

JACQUES VARTABEDIAN

“In the Memory of the Ones Who Won’t Make It”

April 19th – May 10th, 2018

Mark Hachem Gallery - Beirut is delighted to present “In the Memory of the Ones Who Won’t Make It”, a solo exhibition by Lebanese-Armenian artist Jacques Vartabedian, featuring a new body of works.

For the last few months, it has become a part of our daily routine to watch or hear of things related to political campaigns, constantly seeing billboards filled with faces we have come to know, some of which are new, and some of which have been ruling for a decade or two now.

To Jacques, this exhibition examines the presence of the politicians’ portraits in our daily lives. It questions the circulation of those images and the response of the public to these visual impressions. By highlighting the complex inter relationships between the individual and the represented images and other socio-historical/political factors, he is also highlighting the contradictory perceptions of freedom.

Throughout some of the works, Jacques reconstructs the destiny of these political election posters after the elections are done and gone. The ones who won’t make it are erased, ripped off the wall and forgotten, until the next campaigns are in order of course. But the ones who did make it will be implemented in our daily lives once more.

An observer, a documenter and a researcher, Jacques Vartabedian is a Lebanese-Armenian artist who works and lives in Beirut. He double majored in Interior Architecture and in Fine Arts and holds a master’s degree Painting from the Lebanese Institute of Fine Arts. Jacques has participated in many solo and group exhibitions, locally and internationally. He was part of the BJCEM young artists biennale in Milan-Italy 2015, Hong Kong Art Central 2016, and Beirut Art Fair 2017 and was the recipient of the “Art on Board Beirut” painting prize by Saradar Foundation in 2015, and the Boghossian Foundation painting prize in 2016.