



Photo credit: @jminerckdelacruz | Location: ME Dubai - The Opus Tower

One-on-One
with
Kristel Bechara

Sixty Minutes

Interview with _____

Kristel Bechara

1. Please tell us a bit about yourself and how was your journey to become one of the most successful modern visual artists in the Middle East?

I am a visual artist, an entrepreneur and a mum of 2 beautiful kids. Born and raised in Lebanon, my journey to becoming an artist started very early on in life. As my late father was a surrealist artist and sculptor himself, I grew up being surrounded by art and I was always encouraged to express myself, ask questions and follow my creative impulses.

My transition from an art hobbyist into a recognized visual artist started about 15 years ago when I moved to Dubai. I took my time developing my own unique style, as I wanted to create a visual language that drew from my passion for contemporary art, fashion and interior design. Once I had fully developed my visual language, I was able to focus on creating artworks that represented my philosophy on life and building a body of work, in both traditional and digital mediums, that connected with a lot of people. My artistic journey so far has been immensely fulfilling, rife with challenges, and it continues to unfold with endless possibilities.

2. You have been the first established female artist from the Middle East to have adopted NFT technology, please tell us a bit more about it and where do you see the trend of NFT going (we heard that Damien Hirst has burned last year thousands of his own art after selling NFTs)?

Being the first Middle Eastern female artist to have created an NFT, I was able to grasp the potential of this technology and how it could shape the future of the art market early on. With NFTs, the worries surrounding the authenticity and transparency in acquiring art, both traditional and digital, are directly addressed.



Photo credit:
Photographer: @moneebalmaraz

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Kristel Bechara

Visual Artist, Entrepreneur & Founder Atelier Kristel Bechara

By utilizing blockchain technology, akin to Bitcoin, NFTs create a reliable ledger of transactions. This ensures an indisputable proof of ownership and origin, enabling continuous identification of both the original artworks and their rightful owners through the blockchain. Serving as virtual signatures, NFTs protect the value of art, regardless the number of reproductions it undergoes.

I see the NFT technology as an incredible opportunity and a trend that is here to stay, as I believe that what it has to offer to the art world is exceptionally important which is safety, transparency and protection. Due to this, I will continue to create NFTs for my traditional and digital artworks - it is the gold standard of authenticating and securing the proof of ownership of my work which is of great importance to my collectors and myself.

3. Characterized by dynamic patterns and very expressive, colours how would you describe your work in a nutshell?

It would be difficult to sum up all of what my work expresses in a nutshell. At its very core, my work is about the human experience: the focus on black and white is my way of honouring the polarities that we all experience in our lives, the ups and the downs, while the dash of vivid patterns and colours serve as an homage to all the joyous moments in our lives that make our time here on this planet worth living and celebrating.

4. How hard is it nowadays for young artists/newcomers to establish express themselves through their works to a wider audience, especially in the GCC region and what advice would you give them?

In this age of social media, I feel like young artists have such incredible tools to reach and connect with a wider audience through their art. However, the challenge remains in creating art that is original and authentic which also connects with people and helps these budding artists get through the algorithms that govern all these platforms. My advice to these artists, especially to the ones based in the GCC region, would be to focus on developing their own unique visual language that helps their work develop a distinct personality which is immediately recognizable.

5. How does your typical working day look like?

A typical working day starts with painting in the studio in the mornings, while my afternoons are for working on my digital artworks and having meetings. During midday, I have a bit of family time with my children: picking them up from school and having lunch with them. My evenings can be busy at times, especially when I must attend events or make appearances.

6. Finally: What's the best piece of advice ever given to you?

The best piece of advice that I ever got was quite simple, but incredibly meaning and effective: it was to work hard, create with passion and to pursue my creative ambitions relentlessly. This advice has really helped guide my career, since pursuing a creative life is equal parts creativity, passion and discipline, you won't get far as an artist if you falter on any one of these.



Kristel Bechara

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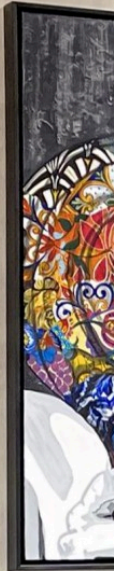
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"Feast Of Life" - 150x100cm





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"Flight to the Cosmos"

