

Art Scene

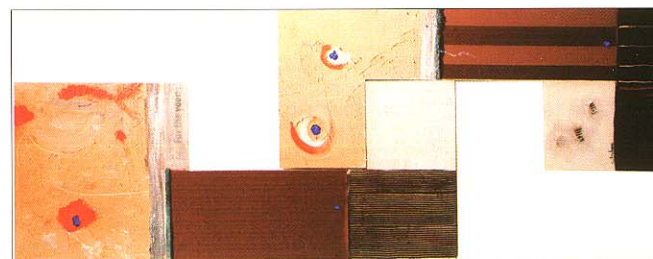
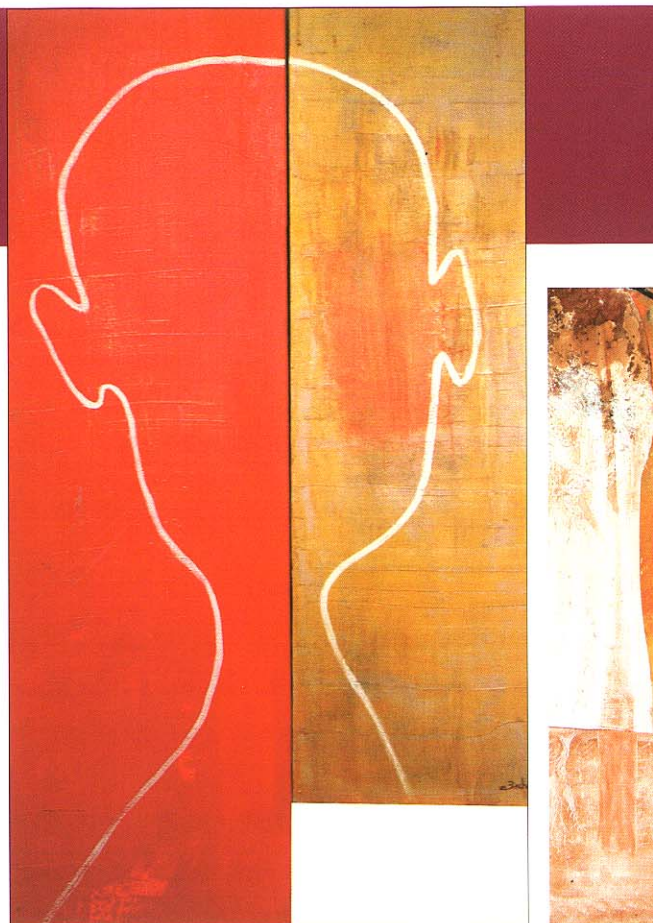
Designer turned artist

Imad Bechara's interest in art started off with interior design, which he studied in his birthplace, Lebanon. He developed a passion for painting in particular and the creative arts in general, and has pursued these in tandem with his career as an interior designer in Dubai.

His chosen medium is acrylic and mixed media, worked in an abstract and figurative style. Painting arouses many contradictions in him, he says, affording a perfect outlet for him to express his inspiration.

He launched his own studio – Bechara Studio – last month in Dubai and exhibits at the Shangri-La, Dubai this month.

The show features a set of 15 paintings that use textures and materials and have a strong sense of movement and emotion. Two paintings will be auctioned on the opening evening, and the proceeds will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.



Window to an open studio

Sixteen UAE artists ages 20 to 37 are showing their work in photography, video, system art, constructive, conceptual art and installations.

Window, curated by Mohammed Kazem, has two goals. Firstly, it aims to present the history of the open studio in Dubai and the experiences of those who passed through it. Secondly, it demonstrates the current state of the arts in the UAE, showing developments and artistic concerns pervading today's outlook and the trends and artistic movements affecting the artistic scene here. The exhibition also seeks to reveal what is different in the UAE plastic arts experience.

Assistant curator Ebtisam Abdul Aziz, whilst acknowledging that art thrives on governmental or institutional support, says, "The support of the open studio in Dubai has guaranteed the continuation of a suitable and healthy environment for art. It has nurtured artists and supported their cause no matter what their artistic predisposition." ►

