

Women in art: from an art model to an artist

Women in Syria had a great role in defining art and giving it great importance. Through ages starting from before Christ with the old civilization from the great statues of Ornina and Mary which was the first point in enriching the art in Syria and presenting specific thoughts of a culture that gave great importance to the female as a symbol of fertility and productivity. Leaping from the beautiful female faces of the roman monuments and mosaics that were a rich inheritance our Syrian culture had inherited to the great paintings of women that represent a mother and her child the famous Syrian artist louay kayally had painted and gave different meaning to motherhood in the 60s. Ending with the 21st century where the creativity of women in Syria had appeared and focused on their big role through art and life.

A woman of a well known damascene family had told me the story of her life that she loved art and anything to do with it, in 1951 had the chance to study with the great Adham Ismail along with her friends, and had a great chance to study abroad in Italy but she couldn't because of the society and its rules so her dream evaporated in the air. Back in the 50 s Damascus was full of well known families that believed studying art abroad is not suitable for young women, it's against honor and morals . There was no faculty of plastic arts in Damascus the capital and it was really difficult for women to go and study abroad, that's why it was easier for them to suppress the desire of being artists and go to another passage in their life, But luckily things changed when the faculty of art opened in the 70s and it was easier for women to study art the way they like.

Back in the roman age the only meaning of femininity was as a mother, a daughter, a wife and a model for art it's been a great achievement to have the women with her great role In Syria, the statues that were made for symbolizing women and goddesses shows what was art back then, but life,

art and mentalities had developed a lot and new thinkers appeared and proved that art means life with its different faces and not focusing only on man and his greatness woman can always add a lot to art and life and give a lot .

In modern Syria which we live now in those great years that enrich the role of woman in different aspects of life, what it shows clearly that we have great female artists in our society that are giving a lot of their spirits and souls to art and reflecting their life through art.

A photo exhibition was held in December in the Mustafa Ali art foundation "on this day or another" it's about young women in Syria and the relationship between women and orient nowadays. The photo exhibition had shown the results of a workshop that took place at the institute of applied arts in Damascus on the subject beyond Orientals – realities of young women in modern Syria. This workshop financially supported by the German and the Swiss embassy, provided a group of 16 women in Syria with professional photography training and with the opportunity to depict the reality of their daily lives from the inside.

Another photo exhibition by the artist Rahaf al jalad was held in the Goethe institute in February 2011. An exhibition of photography that focuses on our forgotten details in our daily life that enrich it and give it the beauty that it deserves , hope in g that every person would stand a little and think about how beautiful our life is and how we can make it better .

Many female artists proved that we can add to art what a female look is to life and what we should do about our children, husbands and parents. Childhood memories as Sarah Shamma the modern painter focuses on with a modern look to art showing that a female role in life could go

beyond its duties and its responsibilities. Women and their femininity, their beauty and their look to life and how they look from inside and outside, as Safaa al Set tried to focus on at her latest exhibition in Art house gallery, with pieces of sculpture made of iron giving life to metal and turning it into a wonderful piece of art, filled with curves and lines adding a new and modern look to art.

What we can conclude is Syrian woman had proved and showed through ages and centuries that she can be an artist as well as a model as well as a house wife she can be good in what she is doing and take first places in many ways .