

MARWAN CHAMAA

IT'S A FAKE



Marwan Chamaa, "It's a fake", Version 1, 2017, oil on canvas, 125 x 185 cm (49.21 x 72.83 inch) © 2017 Marwan Chamaa

In his latest series "Ana biddeh" (I want), Marwan Chamaa sets off to explore the idea of Arabicity.

What does it really mean in this day and age; is there such a thing? It is worth noting here that the word Arabicity does not exist in the English dictionary. Is this indicative of something?

In fact, in his painting, "It's a fake" (Version 1) Marwan Chamaa shows us that the only unifying factor in our society is our appetite for global consumerism and greed. We have traded our identity, if there ever was one, to belong as global consumers rather than to forge a unique identity. We are lured by the biggest, the fastest, the fairest, to the point that we have lost focus of the fine print.

Our reality has become a mere stencil of the genuine thing, a semblance of the real, overly processed like the cheese we consume, overly artificial like the candy we choose, overly peroxidized like our women, enticed by the size and appearance of what seems... behind all these masks lies the dirty ugly truth, only evident when you look close.

Through it all we are settling for the fake, for the unreal, for the façade... Who knows when all is said and done if this mere painting that we see in front of us is actually real? Could it be a fake?