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# FAD FAD

#006

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## REJECTION

### What's That Stroke?

I am 15, and I am from the generation of writing letters by hand to local and overseas g.friends. Long letters of insane details by today's standards, with a depiction of intense feelings as the central piece. The subject of everything I write is around longing. It is always about when I remembered her, in which situation, inside which idea, in which dream I wished she was with me. And letter after letters I empty all of my emotional reservoirs. I include my photo in the first letter, then dried flowers and later the ultimate proof of love; a hair strand, along with promises of eternal love, the sun, and moon at her feet. All this passion arousing from just a little passport photo she sends after constant begging. The replies I receive, provided that they are of similar intent, only meant it will go crescendo because if not, things get complicated and that is where I start a downhill journey into the blues. My Girl / Temptation. I am 15.

We often respond to romantic rejections by finding fault in ourselves, bemoaning all of our inadequacies, kicking ourselves when we're already down, and smacking our self-esteem into a pulp. By 16, I had already experienced many rejections and found my solace inside darkrooms. I discovered photography. It is the beginning of the Lebanese civil war.

Rejection, scientists say, affects intelligence, reason, and more. Rejection hurts, that is why our brains respond so similarly to rejection and physical pain. It seems that in our hunter/gatherer past, being ostracized from our tribes was akin to a death sentence, as we were unlikely to survive for long alone. It also destabilizes our "Need to Belong" and creates surges of anger and aggression.

Rejections continued later in my life and took many forms. From the rejection of being a Muslim living in a Lebanese Christian community in '75 to becoming Christian in '78 and be rejected by the Lebanese Muslim community in return. Il 'faut le faire' as we say. In a confessional sectarian country? Where its citizens are not equal, to begin with? Like the dream to become the president of the Republic of Lebanon, for example, is rightful to a small portion of the citizens? While becoming a prime minister is not an aspiration Tony can entertain?... Oh what a waist. Our country rejects us. Our society rejects us. Our cultures reject us. We are a country of rejects. We reject Us. We are all in pain and we are all angry.



Oil strokes

The story goes that I have learned to channel rejection in painting and that's probably the truest observation so far...



### Boy In The Mirror

Oil on canvas - 35x30cm 2016

I painted a large series using the back of my brush as the only tool. This was two years after returning from a 15 years life in the Arab world and reconnecting with the Lebanese society.

# Dusty Road

Don't be shocked if you see me naked. For my coming birthday a friend did me a numerology reading and told me some stuff. Stuff I know about me, other stuff everybody knows about me including me, few everybody knows except me and little gems only the stars know. I never question a reader as he is just the messenger but the celestial objects above? This I can do. These are the chapters of *Dusty Road*.

## TABLE DES MATIÈRES PROPHÉTISÉES

- I. *Le Liban c'est ta femme*
- II. *Fonction sociale hallucinante*
- III. *Pouvoir inouï, d'ou peinture*
- IV. *Un sens absolument inégalé de la microdifférence*
- V. *Souffres par dépossession imaginaire*
- VI. *Jeu d'enfant saturne sur ta Vénus*
- VII. *Never satisfied*
- VIII. *Tu es plus un londonien de perse*
- IX. *Tu dois écrire ou alors en fait tu écris en peignant*
- X. *Et puis bon le chapitre baise est trop long...*
- XI. *Mais tres original*
- XII. *Une famille de fous, enfance etc.*
- XIII. *Puis les femmes sagittaires*
- XIV. *Finissent vite par jouer contre toi idem childhood family*
- XV. *Allure d'ensemble immense navire pendant tempête, voilures déchirées mais s'en fout*
- XVI. *Tempête mech mayy (not water)*
- XVII. *Nar w harwa (wind and fire)*
- XVIII. *Venus en Sagittaire oui c'est du feu dans le feu*
- XIX. *Juste avant Noel tu baises*





Dusty Road

Acrylic on 350g paper - 75x55cm 2020

## Art Li Beirut

I am happy to be part of Art Li Beirut, an online auction curated by Lisa Bitar and hosted by ArtScoops.

I am putting *Sentiment d'incomplétude* I, II and III for auction. You can access Artscoops' auction platform on October 27. In my next issue I will reveal the three beauties and tell you why you should acquire them.





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