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**Beirut** - An Identity Adrift Hatty Pedder She is full of contradictions. At once sophisticated and charming, violent, complex and confusing. She is expressive and self absorbed. Consistently unpredictable she lures and repels in equal measure; with a capacity to disillusion and exhilarate she fills you with all manner of frustrations but never fails to envelop you in her unique embrace.

# SHE IS BEIRUT.

Home to a perplexing mix of Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Armenian Christians, Protestants and Druze, each trying to protect their individual identities as small expatriate groups of East Asians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Africans, Arabs, Europeans and North Americans float in the ever shifting layers between.

It is at this intersection of complexity and chaos that British artist Hatty Pedder starts her interrogation and interpretation of a society wrestling with its identity. A question of identity that forever seems to be in a state of flux. Never quite able to truly form. A schizophrenic personality riding the consequences of historical divisions, manipulations, conspiracies and hidden agendas, spiced with rampant consumerism, kitsch, nostalgia, indifference and an «everyman for himself» attitude. All of which provides an endless source of material for an artist to explore.

Hatty's relationship with Beirut, initially intimidating and overwhelming, has deepened into something more easy going, spontaneous and appreciative. The show's title 'Khosh Bosh!' is Lebanese slang which describes a relationship free of inhibitions or protocol and it's that spirit which captures the tone of this exhibition perfectly.

Hatty uses her distinctive multi-layered techniques to deconstruct and rebuild a searching narrative that exposes moments of life in this ceaselessly fascinating place. At first glance her vibrant colour palette suggests a brightness that belies a darker side. Look deeper and we encounter socio-cultural issues and conflicts that define the mood of this fractured city. From its obsession with plastic surgery, designer brands and religion to its lawlessness, lethargy and ongoing lack of electricity.

The artist's latest show reveals some of the stories that make up the layers of this enigmatic city. She holds up an interpretive mirror to a society struggling to understand itself, where fragmentation and contradiction form an unsettling foundation upon which its people build and rebuild their lives with a spirit that endures.

## UND UND Ž m $\mathbf{m}$ Ζ **BEIRU E**R ÍШ

Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 910mm x 1190m



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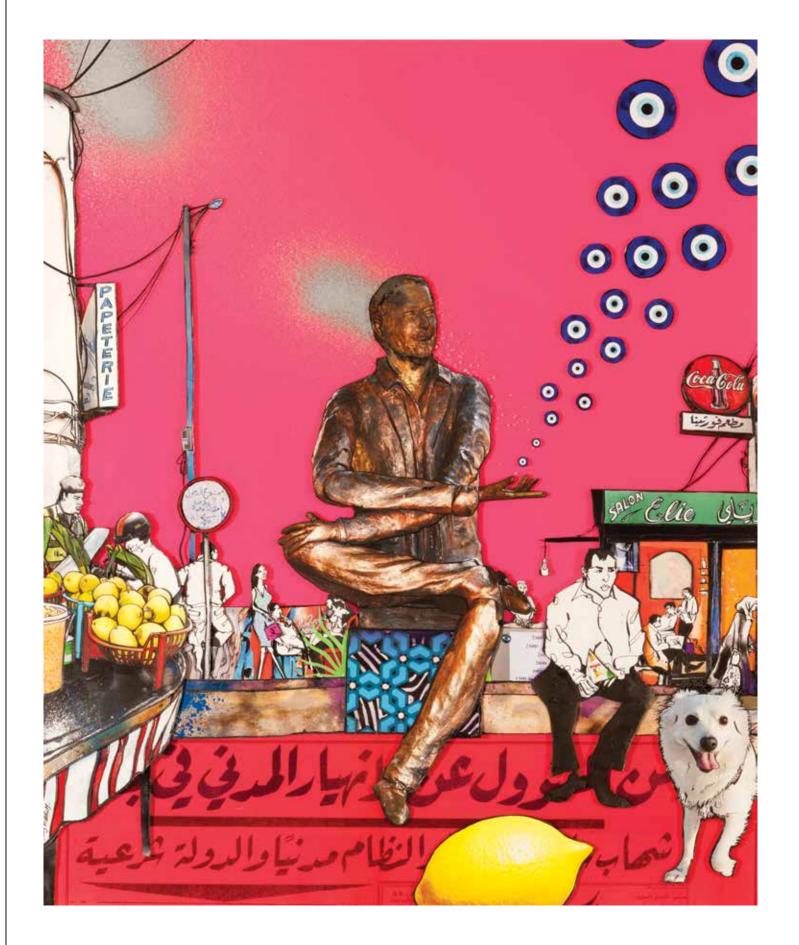


Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 910mm x 1190m



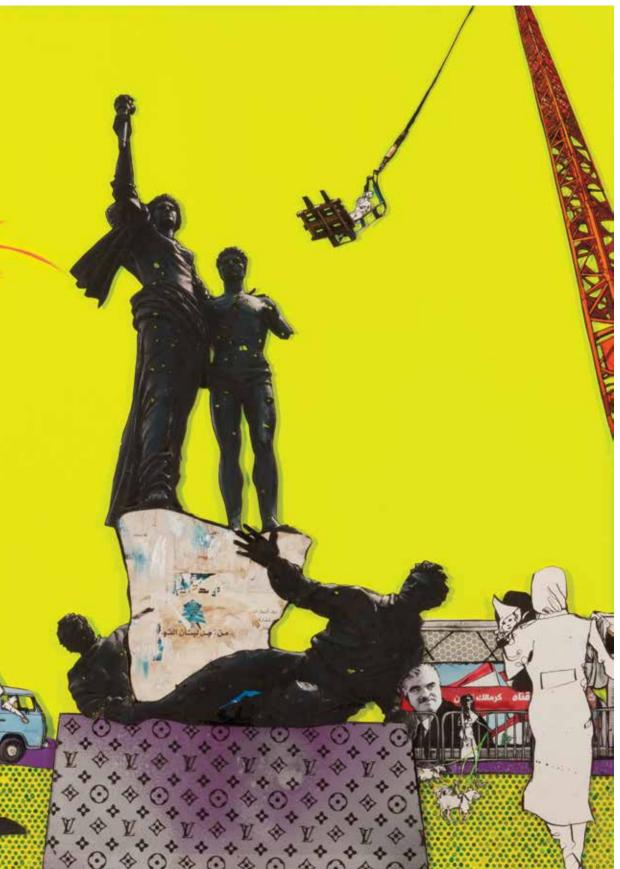
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Title: Evil Eyes Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 645mm x 740mm



