

Lebanese fashion designer reinvents Arab menswear



Mashrou Leila wearing Nour Hage

BACK TO THE FUTURE

London-based Lebanese fashion designer Nour Hage decided to shift from creating womenswear to menswear

Arab News | Dubai

When London-based Lebanese fashion designer Nour Hage decided to shift from creating womenswear to menswear, she figured she'd check if any other Arab women were creating clothes for Arab men.

"I don't know of any others," she says. "Nada Khoury in Beirut has a small menswear line, but that's more about suits, it's quite classical. And besides that I don't know of any. I might be wrong, but I didn't find anything."

So Hage's recently launched Zero One collection, which takes clothes traditionally associated with the Middle East — abayas, thobes, et cetera — and gives them a distinct, contemporary feel, is something of an anomaly. But it's already proving popular

SPREADING

Saudi artist leaves portraits

Some of Fatima's portrait drawings are characterized by sloping

Al Arabiya | Riyadh

Imagine walking into a cafe and finding on your table a painting and with a note reading: "This is a gift for the next person who's sitting here."

One would undoubtedly feel happy. This is the case of a young woman in Riyadh named Fatima al-Daoud, 27, who draws on cups of coffee and leaves it for random guests who take her table after she's finished.

"When I go to the cafe to read or work, I noticed that I had missed my art projects, so I decided to buy a sketchbook and paint. I practiced painting while I was going to the cafes," al-Daoud told Al Arabiya English.

"The idea came to me to leave the drawings on the table and leave a message to the next person that it was gifted to. The idea came to fruition in early July," she added.

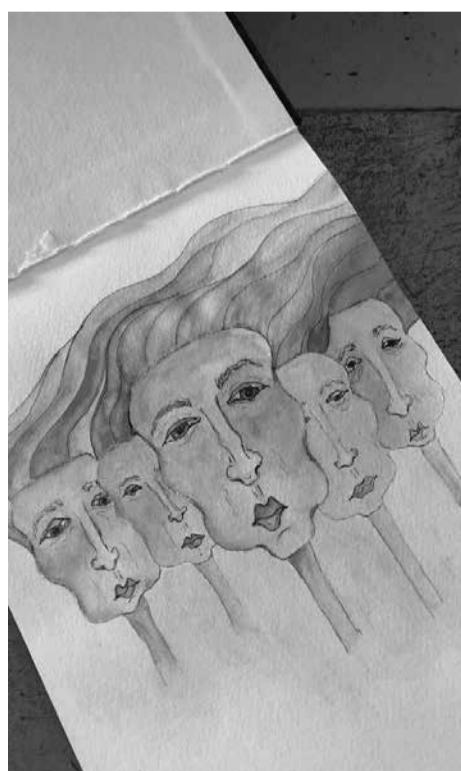
"I get a great feeling every time I do something like this and leave a part of myself behind. I also want to convey a message not to stick to the things that we love. When you get used to not owning it, leaving the worked on with hours of energy to make others happy makes you feel good," she said.

She pointed out that in recent years, coffee shops in Saudi Arabia have been en-

27-year-old Fatima Al-Daoud from Saudi Arabia has found a unique way of connecting to people through art. The young artist leaves painted cups and drawings at her table for random guests while she leaves the cafe in Riyadh

with a thank you note,

Some of Fatima's portraits are characterized by sloping eyes, long noses, and thin lips. "This is a style of drawing years ago. The human body that expresses people the most. Complemented with unrealistic features, we see them in a way that is able to express feeling



Portraits of faces drawn by Fatima al-Daoud

encouraging customers to sit for hours to express themselves through either art or personal work.

"I do not know what the fate of my drawings is, but some of those who picked up my drawings contacted me through social media while some put them on the board in the cafe

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FATIMA AL-DAOUD