

PRESS RELEASE

November 16, 2023

Solo exhibition Mounira Al Solh at H'ART Museum

Exhibition by the eleventh ABN AMRO Art Award winner

At the beginning of this year, the eleventh ABN AMRO Art Award was granted to Mounira Al Solh. As part of the award, she created *Nami Nami Noooooom, Yalla Tnaaam*, an exhibition and eponymous installation in which she returns to her childhood in a civil war-ravaged Lebanon.

Al Solh (Lebanon, 1978) is a storyteller who links her personal history as a Lebanese woman and immigrant with current themes such as identity, politics, and feminism. In doing so, she employs a range of materials. She embroiders and paints, uses language and music, and creates magazines, installations, and performances. Moreover, working collaboratively with others plays an important role in her work alongside her individual studio practice.



View image captions at bottom press release.

Lebanese civil war

In *Nami Nami Noooooom, Yalla Tnaaam*, Al Solh returns to her childhood in a civil war-ravaged Lebanon. In the evening, if bombardments were going on, her mother would allow her to cut holes into her pyjamas and then carefully sew them back up with a needle and thread. It calmed her when explosions kept her from falling asleep. For this exhibition, she repeated that meditative, healing activity alongside a group of women with both local and migratory backgrounds in the Netherlands and Lebanon. She incorporated the pyjamas into a new installation that can be seen for the first time in H'ART Museum. For the paintings and drawings on paper and cloth shown in the exhibition, Al Solh drew inspiration from dreams and nightmares. With the title of the exhibition, she refers to two Arabic lullabies from her youth that her mother sang to her and that she, in turn, has sung to her daughter. The exhibition is open to the public from November 23, 2023 to May 15, 2024.

Publication

The publication *She slept with a soaked bomb between her hands* is being published especially on the occasion of this exhibition. In addition to the installation *Nami Nami Noooooom, Yalla Tnaaam*, the publication provides an overview of Al Solh's varied oeuvre. In an interview with Kaelen Wilson-Goldie, Al Solh talks about, among other things, her motivations and the role of music in her work. The publication was designed by Irma Boom Office.

About Mounira Al Solh

From 2007 to 2008 Mounira Al Solh was a *resident artist* at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam. Al Solh has had exhibitions at, among others, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Hamburg (2023) and Beirut (2019), Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp (2023), BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2022), Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2020), Art Institute of Chicago (2018) and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar (2018). Her work was part of the *Sharjah Biennial*, United Arab Emirates (2023), the *Busan Biennial*, South Korea (2022), *Documenta 14*, Kassel (2017) and the *Venice Biennial* (2015) and was shown in group exhibitions including those at Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

(2022, 2019), WIELS, Brussels (2020) and Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020). In 2024 Al Solh will represent Lebanon at the Venice Biennale.

From the jury report

'Al Solh is a talented artist whose oeuvre can be considered both personal and political, and seductive as well as activist. The jury has great appreciation for the way in which Al Solh, residing alternately in Lebanon and the Netherlands, uses these vantage points to combine cultures and experiences while actively engaging her shifting environment through collaboration.' Click [here](#) for the full jury report

ABN AMRO Art Award

The ABN AMRO Art Award is being granted for the eleventh time this year. The winner receives a monetary award of 10,000 euros, an exhibition at H'ART Museum in Amsterdam and in the ABN AMRO Art Space, as well as a publication of their work, designed by Irma Boom Office. In addition, work by the winner is purchased for the ABN AMRO Art Collection. With the Art Award, ABN AMRO offers support to artists as they develop and a platform for them to reach as wide an audience as possible. This is consistent with the bank's sponsorship policy of speeding up the transition to a world of equal opportunities for all. It does so by recognizing individuals, clubs, and organizations of ambition within the fields of sport, art, and culture, offering them support: financially as well as through network and coaching. As a social partner of H'ART Museum, ABN AMRO is proud of this long-term collaboration, which aims to make art and culture accessible to a wide audience.

ABN AMRO Art Space

Coinciding with the exhibition in H'ART Museum a second exhibition by Al Solh, titled *Pocket Rhythms*, will be presented at the ABN AMRO Art Space. In a series of paintings, she refers to popular Arabic music from the 70s and 80s, mixed with personal memories and political events. The monumental painting *From Beirut to Saida Ya my eyes*, created especially for this exhibition, also brings together various associations that give it an ambiguous character. The exhibition runs from November 22, 2023 to May 15, 2024. Click [here](#) for more information.



View image captions at bottom press release.

Note for editors, not for publication

For more information about the eleventh ABN AMRO Art Award and images of the work of Mounira Al Solh please contact Danila Cahen, curator ABN AMRO Collection: Danila.Cahen@nl.abnamro.com or Madeline van Vliet, press officer H'ART Museum: m.vanvliet@hartmuseum.nl.

A **video portret** of Mounira Al Solh about *Nami Nami Nooom*, *Yala Tnaaam* and her way of working and collaborating, can be seen [here](#). **Images**, including a photo portrait of Mounira Al Solh, can be downloaded via [this](#) webpage. The mandatory captions are mentioned in the download folder.

Image captions

Page 1 from left to right.: *Tasting Cherries on the Upper Bed*, 2023, oil on canvas, courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg; *Nasibak, Your Destiny*, 2023, ink, acrylic, oil and paper, collage on canvas, Aishti Foundation collection; *Chinese Vase, Midnight Appearance*, 2023, oil on canvas, courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg; *Nami Nami Nooom, Yala Tnaaam*, 2023, pajamas, embroidery, variable size (detail from installation), courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg, photo: Peter Cox. Page 2 from left to right.: *Megaphone on Zarif*, 2023, ink, acrylic paint, oil paint, paper collage on canvas, private collection Amsterdam, courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg; *Fairuz: aatini al nay wa ghanni*, 2023 ink, acrylic paint, oil paint and paper collage on canvas, courtesy of artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg; *untitled*, 2023, ink, acrylic paint, oil paint on canvas, courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-

Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg; *untitled*, 2023, ink, acrylic paint, oil paint on canvas, courtesy of artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg.

H'ART Museum

Department of Communications, Education & Marketing

Madeline van Vliet

020 530 87 55 | m.vanvliet@hartmuseum.nl