poland Arab  
American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

Bank Audi, Beirut, Lebanon

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY

Chemical Bank, New York, NY

Darat al Funun, The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman  
Jordan

Kenkelaba House, New York, NY  
Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman Jordan

New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, New York,  
NY

Prudential Insurance

Pfizer Pharmaceutical, New York, NY

## PUBLICATIONS

At the Edge of the City: Reinhabiting Public Space Toward  
the Recovery of Beirut's Horsh Al-Sanawbar  
Fadi Shayya (Editor), George Arbid (Foreword), Danny  
Khoury (Designer) - First edition in 2010, Published by  
DISCURSIVE FORMATIONS Beirut's park and public space,  
an effort towards understanding contextual meanings and  
practices of public life and public space in the  
Mediterranean context of Beirut. "Pine trees don't make  
pine nuts"

Oweis, Faye; Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists ;  
Greenwood Press, Westport, CT 2008

Khal, Helen; The Women Artists in Lebanon; Prepared for  
the Institute of Women's Studies in the Arab World

"A Gathering of the Tribes" Volume 4, No. 1, 1995 Black &  
White Photo, page 21

"IBM Nachrichten 45", HEFT 323, 1995, color photos of  
ceramic/mixed media work, page 54-55, 57-58, 61

## REVIEWS

"Beyond Good & Evil" - NOW Lebanon, Hannah Jewel, June 11,  
2010

al Akhbar newspaper, Z. Ghanem, June 18, 2010

"Fait la guerre à la guerre" - Femme Magazine, Frida  
Debanné, June 2010

"L'art engagé (et enragé)" - L'Orient le Jour - Maya Ghandoor  
Hert, June 5, 2010

"Three Arab Painters in New York" - Palestine Chronicle, Remi  
Kanazi 2006

"In/Visible" - Nafas Art Magazine, 2005

"In/Visible" Bidoun; Art and Culture from the Middle East,  
Kate McClellan, Fall 2005

"Sumayyah Samaha Explores Issues of War and Occupation",  
Maymanah Farhat, ArteEast, June 5, 2005

"Le Fruit Défendus", L'Orient Le Jour, Sylviane Zehil, October  
2, 2002, Beirut, Lebanon

"Sumayyah Samaha: The Form of Passion", catalog essay by  
Garrit Henry, for 1997 Exhibition, New York, NY

"Fecondité d'Invention pour un Trio Seducteur", L'Oreint Le  
Jour, May Makarem, August 2, 1991, Beirut, Lebanon

"Sumayyahs Samaha", Sayyidati, (Elle Magazine, Arabic  
Edition), Thérèse Basbous, Spring 1992, Paris, France

"Samaha, Rameh, Demeulnaere", Al Nahar, August 9, 1991,  
Beirut, Lebanon

ArtSpeak, November, 1982, New York, NY

AARG (Association of Artist Run Galleries), December, 1982,  
New York, NY

ArtSpeak, February, 1981, New York, NY



## **AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES**

The Skopelos Foundation for the Arts Residency,  
2021

Emily Harvey Foundation Residency Venice, Italy,  
2010 & 2018

Pollock-Krasner Individual Grant, 2016

Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant,  
2015

Finalist: Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation's  
Individual Support program, 2008

## **EDUCATION**

M.A. University of Pittsburgh, 1965

B.A. American University of Beirut, 1960

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND EXPERIENCE**

"Turning Writing Into Art," Panelist, Artists Talk on  
Art, March 20, 2009

Fourth Annual NAAP National Conference Panel  
Discussion: "With Each Stroke: The Role of Art in  
Activism and Social Change,"

The Network of Arab American Professionals  
(NAAP) November 17, 2007, New York

Co-founded and was an active member of 22  
Wooster Gallery, 1978-1988

Panelist: Painting, New York Foundation for the  
Arts, 1998





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2021. Oil and Mixed media on canvas, 122 cm x 91.44 cm.  
Back cover: Double Reality, 2024, Mixed media on paper,  
132 cm x 43.18 cm.

Artist's statement derived from interview with Sumayyah  
Samaha

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