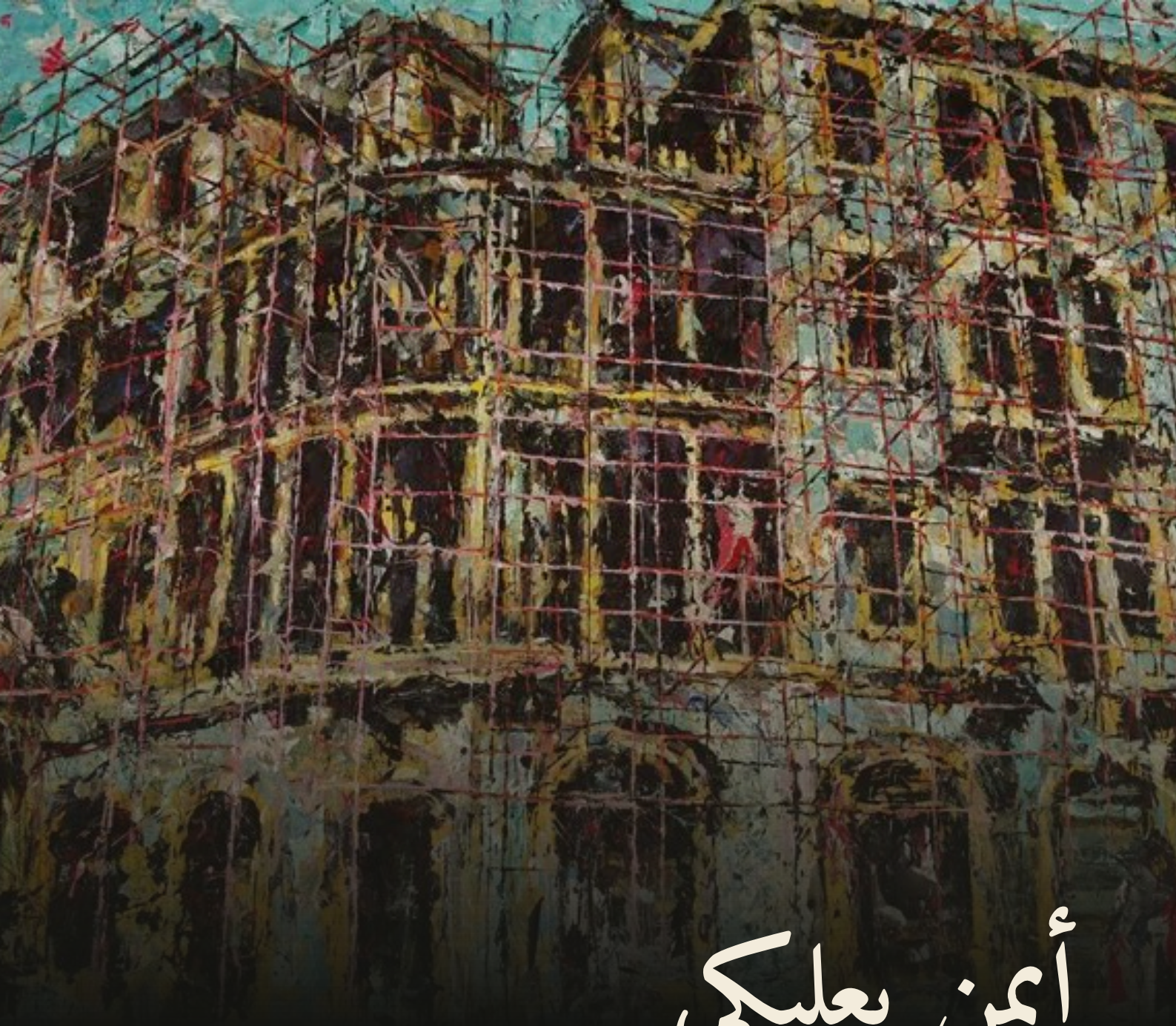


أيمن بعلبكي

Ayman *Baalbaki.*

Born in 1975, the year Lebanon's civil war began. Lives and works in Beirut.
Painting, sculpture and installation.

