



NevineMattar

Nevine Mattar is a Lebanese artist known for her diverse artistic expressions across multiple media. Her unique perspective has been shaped by experiences living in both the Far East and the West, where she studied various art forms. In Japan, she focused on Sumi-e, while her studies in Beirut, London, Los Angeles, and New York covered painting and illustration.

As an advocate for environmental awareness, Nevine founded Lebanon's first Paper-Mache Association, promoting recycling through art. She has chaired numerous art juries and remains involved in civic activities to expose people to creative, sustainable practices.

Since her first solo exhibition in 1982, *La Femme Fleur*, Nevine has exhibited annually in cities such as Washington, Paris, London, Dubai, Amman, and Beirut. Her work spans murals, book and poster illustrations, set designs, and fashion. Alongside her art career, Nevine has taught Cultural Studies at Lebanese universities, including the American University of Beirut, Balamand University, Haigazian University, and the Lebanese American University, drawing from her academic background in Psychology, Education, and Art History.

Nevine's artistic approach often explores three-dimensional space using collage and mixed media. Her theater work includes set designs inspired by plays by Tawfiq al-Hakim, Alan Ayckbourn, and Henrik Ibsen. She has organized and participated in workshops on recycling and environmental issues, supported by the Lebanese Ministries of Culture and Environment and international partners, including the French Ministry of Culture.

Recent exhibitions include *Art in Mind* at Brick Lane Gallery in London and a show at RossoCinabro Gallery in Rome. She is also scheduled to participate in the annual Art Festival in Prague. Among her notable mural commissions are *A Recreation of Hokusai's Tsunami* for Oragon Restaurant and *A Tribute to Beirut* for Coral Beach Hotel, with murals ranging up to 17 meters in length.

Nevine continues to create, exhibit, and inspire through art that bridges cultures and promotes environmental consciousness.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my exploration of identity and self-image, I find profound inspiration in the diverse array of artists who have ventured into this profound terrain before me. Through the works of these predecessors, I am compelled to examine how each artist constructs and communicates their unique identity through the interplay of form, color, and line.

With each stroke of paint, every deliberate choice of hue, and the fluidity of lines, these artists imprint their essence onto the canvas, weaving together a narrative of self-discovery and expression. It is within this intricate tapestry that I find solace and inspiration as I navigate my own journey of self-exploration and understanding.

Yet, amidst the vast spectrum of human experience and individuality, there exists a unifying thread that binds us all together—the shared essence of humanity. Through my art, I seek to illuminate this universal truth, transcending boundaries of culture, nationality, and ideology. For even as I celebrate the richness of differences, I am inexorably connected by our shared humanity.

Through my work, I invite viewers to contemplate the intricacies of identity and to reflect upon the myriad ways in which we define ourselves and others. In doing so, I hope to foster a sense of empathy and understanding, reminding us all that while our journeys may be unique, we are all integral threads in the fabric of humanity.



Beyond Looks

Nevine Mattar

Oil & Acrylic on Canvas

39x39

**“Beyond Looks is a painting that tries to capture
The different ways by which images of women
Were treated in art”**



Antar and Abla

Nevine Mattar

Oil & Acrylic on Canvas

47x47

The story of **Antar & Abla** is a celebrated part of Arab literature and culture, often hailed as an epic tale of chivalry, bravery, and unrequited love. It is embedded in the poetry of Antarah ibn Shaddad, a pre-Islamic (6th century) Arab knight and poet, who is also one of the protagonists of the story.

Antar was born a slave, the son of an Arab nobleman and a Black slave woman. Despite his status, he proved himself as a formidable warrior and poet, earning respect and fear on the battlefield. His tales are filled with his heroic exploits and deep poetic expressions of love for his cousin Abla, whom he adored and sought to marry.

Abla, described as strikingly beautiful and virtuous, is the daughter of one of Antar's uncles. The story of their love is complex and fraught with societal challenges, primarily focusing on Antar's attempts to gain freedom and noble status to be deemed worthy of marrying Abla. His quests and battles are as much for honor and recognition as they are for his love for Abla.

Their story is not just a romance; it is also a reflection on the themes of honor, social inequality, and the struggle against one's fate. Antar's poetry, which is a significant part of the pre-Islamic literary collection known as the Mu'allaqat, eloquently expresses his feelings for Abla, his battles, and his aspirations. The tale of Antar and Abla has been passed down through generations, celebrated in Arabic literature and culture, embodying ideals of courage, love, and perseverance. It has also been the subject of many adaptations in literature, music, and theater in the Arab world and beyond.

**Nevine Mattar
accepts
commissioned
projects.**

**Here are some
examples**