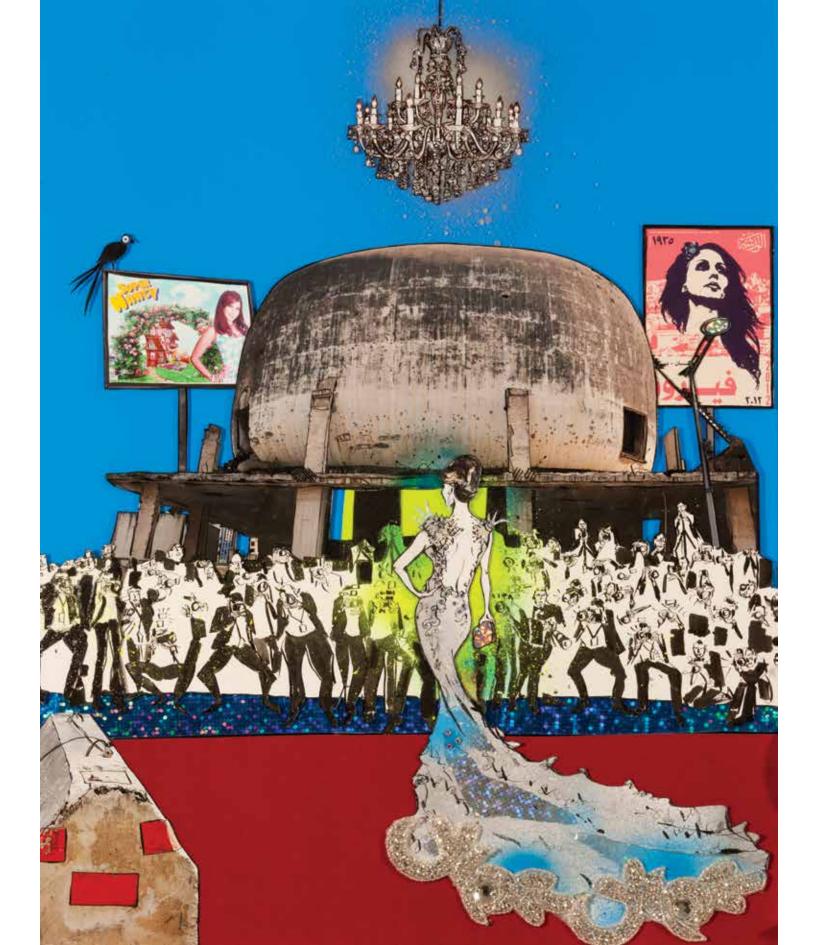
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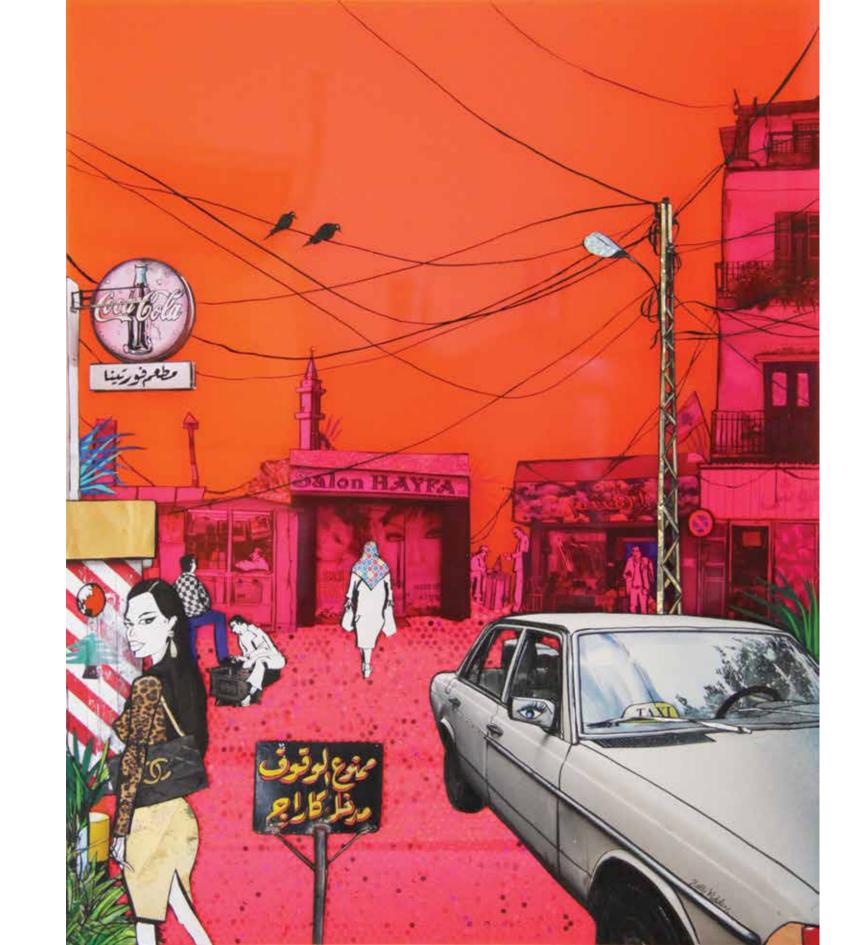
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Title: Mamnoo'a 1 (Not Allowe Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 610mm x 680mm

