

MARWAN CHAMAA'S Chagrin D'amour – The Musical



Marwan Chamaa, *Your Eyes*, 2015, *Chagrin d'amour - The Musical series*, acrylic paint on canvas, 120 x 167,5 cm (47.24 x 65.94 inch)

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Chagrin d'amour – The Musical, this series exudes of Marwan Chamaa's signature sarcastic and tongue in cheek tone. *Chagrin d'amour – The Musical's* theme is love with all of its heartaches, revenge, and passion. The mélange of the Occident and Orient, as is typical in Chamaa's works is evident in this series. Vintage Western comic book covers as well as vignettes from famous pieces of Pop-Artists are wittingly woven with 1940's - 60's Arabic love song lyrics.

First and foremost, *Chagrin d'amour - The Musical* is a love story. More precisely, each of its paintings represents a snapshot of a moment in the time line of a love affair. A love story's ups and downs; its peaks and valleys; its ecstasy and torment. Each painting is a window to the heartfelt agony or the utter passion the characters are feeling.

Marwan chose "tarab" to represent the purest form of poetry, to express the transcendental nature of being and falling in love. The term tarab refers to utter rapture and exhilaration.

It is a pure emotion that is achieved by surpassing reality and stoically reaching euphoria. Like the purity of tarab, the paintings themselves, at a first glance, are simple and two dimensional. The colors are predominantly primary and pulsating. But also like the complexity of tarab, they mesmerize and enchant by their trancelike characteristics. You are transfixed by the multi dots of Lichtenstein, hypnotized by the character's eyes, or puzzled by the motives and events of the scenes.

Where there is love, there is pain (Spanish proverb: "Donde hay amor, hay dolor") and *Chagrin d'amour - The Musical* explores that. To feel love, one must endure its pain. Both ecstasy and torment are there in full view in this series.

Chagrin d'amour - The Musical is on view from the 1st of April until the 14th of April, 2016 at the Opera Gallery Dubai. The opening reception is on the 5th of April 2016. Opera Gallery, DIFC, Gate Village Building 3, Dubai, UAE, Tel.: +971 4 304 5518