



How did you first get into the world of art?

I started 13 years ago with my sister who had an art gallery. It was unexpected, but I knew at that time that I craved an environment that was rich and inspiring and the art industry ticked all those boxes.

As curator, you initiated the art gallery at Boutique 1 Dubai. Do you think that art complements the various lifestyle elements of the shop?

Of course; since Boutique 1 is a fashion and lifestyle destination, and showcases fashion, books, furniture and even has its own café... the art gallery fits in very well. There is very thin line between art and fashion; art is something that lasts when fashion changes every season, but there are trends in both fields.

What is the concept behind the Boutique 1 Gallery?

The idea is to show international art without limiting our selection of artists to Middle Eastern or Iranian. The Boutique 1 Gallery concept is to exhibit the best art from all countries across the borders and to go beyond the geographical limits of the region.

“All painters use simple materials (oil, acrylic, charcoal etc.) but very few can do something outstanding. It is exactly the same with a chef and cuisine”



Fadi Mogabgab, the curator of Boutique 1 Gallery.

During this tough economic time, do you think art is a good investment?

Certainly; especially young artists who are less expensive.

Which artist's work will be shown during the month of September?

A young Lebanese photographer, Raja Kanafani will be shown this month. His work shows Beirut in its daily life, under all its aspects.

Can you tell me a bit about the themes of Raja Kanafani's exhibition and the medium that he has used?

He will be exhibiting mostly black and white photographs, which are quite classical in the style, but are very contemporary in their subject and timeframe. The series is about Beirut and its daily happenings: its richness, its chaos, its beauty... its craziness!

How do you choose the work to be showcased at the gallery?

We try to show reputable artists in a variety of forms such as paintings, photos or sculptures.

We showcase modern art as well as contemporary art from all origins, but is essential to always show good quality art in order to educate the public and let them be more selective in their choice.

What makes the Boutique 1 Gallery unique to the art world in Dubai?

Well I think that we definitely showcase artists that no one has seen and most of all who are really different from what we see in the art market. For example calligraphy, women in veils, or some political art that belongs more to journalism than art.

Are the artists shown at Boutique 1 Gallery new to the Dubai art scene?

Yes, most of them are new to Dubai. We are here to add something to

the Dubai art scene. Even if we show some masters of modern art like Giacometti or Calder, we exhibit pieces that were not shown before. We also host very young artists who have certainly not been seen in Dubai and are presenting their debut collection. We are an art gallery that is linked to fashion, therefore we also show art that is connected with fashion and reality.

What do you think art brings to a home and to a person's lifestyle?

Art brings what nothing else can bring: some inspiration, feelings, dreams and that extra thing we need to make our daily life more fresh, deep, beautiful and just better!

What advice would you give to buyers interested in purchasing art for their homes?

The most important thing is that to love what you are purchasing. And you need to understand it! You have to feel it, a feeling doesn't lie.

Arts bite

What is your favourite food, and why?

Lebanese food is first, because it is an amazing combination of colours, textures and tastes, which are very well balanced. Lebanese food comes from different origins around the Mediterranean sea, very rich historically and culturally, and most of all, very tasty!

Do you think there is a similarity between a chef's cuisine and an artist's work?

Yes of course. All painters use very simple materials (oil, acrylic, charcoal etc.) but very few can do something outstanding. It is exactly the same with a chef and cuisine; the best chefs always use the same ingredients, but it is only their refinement, culture, sensibility, vision, talent and creativity that makes the difference.

Arts alive

Art enriches our homes and our lives in subtle and exciting ways. *Lauren Hills* catches up with Lebanese gallery owner and curator Fadi Mogabgab, the creative force behind the Boutique 1 Gallery