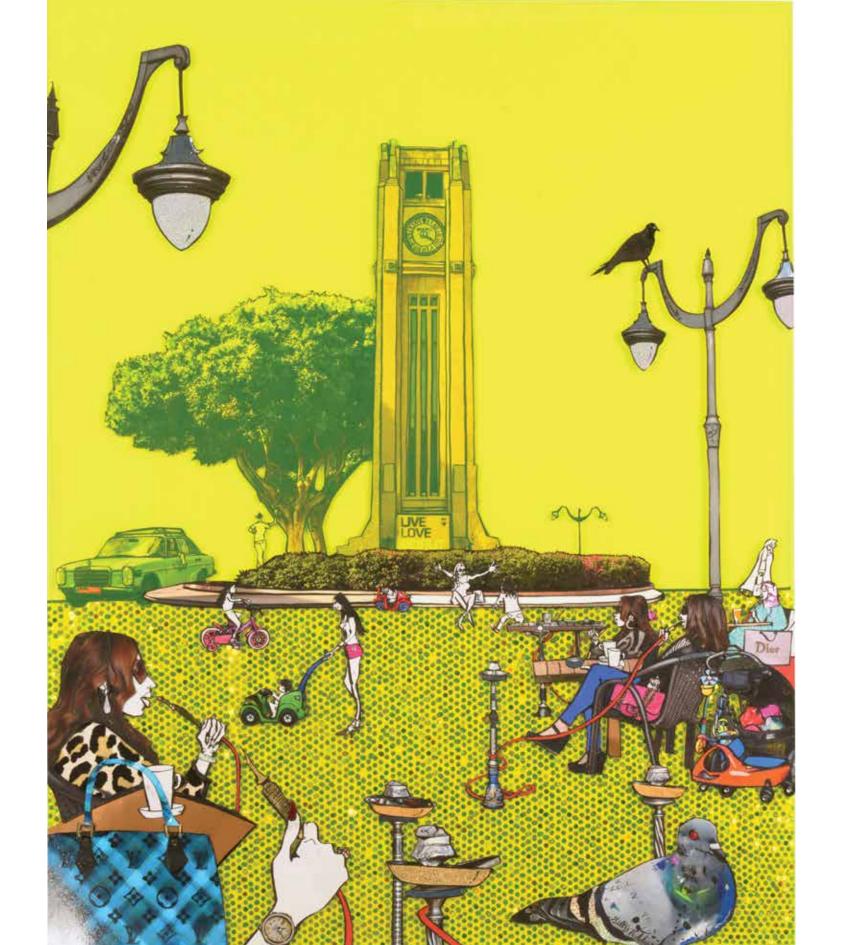


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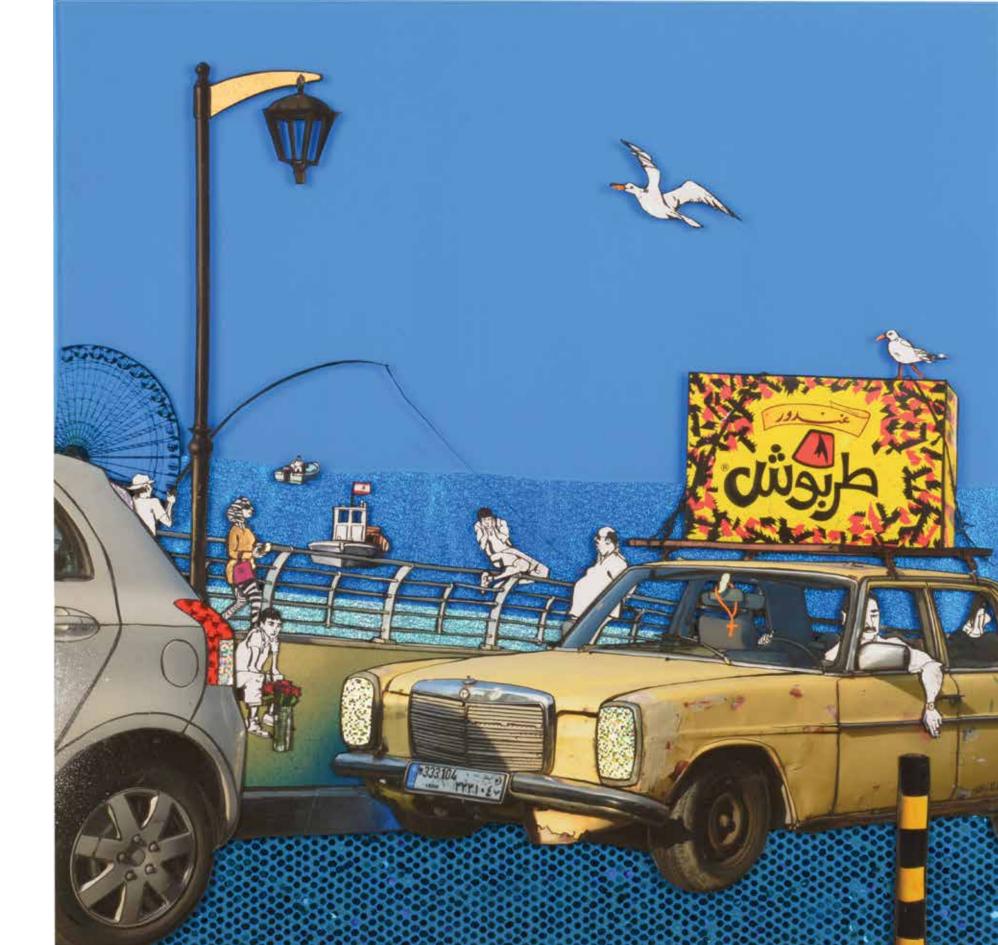


