

Artist Statement

Art is my self-therapy through which I explore unrelentingly my unknown nature. I started drawing before I knew how to write and before I knew what art was. It was something that came naturally to me and allowed me to explore other images and destinies than were given to me by my society, ie. Orientalist visions of the self, or ending up on the street or unemployed. I was lucky enough to have a teacher in middle school who recognized that I had that ability, though it was not one that was encouraged by my society/religion, and from then on I became interested in the history of art.

Through painting, photography and video, I try to reinvent and rewrite the history of the human being by way of emotions because I come from a culture in which representational art is prohibited. Likewise, in my culture, eroticism is restricted to a hypocritical and fenced off section of life, though the sensual is a very important part of it. The body is constantly at the fore of my vision, and especially mutilated bodies, which are present in the large handicap population of Tangier who are not hidden, but instead work or beg. I try to bring questions of the body and sexuality into daily life through the eroticism of paint.

At the same time, in my culture, we are not allowed to question our own existence because everything is explained through the story of religion and we are not allowed to doubt societal and even political conventions because religious law dictates how we live our lives.