

PRESS RELEASE

marwan chamaa's

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Marwan Chamaa, "CNN", 2020, acrylic on canvas, 119.50x 119.50cm (47.05x 47.05 inch)

Sunday in the Park with Tom

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Dear Tom:

I hope that all is well at your end. I have been so busy since moving that I have not had the time to sit and write. Now that I'm enjoying a sunny day in the park, here's an update on what has been going on in the past weeks.

I can see you rolling your eyes while you read this: first thing I did when I arrived is going to the Apple Store to buy the latest iPhone. I know, you are not impressed, but I have been dreaming of this multi-lens camera! Used my latest acquisition to Google a real-estate agent to rent a flat; I actually found it in record time. I bought all my furniture from IKEA, YES IKEA... I know very well what you think of them but as you know I am a fast-food kinda guy ;)

Next week, DHL will ship the TV that was on sale at Amazon. I must have a TV to watch CNN's updates on NASA's latest Mars images. I, of course, tweeted while sipping on a Coke (trying to cut back) about my fabulous new location. As you have seen, I already shared many photos on Facebook and surprisingly got many likes even by haters.

Last Wednesday, I got invited to a birthday event at the museum; I took a beautiful kit of painting-by-numbers as a gift. I'm sure you'll agree that it's an appropriate gift. Oh yeah, nearly forgot to mention: as I got out of the Uber, I was amazed by this huge polyptych masterpiece at the very entrance of the museum (check the photo attached). Tom, it's beautiful here, you should come visit.

Love,
Marwan

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Marwan Chamaa's series "Sunday in the Park with Tom" is an illustrated letter to "Tom". From this premise, Marwan Chamaa embarked on interpreting the world today, whether it being on making masterpieces available to the masses by painting-by-numbers to the intertwined thread that holds our diverse lives together through global conglomerates. His canvases each depict companies seen with static that sometimes blurs or taints our perception of reality making each interaction a personal experience.

Use your Apple iPhone to Google a real-estate agent to rent a flat, buy your furniture from IKEA, DHL will ship your TV that you bought from Amazon to watch the breaking news on CNN about NASA, send a tweet on Twitter while sipping on a Coke to inform your followers about relocating to a new location after sharing photos of your new flat on Facebook and jumping in an Uber to meet your friends to celebrate... just another day in the 21st century.

Painting by Numbers

Marwan Chamaa uses Tom Wesselman as a vessel to transmit his message about the popularization of Art. Based on the phrase "every man, a Rembrandt" coined by Dan Robbins in the 1950s, Chamaa transforms four Wesselman pieces into art that can be allegedly duplicated by any man or woman who wishes to create an art piece. This phenomenon was noticed and used by Andy Warhol, who in the 1960s used the paint-by-numbers approach to further emphasize the message of Pop Art.

Untitled 6

In this massive polyptych, comprised of six (hexptych) 75x100cm paintings, Marwan Chamaa exhibits how a variety of well known names, recognized by masses, like Kellogg's, Hello Kitty, and Obelix to name a few, could be unified by a large female nude in the style of Tom Wesselman that embodies pop culture symbolism.

Tom, Dick, and Henriette

Nine paintings emphasize our dependence on conglomerates and the influence of their global brand names on our daily lives. Marwan Chamaa brings his bold message across by including brand names on his canvases painted in the signature style of Tom Wesselman.

Google, Ikea, Apple, Twitter, Amazon, Facebook, DHL, CNN, Coco Cola, NASA... have you tried spending a day recently without encountering any of these logos delicately embedded in Wesselman inspired scenes?

Whatever it is that you try to do, there they are. Try searching for something without Google, or talk about a finding without Twitter... Can we still function without some or all of those brands? Can a business run without them? Can a student do his research? Can we get our news without them?

We can't even communicate with each other without including the branded-verbs in our vocabulary. Let's google a topic, send a tweet, and post it on facebook. So much so, that they reside in the most serene surroundings like those portrayed in the series.



Marwan Chamaa, Uber, Sunday in the Park with Tom series, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 38.5 x 223 cm (15.16 x 87.80 inch)