

Labyrinths

Doreen Khanamirian El Zein (b.1961)

Agial Art Gallery has the pleasure to invite you to Doreen Khanamirian El Zein's first solo show. The exhibition is centered around a series of paintings which foregrounds a preoccupation with form.

El Zein begins by dripping paint onto the canvas and wheeling it around. She lets the paint run multi-directionally, watching it encircle the canvas and produce tubular forms. She then controls its course, works the transparencies, and refines the details. Her intervention in this organic process highlights the tension between the natural and the artificial.

The paintings are self-referential, engaging with elements specific to the medium, but they lend themselves to be read as images of a cartographic nature. As finished works, they resemble maps of cities like Beirut – ones which flow and spill over their intended boundaries. Though little is planned, their composition is sophisticated. Form emerges out of the amorphousness it wrestles with.

Doreen El Zein née Khanamirian (Born in 1961, Beirut), graduated from the Beirut University College (now known as the Lebanese American University) in 1982 with a degree in Fine Arts. Shortly after, she continued her studies in art at the Byam Shaw School of Arts (now Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design) in London. She began her career by working in special paint effects and furniture finishing. Over the years, her work has evolved to include both painting and sculpture in mixed media. She has participated in various group exhibitions in Dubai, as well as in Beirut at the UNESCO Palace, the Beirut Exhibition Center, and The Hamazkayin Gallery, among others. She is a member of LAAPS, the Lebanese Artist Association of Painters & Sculptors.





