

Hassaan el Samad

Memorial to Wildlife

Hassaan el Samad, a former hunter, has produced a large installation of small-scale still life paintings of dead birds. Taking the figure of the hunted bird as his starting point, he presents a taxonomical survey of the richness and multiplicity of bird species in Lebanon which have been increasingly decimated under lenient hunting laws. This work extends the themes of el Samad's first solo exhibition which was presented at the onset of the garbage crisis and focused on waste management as it manifested in everyday life.

Hassaan el Samad was born in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War. He graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts-Raoucheh, where he studied with artists such as Abdelhamid Baalbaki, Mohammad El Rawas, Ali Shams, among others. He has had solo exhibitions in Lebanon recently at Art Space Hamra (2016), and at Safadi Cultural Center in Tripoli (2015). He has participated in group exhibitions at Beirut Art Fair (2016), Art Space Hamra (2015), and Mark Hachem Gallery (2014). He is currently the chair of the department of Fine Arts at the Lebanese University's third branch, and a member of the Art Collections Committee of the Ministry of Culture.