MARWAN CHAMAA'S
Mashrou3 Lulu/ The Lulu Project

Marwan Chamaa, Lulu-Liza painting, 2014, oil and acrylic on canvas, 131 x 215 cm (51.57 x 84.65 inch) *© 2016 Marwan Chamaa*

Mashrou3 Lulu/ The Lulu Project, is about the adventures of Lulu Moppet, nicknamed Little Lulu, and her friend Thomas Tompkins, aka Tubby. The series is painted in the style reminiscent to the original "The Little Lulu" comic strip covers. This work by Chamaa depicts a playful and innocent adventure of Little Lulu and Tubby, incorporating other characters like Hergé's character Captain Archibald Haddock and many hidden surprises. The series is comprised of two installations, one triptych and two large format paintings. Marwan's typical mélange of the Occident and the Orient, as we are used to of most of his works, is clearly evident in this series.

Little Lulu is a comic strip character created in the mid-1930s by the American cartoonist Marge Marjorie Henderson Buell who worked under the pen name Marge. The character debuted in The Saturday Evening Post on 23 February 1935 in a single panel. The Little Lulu panel continued to run weekly until 30 December 1944.

Little Lulu, the resourceful, equally silent (at first) little girl whose loopy curls were reminiscent of the artist's own as a girl. Buell explained to a reporter, "I wanted a girl because a girl could get away with more fresh stunts that in a small boy would seem boorish". Lulu is a kind and sincere little girl who, though prone to mischief, usually ends up saving the day.

Thomas "Tubby" Tompkins, is Lulu's friend and the leader of the fellers. He has helped Lulu many times and has tormented her just as much. As the junior detective, he has helped Lulu get out of hot water.

The characters appeared in comic books, animated cartoons, greeting cards and more. Little Lulu comic books, popular internationally, were translated into Arabic, Dutch, Finnish, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Greek. *

Mashrou3 Lulu/ The Lulu Project is on view from the 18th of June until the 31st of August, 2016 at Tawlet in Mar Mikhayel. The "Sob7iyeh" opening reception is on the 18th of June, 2016 from 10AM until 1PM. Tawlet, Naher Street, Chalhoub Building, Mar Mikhayel, Beirut, Lebanon. Tel: 01-448129, 76 -472465

**Resource: Wikipedia and other on-line sources*