Beirut BEAUTIES

The Lebanese capital hosted the fourth Beirut Art Week, showcasing its best and brightest art stars

BEIRUT ART WEEK

Evangelia Kranioti, *Odalisque* (2015), from the *Unlight/Sunlight* series

It wasn't design per se that dominated the city of Beirut this past September, but rather, art and its derivative expressions. Design was actually even noticeably absent this year, however, it was announced that it would have its very own platform next year: Beirut Design Fair 2017, which will take place in parallel with next year's Beirut Art Fair (21-24 September), and will be curated by Guillaume Taslé d'Héliand.

In the meantime, it was the fourth edition of Beirut Art Week, with the Beirut Art Fair (BAF) at its core, which took over the Lebanese capital. The seventh issue of the fair welcomed 45 galleries from 20 countries, and featured *Lebanon Modern!* – an insightful look at the practice of Lebanese female artists from the Modernist period who have undeniably shaped a great part of the country's artistic scene. Think Etel Adnan, Saloua Raouda Choucair, Laure Ghorayeb,

and Seta Manoukian among others, whose works were sourced from private and public collections – these stalwart figures continue to define Lebanon's gigantic artistic prowess, and to inspire the work of emerging and established artists from the region.

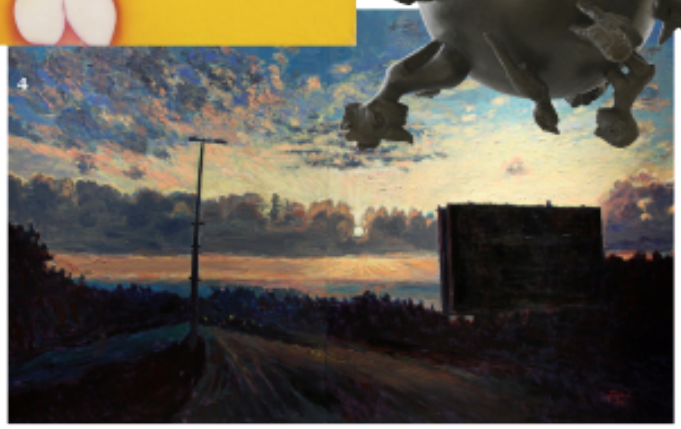
The photographic theme was explored at the booth of former *AD* guest editor Elie Saab, who hosted stunning works by Evangelia Kranioti. Invited by the couturier to Beirut for a residency, she presented a series of photographs that explored the dualities of the Lebanese capital, including past and present, realism and fantasy, and light and dark in *Unlight/Sunlight*.

More broadly, Beirut Art Week gave way to public installations across the city. Twenty or so interactive projects were set up at symbolic landmarks, including Martyr's Square, Saifi Village, and Zaituna Bay. There were *Turtles* by Ghassan Zard at Le Gray Hotel, garbage bags in oyster shells by Nabil Helou – a nod to Beirut's ongoing trash crisis – and David Mach's gorilla at Beirut Souks.

"Everybody is interested in art from the region, especially from Lebanon. It is a small country, and Beirut a small city, but it is a world city"

LAURE D'HAUTEVILLE, BAF FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

1. Huguette Caland, *Brifes* (1979). Courtesy KA Modern and contemporary art **2.** Zad Moultaka, *Outremer I* (2012). Courtesy Galerie Janine Rubeiz



3. Fadi Yazigi, *The Ball* (2015). Courtesy Galerie Tanit and the artist **4.** Oussama Baalbaki, Untitled (2016). Courtesy Agial Gallery

PHOTOS: ADOP FOLDERS/ART

PEOPLE
[THE A-LIST]

ABRAHAM KARABAJAKIAN
The (co-)driving force behind the KA Collection of modern and contemporary art

BASEL DALLOUL
Half of the duo behind the Ramzi & Basel Dalloul Collection of 3,500 works of art from the MENA

OUSSAMA BAALBAKI
No stranger to the regional art scene, his star is rising internationally

ZAD MOULTAKA
The artist and composer offered a glimpse of what he will present at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017