Press kit

PRIVATE REVIEW EDITION · NOVEMBER 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Growing up in *Wadi Abu Jamil.*

Ayman Baalbaki grew up in Beirut's Wadi Abu Jamil neighbourhood. His family came from Adaisseh in southern Lebanon. His father, Fawzi, and his uncle Abdelhamid were both artists and teachers. At home, his father also taught the children classical Arabic poetry.

Some of Baalbaki's paintings begin with floral fabric stretched over canvas. The printed flowers recall the patterned clothing he saw in Wadi Abu Jamil. Over them he paints the concrete towers and apartment blocks of Beirut, sometimes adding a copper inscription or a line of neon.

Baalbaki lives and works in Beirut. He studied fine arts at the Lebanese University, then art and space at the École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. He completed his postgraduate studies at Université Paris VIII in 2003.



Ayman Baalbaki's studio, 2019 · Saleh Barakat Gallery

I

The wounded building

Beirut's landmarks, scarred by shrapnel and bullets, painted as monuments to what the city lived through.

II

The masked face

Al-Mulatham, the masked one: a figure wrapped in a keffiyeh, held between anonymity and visibility.

III

The floral ground

Printed floral fabric recalls the clothes on balcony lines and the gardens families had to leave behind.

IV

What we carry

A car loaded with a household's belongings: departure, displacement and the search for somewhere to settle.

SOURCES: DALLOUL ART FOUNDATION · SALEH BARAKAT GALLERY

Born with the war.

Painting what remains.

1975	**A childhood in Beirut**	Born the year Lebanon's civil war began, Baalbaki grew up close to the line dividing East and West Beirut.
1998	**Fine arts in Lebanon**	Diploma in fine arts at the Lebanese University; moved to Paris in 2000.
2001–03	**Amman and Paris**	Two summers in Amman with painter Marwan Kassab Bachi; postgraduate degree at Université Paris VIII, 2003.
2006–07	**Haret Hreik**	The July 2006 war displaced his family from Beirut's southern suburbs. In 2007 he began Tammouz, a series of damaged buildings.
2013	**A car in Vancouver**	Destination X recreated for Safar/Voyage at the Museum of Anthropology, UBC.
2020	**The silos**	After the port explosion he painted the surviving silos in Warehouse N°12.
2022	**Venice**	With filmmaker Danielle Arbid, he represented Lebanon at the 59th Venice Biennale.

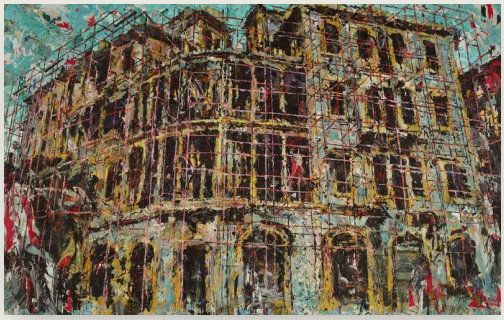


Janus Gate, Lebanon Pavilion, 59th Venice Biennale, 2022 · La Biennale di Venezia

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2025–26	**From Venice to Beirut: The World in the Image of Man**	Nuhad Es-Said Pavilion for Culture, Beirut. 5 November 2025–10 January 2026. The Lebanese pavilion project returned to Beirut.
2022	**The World in the Image of Man**	Lebanon Pavilion, 59th Venice Biennale. Ayman Baalbaki and Danielle Arbid, curated by Nada Ghandour.
2021–22	**How Will It End?**	Villa Empain, Brussels. 2 December 2021–6 February 2022. A port painting by Baalbaki appeared in the northern room.
2019	**Glasstress**	Fondazione Berengo, Murano. Czech Hedgehog appeared again after its 2013 presentation.
2016	**Blowback**	Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut. Baalbaki's solo presentation in Beirut.
2013	**Safar/Voyage**	Museum of Anthropology at UBC, Vancouver. 20 April–15 September 2013. Baalbaki recreated Destination X for the exhibition.
2011	**Beirut Again and Again**	Rose Issa Projects, London. 9 November–9 December 2011. Buildings and masked figures appeared together in the exhibition.

