Raymond Essayan

yoke

2022 | Metal sheets & neon tubes
100 x 100 cm
Edition of 3

With his work "yoke" he looks through the lenses of the frameworks of the five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal and water). He reflects on the understanding of natural laws, the mathematical Universal order. Which provides a master blueprint that diagrams how nature interacts with the body. Teaching us how the different dimensions of our Being, impact each other. Where the balancing happens between our body, mind, emotions, and spirit. Each element interacts with other elements for the creation cycle to occur. Showing the hidden interaction of the alchemy of essence within our living environment.

With the work "yoke", Essayan is going against the disposable way of thinking. Whereas our striving for the new and future-focused innovation are the modern day's, parameters of "success". What if, we already possess all the intelligence needed? We solely need to remember it by accessing our inner-world through connecting with objects that can behold this moment of contemplation.

Objects have the power to unreal past memories and experiences. Our interaction with the object can be a point of release. Giving us spiritual guidance to surpass our old selves and choose who we want to be in life. Objects enable us to do so as within interaction with our human bodies we feed ourselves with this energy. Through perceiving the beauty of object, it reflects back to the beauty we can sense within and that we all possess.
The object is based upon the Shri Yantra geometry. A yantra is an instrument or tool, for meditation and contemplation and supports spiritual liberation. In 1987, Russian scientists used EEG technology to prove that the Shri Yantra geometry quickly brings viewers to a meditative state. The Yantra is viewed as a sacred object as it is "tuned to a specific vibration of energy. In Sanskrit, the word "yantra" comes from the root word "yam," which means "instrument" or "support," and "tra," derived from "trana," meaning "release from bondage."

Edition of 1, unique piece.

Kamareen

2010 | Copper sheets and neon tubes
100 x 70 cm
Unique piece

The title of this art piece is "Kamareen", the dual form of the Arabic word moon. Two semicircles - the two moons represent the duality that the artist sees in every aspect of life. Our beliefs make our reality. With destruction comes new form, new meaning and new life. The offset copper sheets are connected through a bent neon tube that is segmented by black stripes. The separation being clear but filled with the essence of light. The dual aspect seems shifted not vertically. Both are part of a whole

Light is the union, the viewer has to follow the rhythmic order of the shining light segments and black stripes closely in order to decypher the Morse code that is embedded into this work. The code is the key to reveal the secret message this work conveys.

This piece consists of two thick copper sheets with neon tubes framing the round curve of its edges. The original art work [left] was damaged by the explosion and gave Essayan the idea of creating a new surface, thus adding a new meaning to it. He gave the surface a marble looking appearance through different techniques of oxidation. This improvised experiment created a unique transformation of the copper by using heat, cold and oxidation - referring to the trimmed edges of the Beirut Port explosion and the Covid 19. It is also a creative process that forms a new surface generating new associations and meanings. The new finish reminds us of a satellite picture of the Earth, resembling the formations on the water surface.

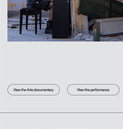
No Signal

2010 | Colored Plexiglass Installation
70 x 40 cm

Inspired by the song "Tootl tootl 'e Beirut" this piece is representing the contrasting sides of the artist's hometown. The title deliberately evokes the sound of a car horn suggesting a fun-tide through the colourful city of Beirut which is underscored by the coloured lights of the piece. The artist plays with the arrangement of two round shaped coloured neon compositions appear to be TV test signals repeatedly flashing the words "Toot" and "Beirut".

Exhibition Biennale of Contemporary Art 2010 Lebanon (NACAM)
Edition of 3 (2 available)

Consequently, the sound of the car horn turns into a static monotonous signal that sounds endlessly: cars stuck in traffic! As if staring at a television screen, the viewer is captivated by this colourful and bizarre image. The artist puts us into a state of rigidity simultaneously reminding us of its context, as the background of the piece looks familiar to a typical Beirut sidewalk pavement providing a physical reference to the location of the hall. Also, hinting at an Arabic proverb 'toot 'aleyk', the artist is giving a satirical comment on the disfunction of the daily life in Lebanon.



Beirut in Silence

2020 | video performance, music composition and a good piece out of rubble

The blast in Beirut's harbor in 2020 has given his life purpose. Having experienced the blast at close range, he dealt with the event through an archival assembly of its residue. Collecting scrap materials of wood and metal and giving it an overlay of sound, light and poetry.