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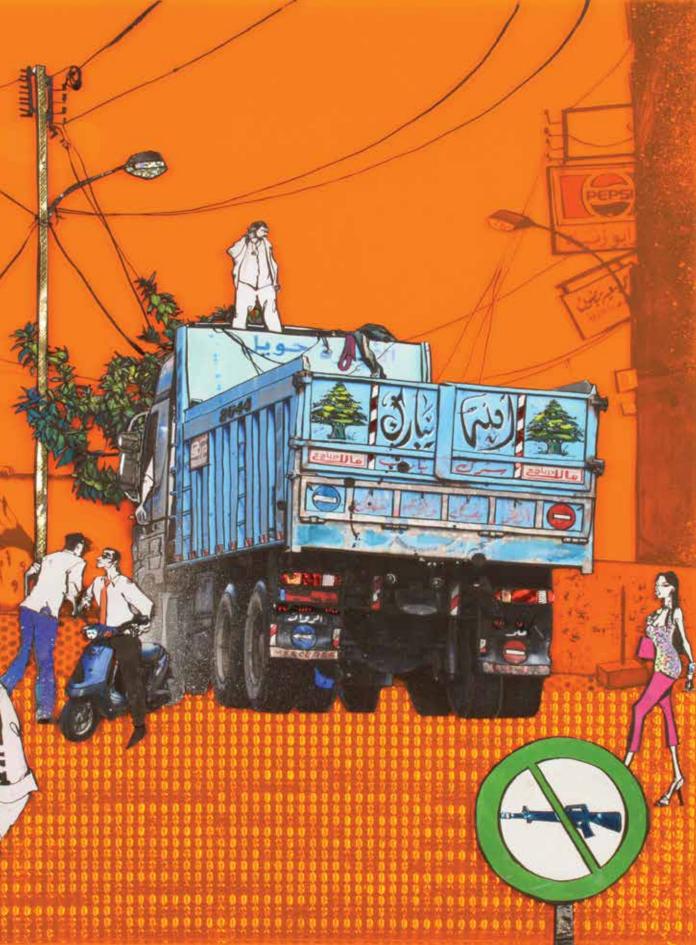




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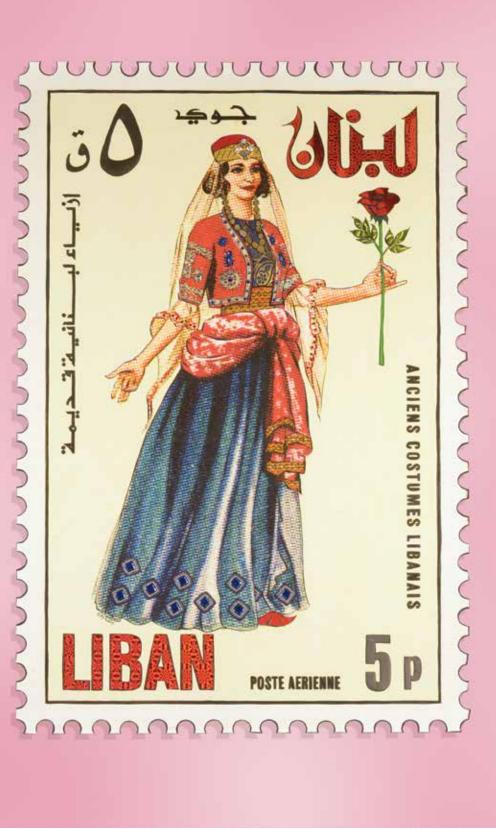


