

PRESS RELEASE

Ribal Molaeb
The Resonating Chamber

Exhibition	09.06.2022 – 03.09.2022
Opening	Thursday, June 9 2022, from 6pm to 9pm Rue M-Dellenbach 3, 1205 Geneva

Text :
Elisa Bernard

« Painting is my mother tongue and music is my foreign language. »

A professional violinist who travels the world from concert to concert and a painter bursting with energy, Ribal Molaeb divides his time between his bow and his paintbrushes.

His works are visual scores where the two worlds that inhabit him, painting and music, meet in a constant quest for harmony. The musical education that Ribal Molaeb received in Salzburg and then in Vienna played a determining role in his paintings.

Parallel to his musical training, which began at the age of six, Ribal Molaeb was trained in painting by his father, the famous painter Jamil Molaeb. But it was not until he moved to Europe to play in Daniel Barenboim's famous West-Eastern Divan Orchestra that he began to paint seriously.

Music evolves in an abstract universe. It is therefore natural that Ribal Molaeb has engaged his pictorial approach towards abstraction to create his rhythmic landscapes where sound reality is visually reinterpreted.

In this creative synesthesia, sounds move into images and colours become melodies.

Always in search of visual and sonic interaction, Ribal Molaeb chooses colours with a dynamic structure. All these pictorial elements translate the sensations and emotions that music conveys.

« Each painter paints his own cosmogony... », Ribal Molaeb underlines.

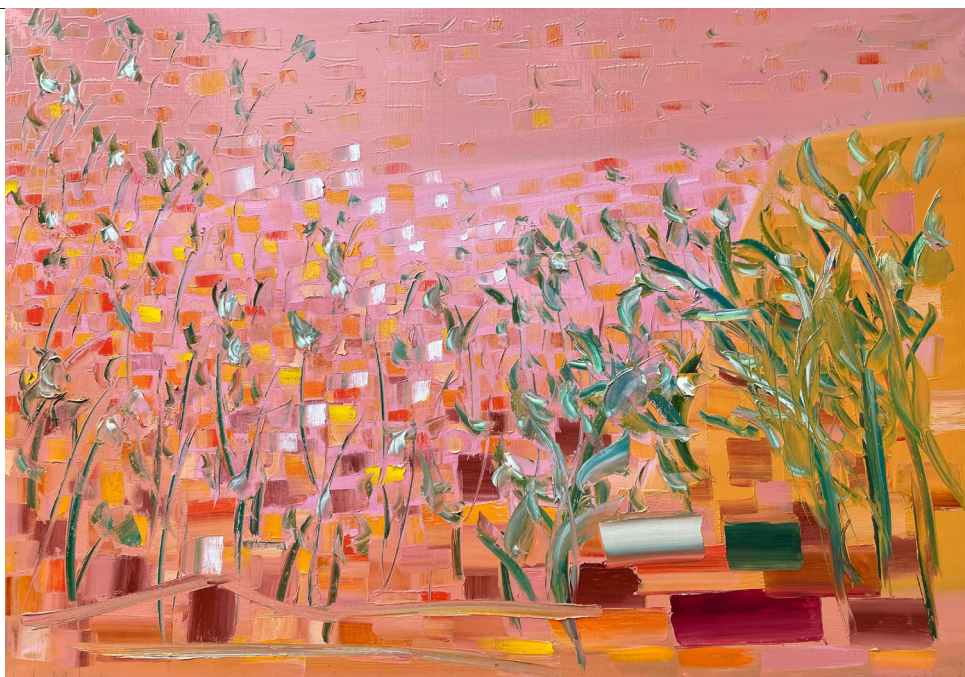
His works are windows to a dreamy and mysterious elsewhere that extends beyond his country of origin.

Lebanon, in particular Beirut, is a source of inspiration. His works bear the memory traces of the Lebanese identity. In his paintings, he envisages Lebanon in all its theatricality, contradictions, violence and hope. The Mediterranean becomes an extension of the sky, an echo chamber where a multitude of voices resound.

« The Swiss painter Paul Klee, who was an accomplished violinist, comes to mind. There is a musical orientation, in its aspects of rhythm and melody, in many of his paintings. For a long time he was undecided whether he would become a painter or a musician... »

While 20th century Lebanese abstract expressionists such as Aref el Rayess, Saliba Douaihy and Shafic Abboud inspired him from the very beginning of his practice, the Swiss painter Paul Klee played a decisive role as soon as he moved to Switzerland. Ribal Molaeb shaped his vision of abstract painting through his understanding of harmony in classical music, just as Paul Klee conceived his works as musical polyphonies.

Images available
for the press



Ribal Molaeb, *Southern Village*, 2022,
Oil on canvas,
90 × 130 cm



Ribal Molaeb, *Morning Sunrise*, 2022,
Oil on canvas,
90 × 130 cm

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Obligatory mention : ©Ribal Molaeb courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

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Ribal Molaeb, *Untitled*, 2022,
Serie "Abstract Compositions"
Oil on canvas, 40 × 40 cm

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BIOGRAPHY

Artist

Ribal Molaeb

Born in Baissour, Lebanon, in 1992, Ribal Molaeb moved to Salzburg, Austria at the age 17, to study at the Mozarteum University Salzburg. He later moved to Vienna to study at the University for Music and Performing Arts, where he received his Master's degree in Arts with distinction. Molaeb was assigned as the artistic director of "SUMITO" Art and Music Association in Switzerland. He is the president of the "Molaeb Art Museum" and the founder of "Molaeb Festival for Chamber Music and Fine Arts".

His oil paintings have been exhibited in Paris, Amsterdam, Zürich, Vienna and Beirut. He is represented by Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris and Galerie Agénor, Zürich.

He currently lives and works in Zürich, Switzerland.

Solo shows**2021**

Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris, France
ZKO Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland
Galerie Agénor, Zürich, Switzerland
Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, Lebanon

2019

Sumito Kulturverein, Switzerland

2016

Sonc Festival, Radeče, Slovenia

Group shows**2022**

Art Paris, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France
MENART FAIR, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

2021

Galerie Lalalande, Paris, France
Artb, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2020

Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, Lebanon

2019

Selections Art, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2018

ME Art Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017

Art & Poster Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland