

WORK STATEMENT

– ‘Neons by Night’ by Dalia Yassine

How would it feel to go back to basics? Back to simple times when things were what they were - like the local shop around the corner, a calm Friday night at the fair, a world devoid of constant branding and heavy advertisement. Having been in Muscat for about a year, my eyes always kept on catching and enjoying the simplicity of these store signs, especially at night when they truly pop out and come alive with their sense of innocence and truthful commerce. With that in mind, the amusement park, similarly, projected this same sense of simplicity and innocence, which spark that feeling of nostalgia for humbler days. So, I decided to create this photo-series, entitled 'Neons by Night', from these two contexts, which both emit a playful yet grim and wacky vibe. These environments almost seem so far away from what we experience on a daily basis, making it feel like a distant time lost amidst the darkness - almost like a vivid dream or memory. Here in Oman, time isn't in a hurry nor is it our silent enemy but, rather, a reminder of how we can slow down and actually create our own pace. Nothing is more modern than neon but in this case, it's just a means of being part of an uncomplicated community as opposed to competing with it. Some days, I wonder if this could be a real symbol of progress and brighter possibilities on a human level.

**This series is entering the IWPA Competition under the 'free theme' category.

BIOGRAPHY

I am a Lebanese / Brazilian artist and filmmaker working in an interdisciplinary scope within time-based media, photography, visual art and performance.

I see my work to be a playground for the visual, verbal and the visceral, in which I like to depict the strange from the mundane while questioning and distorting nature and reality. My practice is concerned with exploring fusions of eclectic sources and aesthetics to conceptualize, design and create cinematic, immersive and multi-sensory experiences within diverse contexts. I am specifically interested in the articulations between these areas of art and their function in the production of subjectivities.

My inspiration comes from, but is not limited to, nature, mysticism, surrealism, the absurd, psychology and the macabre.

My background in performance and film cultures keep me engaged in depicting selective instances, which could seem staged and unusually familiar.

Currently, I am based between Muscat and Beirut.