The city *and the face.*



Barakat Building

2016

Mixed media on canvas · 250 × 400 cm

Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery

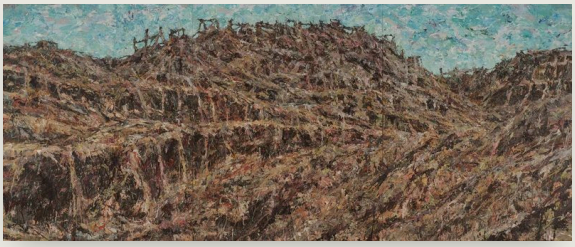


Piccadilly Theater

2019

Acrylic on poster laid on canvas · 280 × 390 cm

Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery



All That Remains

2016

Mixed media on canvas · 250 × 600 cm

Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery

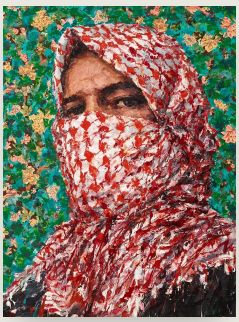


Draw the Curtains

2016

Mixed media on canvas and neon · 220 × 400 cm

Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery



Al Mulatham · الملثم

2013

Acrylic on canvas and printed fabric · 200 × 150 cm

Image: Dalloul Art Foundation via Google Arts & Culture



Al Mulatham

2019

Resin · 140 × 120 × 65 cm

Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery

Journeys *and aftermath.*



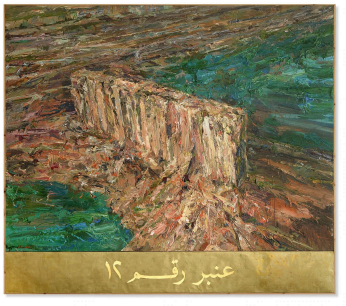
MEA

2015–2016
Mixed media on canvas · 150 × 380 cm
Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery



The Middle East

2014
Acrylic on canvas · 176 × 200 cm
Image: Saleh Barakat Gallery



Warehouse N°12 · عنبر رقم ١٢

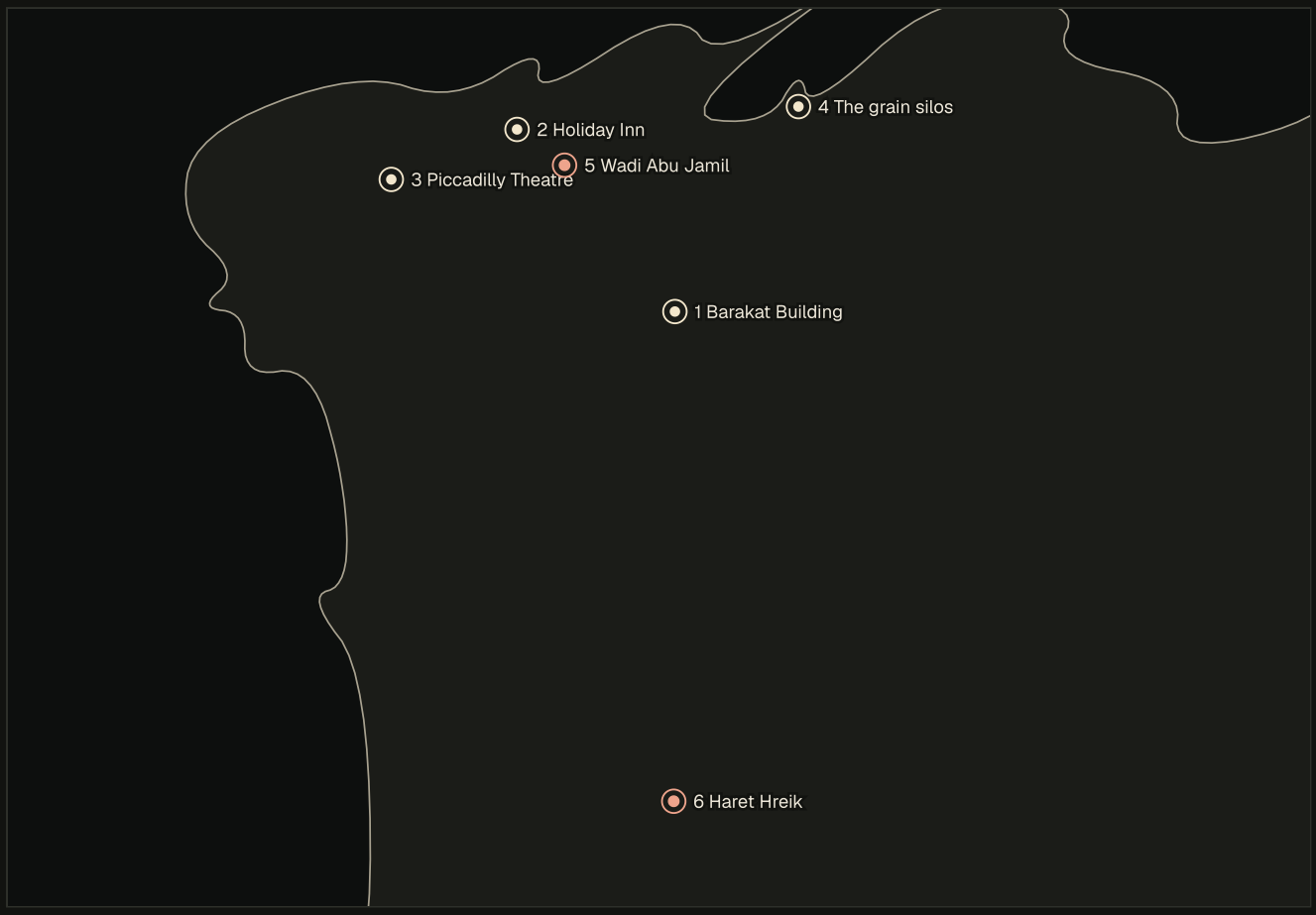
2020
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas · 175 × 200 cm
Image: A&E Magazine, coverage of Christie's We Are All Beirut auction



