



Beirut
Printmaking
Studio

Annual Report

April 23 - March 24

LOOKING INWARDS.

This was a year of reaching new milestones for the studio. Those milestones are connected to our core values and our beliefs. We are still at the beginning of the road, but we are trusting that the projects we initiated will carry us a long way. This year, plainly put, sedimented our believe to carry on with our mission.

Our first milestone was the implementation of The Young Image-maker Artistic Development Program. It was conceived in response to the lack of art education in public schools. This program reinforces the studio's core ambition of evolving into an unconventional and free art school. Its purpose is to broaden artistic knowledge within the local community, irrespective of gender, socio-economic backgrounds, religion, and other factors.

Beyond fostering creativity and self-expression, this project offers an avenue for empowerment, enabling selected public high school students to transcend social and economic barriers and discover their unique voices. The main impact of this project is bridging gaps in access to art education, empowering students to overcome adversity and shape their own narratives, ultimately unlocking pathways to a brighter future.

Another milestone was turning out attention to researching techniques in printmaking and photography that were previously unknown to us as well as bringing back to life techniques that were completely forgotten. All driven by a desire to expand our artistic horizons and enhance our creative repertoire. We completed a full study in Gum Printing as well as silver halide emulsion making, baryta sizing, we have started a study in colotype and a deeper understanding of contrast control RA4- color chemistry for making direct positive prints.

This year, we also made the deliberate choice to reduce our exhibitions and activities in teaching in order to allow every studio artist the opportunity for introspection and to perfect their technique. By scaling back on our usual schedule, we are fostering an environment where artists can focus deeply on their craft without the pressures of constant public display. This period of reflection and refinement is intended to help each artist explore their creative process more thoroughly, leading to greater personal and artistic growth. Our hope is that this pause in our usual pace will result in more profound and polished works in the future allowing the artists to ready themselves to participate in exhibiting opportunities that will present themselves in the future.

Non-the-less, we had a busy year with a great footprint and a heavy count in production of works both in photography and printmaking.

For the year to come, we already have our course scheduled for early spring and late summer, allowing for the artists to continue with their individual and collective works as well a solid masterclass program that will stretch all the way to early spring 2025, funded through the AFAC - Arab Fund for Arts and Culture training and regional events program. This way we hope to keep true to our vision and keep inspiring our community and beyond.

Tarek Mourad
Director

MISSION

Diffuse knowledge for interdisciplinary practices in all analog printmaking techniques.

The studio draws attention to printmaking practices in Lebanon and to 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

9

courses &
workshops
offered

68

participants

4

programs

69

participants

70+

people
visited the
studio on
a monthly
basis

120+

individual
plates
produced

300+

individual
photographs
produced

PROGRAMS

PRINTMAKING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Through the support of the “Solidarité avec Beirut Printmaking Studio” initiative headed by Sabine Delahaut and Jean-Michel Uyttersprot, we were able to develop our Printmaking 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.

The fourth cohort of three scholarship holders completed their apprenticeship with a collective exhibition “The Hand that Prints - 4th edition” in Beirut. The proceeds of their sold prints funded the following year’s cohort of 3 scholarships.

PRINTMAKING RESIDENCY PROGRAM

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. We are currently in the third cohort of this program due to complete their residency in summer.

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 SERIES

This year we held our third masterclass in May. The invited artist was Jan Schlegel teaching platinum palladium printing as well as large format photography in studio using an 8x10 camera. We had 20 participants in his masterclass.

This masterclass was funded through the sales of tickets.



YOUNG IMAGEMAKERS ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Through the Beryt-CCI program, we received 48 children in grades 10 and 11 from public schools for an emersive program in printmaking and photoograpy.

The children selected from one of the two tracks, photography or printmaking and developed their projects after understanding the basic concepts and techniques in the mediums.

exhibitions

JUNE 2023

IMPRINT02

Second Printmaking Residency Program exhibition at our studio.

Beirut, Lebanon.



NOVEMBER 2023

Bienalle of Sarcelles

By invitation of the director of the bienalle, Mr. Jean-Pierre Tanguy.

Sarcelles, France.



DECEMBER 2023

Hands that Print 4th edition

Fourth Printmaking Scholarship Program exhibition at our studio.

Beirut, Lebanon.



PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS & SUPPORT



British Council's Catapult 2.0

In collaboration with the British Council, we prepared a program including two talks - Zena Miskaoui and Hassan Choubassi - along with one workshop delivered by Hatem Imam.

Philosophy in the Garden

In our series of garden talks, we received Hussein Hussein for a presentation on his research on Les Incohérents.

Fondation Taylor

We are very thankful for the continued support of the Fondation Taylor not only in helping us receive the materials needed for the continuation of our work but also for supporting us with cotton paper and an amazing exhibition of the works of our printmaking community, printmaking associations and Assadour Bezdikian.

Solidarite avec Beirut Printmaking Studio

The initiative started by Sabine Delahaut and Jean-Michel Uytensproot, and supported by over 120 artists from all over the world, has been a continued vital lifeline in guaranteeing the studio materials and tools for printmaking.

research & development

This year was also a very special year for our studio as we started research and development of new techniques as well as reviving old techniques in printmaking and photography.

We have successfully completed a full research in Gum Printing, in silver halide emulsion making and baryta sizing. Through this process, we have developed techniques and formulations of our own including the capability of successfully controlling contrast in RA-4 color printing.

The findings are all accessible to our community.