Title: God Bless Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 540mm x 610mn



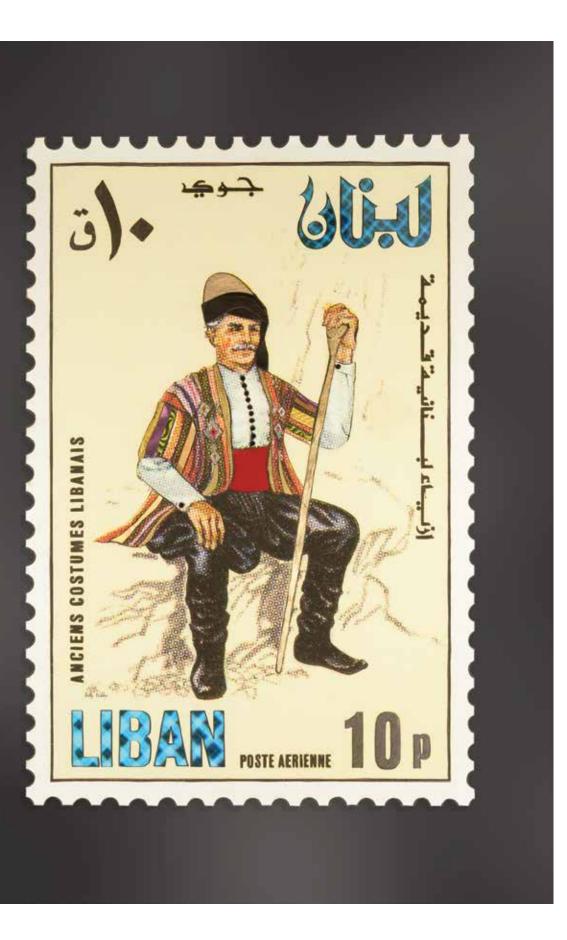
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> Title: 5p Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 865mm x 1160mm



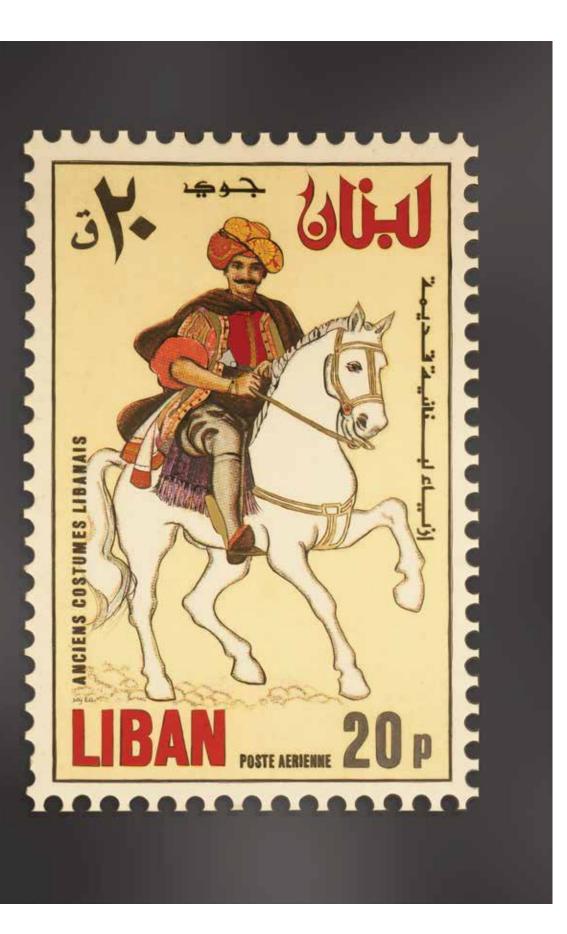


Title: 10p Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 865mm x 1160mm





Title: 20p Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 865mm x 1160mm





Title: 25p Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 865mm x 1160mm



Title: Saydeh (Virgin Marry Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 570mm x 700mm



Title: Allah Yestor ! (God Forbio Media: Mixed media Date: 2013 Size: 570mm x 700mm





The Mojo Gallery 33 AlSerkal Avenue Street 8, Al Quoz 1, Dubai +971 4 347 7388

www.themojogallery.com