Destination X

2010 / 2013
Installation · Variable dimensions
Image: Museum of Anthropology, UBC

The city *he painted.*



01 **Barakat Building** بيت بيروت

SODECO CROSSROADS · BUILT 1924

The “Yellow House” stood on the Green Line that divided the city. During the war it became a sniper’s post over the Sodeco crossroads. Restored, it reopened as Beit Beirut, a house for the city’s memory.

02 **Holiday Inn** فندق هولياداي إن

MINET EL HOSN · OPENED 1974

The hotel had been open for less than a year when the war began. Fought over in 1975 and 1976, it has stood as a gutted, bullet-marked tower above the city ever since.

03 **Piccadilly Theatre** مسرح البيكاديللي

HAMRA STREET · OPENED 1965

Fairuz and Dalida performed here when Hamra was the heart of the city’s cultural life. The theatre has stood closed for decades. In 2019 Baalbaki painted its empty auditorium.

04 **The grain silos** إهراءات القمح

PORT OF BEIRUT · 4 AUGUST 2020

The silos took much of the port explosion and shielded parts of west Beirut. Part of their northern block collapsed in 2022. Baalbaki returned to them in Warehouse N°12 and Les Silos de Beyrouth.

05 **Wadi Abu Jamil** وادي أبو جميل

CHILDHOOD · THE FAMILY HOME

His parents settled in this downtown quarter, where he grew up. The patterned clothing he saw here returns in the printed floral fabric beneath many of his paintings.

06 **Haret Hreik** حارة حريك

SOUTHERN SUBURBS · 1995 · 2006

The family moved here in 1995. The neighbourhood was razed in the 2006 war, and they were displaced once more.

COASTLINE © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS (ODBL)

CONTACT

Continue the *conversation.*

INSTAGRAM	Ayman Baalbaki @ayman_baalbaki
INTERVIEWS	In conversation with Basel Dalloul, Dalloul Art Foundation, 4 April 2022 Interview with Philippe Dagen, Le Monde, May 2022
COLLECTIONS	Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut · Fondation Carmignac, France · Charles Al Sidaoui Private Collection (credited by Dubai Collection)
IMAGE SOURCES	Saleh Barakat Gallery · Museum of Anthropology, UBC · La Biennale di Venezia · Dalloul Art Foundation · Rose Issa Projects · Fondazione Berengo · Institut du monde arabe · Dubai Collection

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