

# MARWAN CHAMAA LA DOLCE VITA



For bitter- for sweet, 2012, oil on canvas, 132 x 180 cm

**MARWAN CHAMAA** was born in Beirut and raised in Munich, Germany. Throughout his adult life, he has lived in the USA, mainly in New York City. The diversity of the cultural backgrounds formed him into the eclectic versatile artist he is today. He views the world around him and interprets it through diverse mediums.

Marwan's art spans over three decades of thematic interpretations of the world around him. It is fundamentally his view of the world as he sees it with an ironic and sometimes sarcastic undertone.

Throughout his career, his surroundings manifested themselves in his work. His physical world is his muse. La Dolce Vita, his latest collection was born from the intertwinement of the vastness of the consumer billboards with the subject matter of our world today. The Dolce Vita series was on display at Gallerie Tanit in Mar Mkhail. The show marked a new genre in the Lebanese art world, where people from different backgrounds came to explore this narrative mural interpretation of a contemporary love story.

La Dolce Vita exudes universality. Although the story of La Dolce Vita series is set in Beirut, it could be transposed to any cosmopolitan city. Be it Los Angeles, Tokyo, Dubai, Paris, Istanbul, New York...

It is the story of an "It" girl in dire pursuit of the glamorous lifestyle, La Dolce Vita. She hooks up with the rich older lecherous man who is inclined to spend a fortune on arm candy (with benefits, of course) The Hermes Birkin, Le Must De Cartier, the Jimmy Choos, all come with a price and the "It" girl is there at the receiving end. However, in Marwan Chamaa's narrative painting, there is a twist and drama to the plot, a back-stage love story that keeps the audience guessing the outcome. La Dolce Vita series is a sign of our times. A contemporary synopsis of this generations' materialistic fascination with this glamorous lifestyle at all costs.

