

BEIRUT PRINTMAKING STUDIO

ANNUAL REPORT



April 2021 - March 2022

Our story so far

This year marked the fourth year in our Gemmayze studio. Since we moved in 2018, we witnessed major upheavals and great fortunes. We sailed through both faithful to our mission and vision, resourceful, creative and grateful. Most importantly, we kept the studio doors open for our community.

The past two years were particularly tough having to navigate the aftermath of Beirut Port explosion, sky rocketing rent, and the devaluation of the Lebanese Lira.

It is safe to describe them as the years of **survival and perseverance**.

Looking back now, we realize the amount of work we were able to achieve. Opening of “The Hand that Print - 2nd edition” exhibition of our first cohort of scholarship holders. Participating in two international exhibitions. Partnering with Terdad Initiative, Arab Image Foundation (AIF) and PACE. Offering our first masterclass program.

We were proud to receive the support of the Arab Fund for Art and Culture (AFAC) and the Solidarite Initiative. Their support helped us launch our self-sustained scholarship and residency programs. We were sorry to hold back some of our plans because of the uncertainties we were facing.

Our efforts are now set for a grounded future. We are strategically working to become a sustainable and financially self sufficient studio that advocates the knowledge transfer of analog techniques in photography and printmaking. We will keep on purposefully placing printmaking on the Lebanese art scene map. The studio will remain accessible and inclusive to our growing and diverse community.

‘A free (unconventional) school of art’ is our ultimate goal.

Finally, we are forever grateful for the tremendous support we received and we are still receiving from our international and local community especially Sabine deLahaut, Jean Michel Uyttersprot, Mathieu Coulanges, Rima Kaddissi, Arab Fund for Art and Culture team, Culture Resource team, Arab Image Foundation team, Taylor Foundation, Antalis France, Joop Stoop printmakers ink and paper, our studio assistants and our community.

We acknowledge that building a strong art ecosystem can only be done through interdependent efforts and restless aspirations.

Mission and Vision

MISSION

Diffuse knowledge for interdisciplinary practices in all analog printmaking techniques.

The studio draws attention to printmaking practices in Lebanon and encourages printmakers in their endeavor by providing a workspace equipped with all basic needs. The studio also works on promoting printmaking and printmakers in Lebanon through cultural and artistic activities and offers workshops and courses in analog printmaking and analog photography.

VISION

The studio is committed to becoming a reference as an inclusive place for the teaching and practice of analog printmaking techniques; to offer archival services for institutions, museums, and professionals, and serving as an off-campus workshop where university students can learn these practices.



Footprint

10

WORKSHOPS
& COURSES
OFFERED

111

participants

3

PROGRAMS

15

participants

90

people frequented the
studio on a monthly basis

280

prints produced

375

films processed

Programs

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Open for university students, it offers a fully funded one-year apprenticeship to learn the different techniques in printmaking resulting in a collective exhibition.

We were able to launch this program with the support of 'Solidarite avec BPS' initiative.

The first cohort of seven scholarship holders completed their apprenticeship with a collective exhibition 'The Hand that Prints - 2nd edition' in Beirut. The proceeds of their sold prints funded the second year's cohort of 8 scholarships.

RESIDENCY

Open for emerging artists, it offers a fully funded one-year residence to work in printmaking and to produce original body of work. Residents will show their work in a collective exhibition.

We launched the first residency cohort with the support of AFAC and Culture Resource. The five residents are currently finishing their residency and the call for next year's residency has been launched.

The scholarship and residency programs aim to raise a new generation of printmakers through an alternative and inclusive learning model. As well as providing them with several opportunities (locally and internationally) to showcase their work.

MASTERCLASS

This program brings printmakers, analog photographers and darkroom technicians, from around the world, for a 3-week, intensive workshop. The masterclass is free for the community and it is offered for a small fee for the public.

The first masterclass happened in October 2021 with the support of AFAC and Culture Resource. We invited Sabine Delahaut, Belgian visual artist and printmaker living in Paris. She taught roulette, burin engraving, and Color-On-Color masking.

The goal of this program is to introduce our community to specialised techniques in printmaking and photography. As well as providing a space for exchange between them and the invited artist especially scholarship holders and residents.

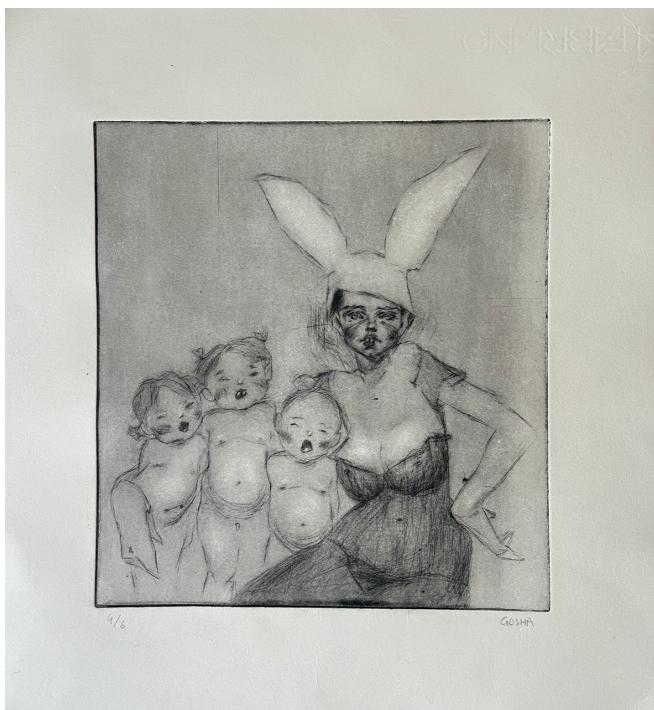


Exhibitions

PRINTED DIALOGUE BELGIUM

Exhibition of scholarship holders' work at Ecole Supérieur des Arts Saint-Luc Liège

Organised by Bernard Minguet, the exhibition showcased the work of our scholarship holders in dialogue with the work of the students of the printmaking department.



'Mama' by Gosha Beshlyan

THE HAND THAT PRINTS - 2ND ED LEBANON

End of year exhibition of the first scholarship holders cohort.

The public exhibition was hosted at ARTLAB Beirut. It showcased 42 editions of 140 prints produced by the scholarship holders.



'Untitled Landscapes' by Alaa Itani

Partnerships

IMPRESSIONS FROM A COLLECTION WITH ARAB IMAGE FOUNDATION (AIF)

The project is a dialogue between prints and photographs where BPS and AIF “hold hands” through a complete involvement of both their communities. Our printmakers went through AIF extensive collection in order to select an image they would like to dialog with. Then, our darkroom crew made photographic prints from the antique negatives, that haven’t been enlarged in over 70 years. Both the photograph and the intaglio prints will be shown as a diptych in the exhibition that will be touring Lebanon and that will be part of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival later in 2022.

WORKSHOPS AS PART OF TERDAD 2021

Created by UNESCO, TERDAD aimed to revive Beirut cultural life after Beirut Port explosion.

We were among the cultural institutions that provided open public activities. We offered a 2 days workshop on woodcut and monotype for 24 participants exposing them for the first time to printmaking techniques.

ARTISTIC GUIDANCE WITH PACE - RIMA KADDISSI

Through her flagship project, Project for Artistic Collaboration and Experimentation, Rima Kaddissi guides the artists through an exploratory and holistic creative process which will help them challenge and expand their artistic identity. This (voluntary) collaboration was born from the need to give our community a holistic learning experience that combines technical knowledge with artistic reflection and growth.



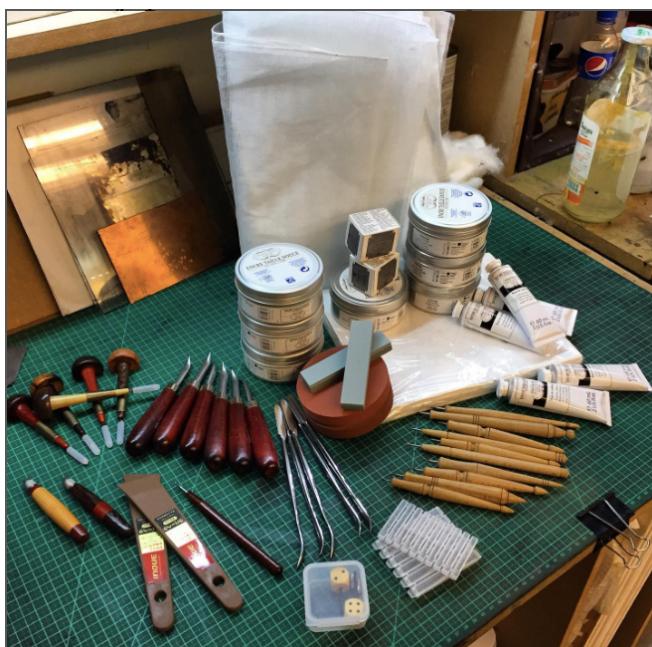
Grants and Support

ARAB FUND FOR ART AND CULTURE / CULTURE RESOURCE

Through their Solidarity Fund, the studio received a grant of USD \$ 15,000.00 that were used for 1) funding of the first BPS Residency Program, 2) funding for the start of our masterclass program with two visiting printmakers and 3) equipments that were vital for our darkroom, being them a Jobo film processor, a LPL large format enlarger and a Fujimoto color print processor.

ANTALIS FRANCE/ JOOP STOOP/ MATHIEU COULANGES

Through their generosity we received an abundance of printmaking and studio materials that will allow our community to experience a different support and choice for their printmaking techniques.



SOLIDARITE AVEC BEIRUT PRINTMAKING STUDIO

This initiative, started by Sabine Delahaut and Jean Michel Uyttersprot, and supported by over 120 artists worldwide, has been a vital lifeline of printmaking products that are fundamental for the continuation of the works of the studio.

The donated prints has been showcased in two exhibitions : 1) Beirut Reprint at Open Bach Gallery Paris and 2) Beirut Reprint 2 at Musee de la Boverie - Liege.

FONDATION TAYLOR

With the support of the Foundation, we received printmaking materials that allowed us to prepare for exhibitions such as the “Impressions from a Collection”, “Journee de l’Estampe Contemporain 2022” and “Lire le Monde” Festival in Corsica.



BPS Annual Report. 2021/22



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www.beirutprintmakingstudio.com