AIRE followed Essayan and together they made the reportage "Beirut in Silence". Having been injured by the blast, he felt the importance of sharing through his own experience. Showing the world, the tremendous impact the blast is still having on its local community.

View the Arte documentary

View the performance

Void

2020 | Neon tubes, plexiglass

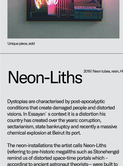
This piece represents the emptiness we sense inside and that we often fear. It almost is an alienating experience to feel this void. It is a void that is changing and is unknown and has a correlation with darkness. Essayan, made a sculpture referencing our universe with its black holes and other wordly life. The linkage between our own body and the universe as an interconnected Super body is to be questioned whilst observing this sculpture.

Edition of 1, unique piece.

M for Magnanumous

2020 | Neon tubes, black light, vinyl and painted plexiglass

Private commission



Unique piece, sold

Neon-Liths

2010 | Neon tubes, neon, HPL, stainless steel

Dystopias are characterised by post-apocalyptic scenarios that create damaged people and distorted visions. In Essayan' s context it is a distortion his country has created over the years: corruption, sectarianism, state bankruptcy and recently a massive chemical explosion at Beirut its port.

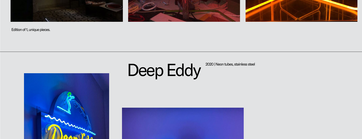
The neon-installations the artist calls Neon-Liths (referring to pre-historic megaliths such as Stonehenge) remind us of distorted space-time portals which – according to ancient astronomical theorists – were built to make contact with extra-terrestrial civilisations. What would extra- terrestrial beings witness if they looked through one of these Neon-portals? How can an artist provide a visual perspective to depict his reality?

Part of the exhibition "Dystopia" Beirut Digital District (2018)
Exposition "The Night of the Museum" in NACAM (2018)

Edition of 1, unique piece.

Life thread

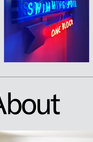
2010 | Neon tubes, HPL, stainless steel

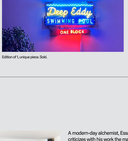


Edition of 1, unique pieces.

Deep Eddy

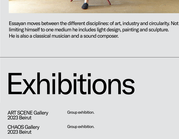
2022 | Neon tubes, stainless steel





Edition of 1, unique piece. Sold.

About



Essayan moves between the different disciplines of art, industry and circularity. Not limiting himself to one medium he includes light design, painting and sculpture. He is also a classical musician and a sound composer.

A modern-day alchemist, Essayan criticizes with his work the mass-production within nowadays industry standards. Being born within a family of industrialists, he grew up working in the Neon lighting factory of his ancestors. Through observation he learned the ways of the Neon-makers and started to combine his perspective on the production materials. He is fascinated by the devaluation process of a material, transitioning from being perceived as a valuable resource for the consumer market towards being discarded on the street as trash. Looking through his eyes nothing is a waste material, it has transformative potential. Working side by side with the Neon-makers he witnessed how the material cycle can be enhanced. Using a novel treatment for the discarded material, through for instance temperature fluctuations and chemical applications.

Raymond Essayan is based both in Paris, France and in Beirut, Lebanon. He studied mechanical engineering and theoretical physics at Notre Dame University, Lebanon. During his studies, his passion for arts, crafts and music started to emerge. Currently, he is pursuing his studies at École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy" (ENSAPC).

His work has been shown in many exhibitions in Beirut, Venice and Paris since 2016.

Exhibitions

ART SCENE Gallery
2023 Beirut

CHAOS Gallery
2022 Beirut

ZALFA HALABI Gallery
2022 Beirut

NAYEF FRANCIS DESIGN Gallery
2022-ongoing

Group exhibition.

Group exhibition.

Group exhibition "DEAR MOON " of five local artists from Beirut.

Long term partnership of neon-based sculptures on show.

DUTCH DESIGN WEEK
2022 Eindhoven

VENICE BIENNALE "MEADOWS MASK ART"
EUNESCO
2022 Venice

BERTRAND GRIMONT
2021 Paris

"Lebanese Brand, Global Street", initiative of Fortaleneers in collaboration with Qasiha Institute. With the mission to connect Lebanese artists and designers to the European market.

under the patronage of UNESCO Beirut Office, is testimony that history repeats itself with the admirable creativity of over 250 artists from Lebanon and countries contributing generously with their art to fight COVID 19.

Group exhibition.

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