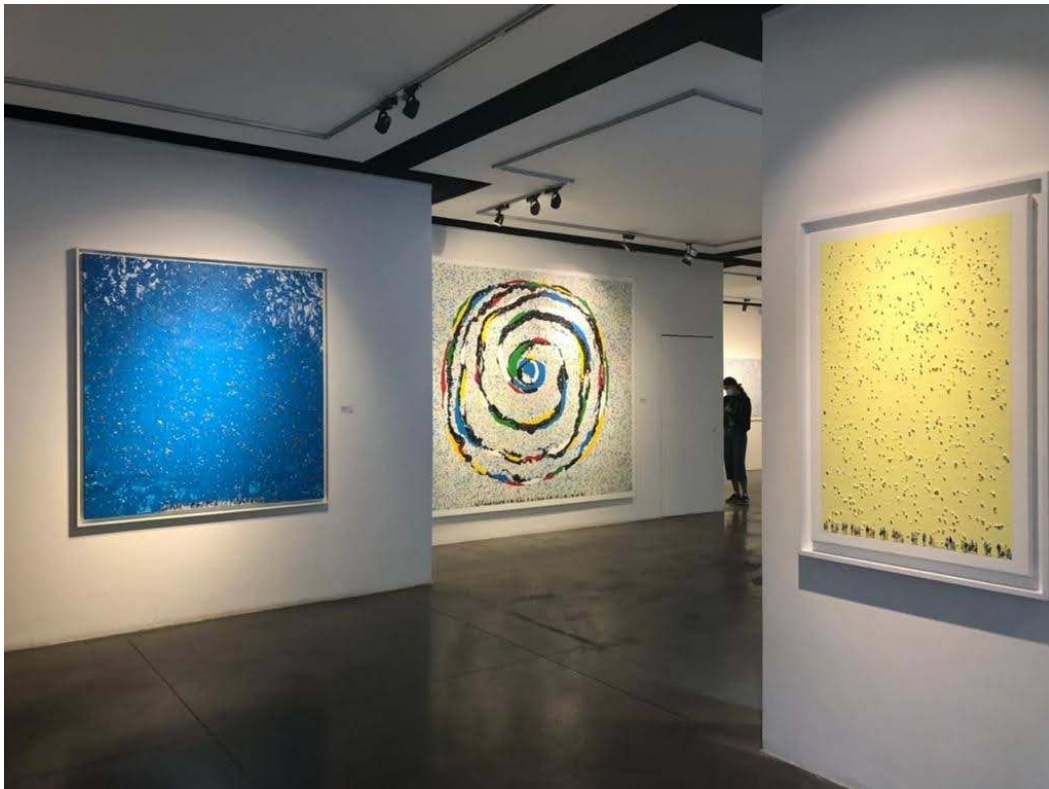


Beirut Art Scene in Full Bloom: 5 Must-See Art Shows

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Link: <https://arte8lusso.net/art/beirut-art-scene/>



Chaouki Chamoun “Blooming Skies” solo show, Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut (photo courtesy of the gallery)



Chaouki Chamoun “Blooming Skies” solo show, Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut (photo courtesy of the gallery)

The cultural scene in Beirut is bustling, and there are shows not to be missed. This article presents 5 must-see art shows (May 2021), as well as a list of upcoming shows (June 2021).

In Lebanon, we are at the moment between two seasons; our climate allows a gradual progression from spring to summer. In parallel, our cultural scene has come full circle; from the threat of despair and uncertainty to the glory of hope. The art scene today is in full bloom, and if you're in Beirut right now, here are 5 must-see art shows for your enjoyment and cultural enrichment.

Chaouki Chamoun solo “Blooming Skies” Mark Hachem Gallery



Chaouki Chamoun “Blooming Skies” solo show, Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut (photo courtesy of the gallery)

The large canvases of the “Blooming Skies” collection by Lebanese artist Chaouki Chamoun fill the walls of Mark Hachem Gallery in the heart of downtown Beirut. The scale is doubly effective; the viewer is immersed in the expansion of the color-fields, and yet, small figures aligned at the bottom of the canvases give new sensation to the composition. The influence of the New York School is there, but Chamoun’s creations are uniquely his own. The collection spans the last two years (2019 – 2021) and reflect the artist’s experiences of the turbulent times Lebanon has passed through. This is most clearly illustrated in the contrasting pieces “What was I doing on August 4th/ Summer Turmoil (2020)” and “October Turmoil (2019)”. The two pieces share the same symbol: the spiral-shaped formation; and yet the former is Black and color-less (reflecting the tragedy of the August 4, 2020 blast) and the latter is colorful (reflecting the hope of the first weeks of the October 2019 revolution). The ‘turmoil’ of both is expressed in the gesturalism of the spiral shapes. Still, there are more tranquil works, like “Flocking in love with two blue birds (2020)”, which works with similar components as the other paintings, only this time communicating serenity, and allowing for a whimsical escape.

A show like “Blooming Skies” is uniquely Lebanese; it shows an instance in which an artist, mature in his style, gently explores themes relevant to the Lebanese particular, and yet also embraces the liberty of expressing novel, fanciful themes. This very special show is running until June 1, 2021; if you are in Beirut, make sure not to miss it.

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