



Tree of Life, at Bellevue Medical Centre

(June 2nd – December 1st, 2016)

“The effect of beautiful objects, of variety of objects, and especially of brilliance of colour is hardly at all appreciated ... Little as we know about the way in which we are affected by form, by colour, and light, we do know this, that they have an actual physical effect. Variety of form and brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery”

(Florence Nightingale, Notes on Nursing, 1859).

Bellevue Medical Centre's pioneering vision pushes the boundaries of medicine not only through its state of the art technologies and know-how, but also through a healing philosophy with the delivery of cutting edge cultural projects and contemporary art.

Tree of Life is the first chapter of a project initiated by Hania Farrell, bringing contemporary art to Lebanese hospitals in order to create an experience of positive distraction for patients, families and medical staff alike. The goal is to create an atmosphere promoting greater communication, healing, while bettering the patients' psychological conditions, responsiveness to treatment and their overall wellbeing. Placing art within the care environment has proved itself an incredibly powerful route to recovery, effective across borders and cultures.

Tree of Life is graphic abstraction of light, acting as an entry point to a state of peacefulness, a bridge between natural and oneiric space. Initially conceived as a site-specific photographic installation for the exhibition Teal, where it was exhibited encased within a skylight, and later shown at Beirut Art Week 2015, Singapore Art Fair 2014, and Teal, London, 2013.

Hania Farrell (b. 1965, Beirut) is a London-based visual artist whose practice sets out to expand the medium of photography by creating immersive, multimedia environments. Interested in exploring the innate relatability within humankind and, more widely, within the natural realm, her work resonates with the deeper emotional level of being human, transporting the audience to an uplifting status of innocence, highlighting structural commonalities while questioning issues of identity, belief systems and cultural stereotypes.

Recent projects include TEAL, a major site-specific solo exhibition at a derelict Chelsea townhouse (London, 2013), solo presentations at Beirut Art Fair (2014, 2015) and Singapore Art Fair (2014), as well as commissions for Beirut Art Week (Air France, 2014; VERTU, 2015). Group shows include "Of the Sea" Art in the Dockyard 2016 (Chatham, 2016), Stewarts Law RCA Secret (Dubai, London, 2016), Point & Shoot at Cock'n Bull Gallery (London, 2013).

Farrell was a finalist of the Saatchi Magazine ART&MUSIC's Point & Shoot competition (2013) and was nominated to submit for Prix Pictet 2015. Her work is represented in private collections across the UK, the US, Indonesia, Lebanon, UAE, Italy and Switzerland.

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