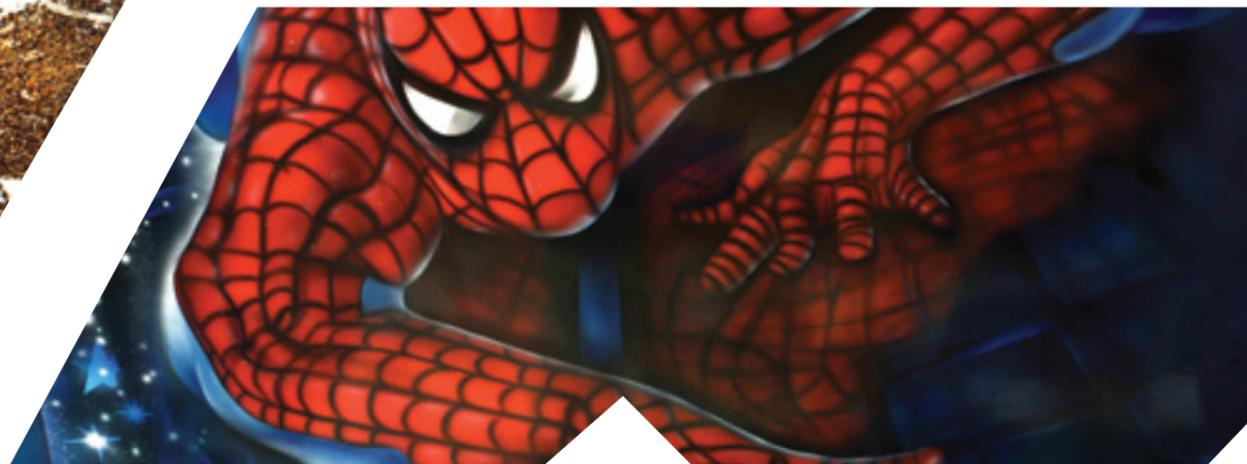




HADY BEYDOUN



With a tendency to find beauty in unlikely places, artist extraordinaire Hady Beydoun continues to engage the hearts and minds of all his fans with his deeply expressive works of art. Though he's mostly known for having spearheaded the tattoo movement in Lebanon, Beydoun is also a seasoned veteran of graphic design, sculpture, and painting. He rose from humble beginnings to great prominence in the Lebanese art scene by virtue of his unyielding determination and rare talent; a tried and tested combination that's sure to intensify in the years to come.

What was it that set you on the path to becoming a tattoo artist? How did you discover your passion for it?

I never wanted to conform in any way and this showed in the way I chose to present myself. I began by drawing on my t-shirts and eventually a friend asked me to draw a design from a tattoo magazine on a t-shirt for him. This would be the beginning of my passion for tattoo art.

How did you turn that passion into a thriving career where you're also a graphic designer, an airbrush illustrator, a sculptor, and a painter?

You evolve. With time you try new things and discover your abilities and then continue to develop them.

What's a typical day on the job for you?

My days change depending on my moods. Some days I tattoo all day I design all night, other days I just can't be bothered to do anything.

How do you approach new projects? Does your approach change for different artistic trades?

Every media has its own means of expression. What you can do with wood you cannot do with metal. What you do with metal you cannot do with canvas. The desired end product also defines the way I go about things and that depends on the nature of the project I'm working on.

Where do you draw your inspiration from?

What inspires you is always a question you ask yourself when you're in a certain mood. It's the color of that mood that decides your answer and defines the medium and the shape of your work; in doing that work you're materializing both the question and the answer.

Of all your work, what are you most proud of? Do you feel your art contributes to the Lebanese community?

I'm proud of a lot of my works individually but I just don't have the luxury to stop and say "this is it." What makes you produce more is the anxiousness, never stopping for breath; comfort is stagnation.

Do you think opinions of tattoos have changed in Lebanon over the years?

Absolutely. The values of society around the world have changed almost 180 degrees over the past 10 years. What was once considered shameful is now considered shameless and the virtue of the past is now no longer valid. This isn't something that applies to tattoos alone, you can see it in many other aspects of society as well.

Have you ever thought to apprentice someone in tattoo art?

Maybe but it's too early for me, I'm still very busy. When the time comes I'll feel it but it's not something I can handle right now..

What advice do you have for the aspiring Lebanese artist?

Be relentless, rebellious and always follow the heart. You can't sit on your butt and expect things to happen, you've got to be motivated, expressive, and always intense.

Does your work often interfere with your personal life? Do you usually spend the holidays with family or loved ones?

My mother's passed away, I live separately from my father and my brother lives in Australia. My life is usually me and the world I'm in, my personal life is my work. Otherwise I spend the holidays with my father and very close friends.

If you could have anything this Christmas what would it be?

Love

What do you usually buy from Virgin?

I read a lot so usually books. I'm a huge fan of Jostein Gaarder and I enjoy all his works.

