

noisu Rai·n

gay art magazine



the AVANT-
GARDE
issue

平野

noisu
Rain
gay art magazine



**VAN
GUAR
DIA**
平野

The world is still new ●

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Terry Cyr

Thomas Barker



THE ART OF

Sari ni Kharoun

SEK

Born in Lebanon, a country where western culture subtly blends with its Arabian and Mediterranean heritage. Sari was born into an aristocratic family and struggled to find a sense of belonging. He was never able to really identify with any specific cultural heritage or custom and preferred solitude where he would draw and sketch his own reality.

The book of life





conversion area
guanyantai polish com.
fight for their waterfront

height | Soho was like Dumbo
| cycle cheap rent in hip area

comments

specificity of argument
≠ generality of
abstraction of
the diag

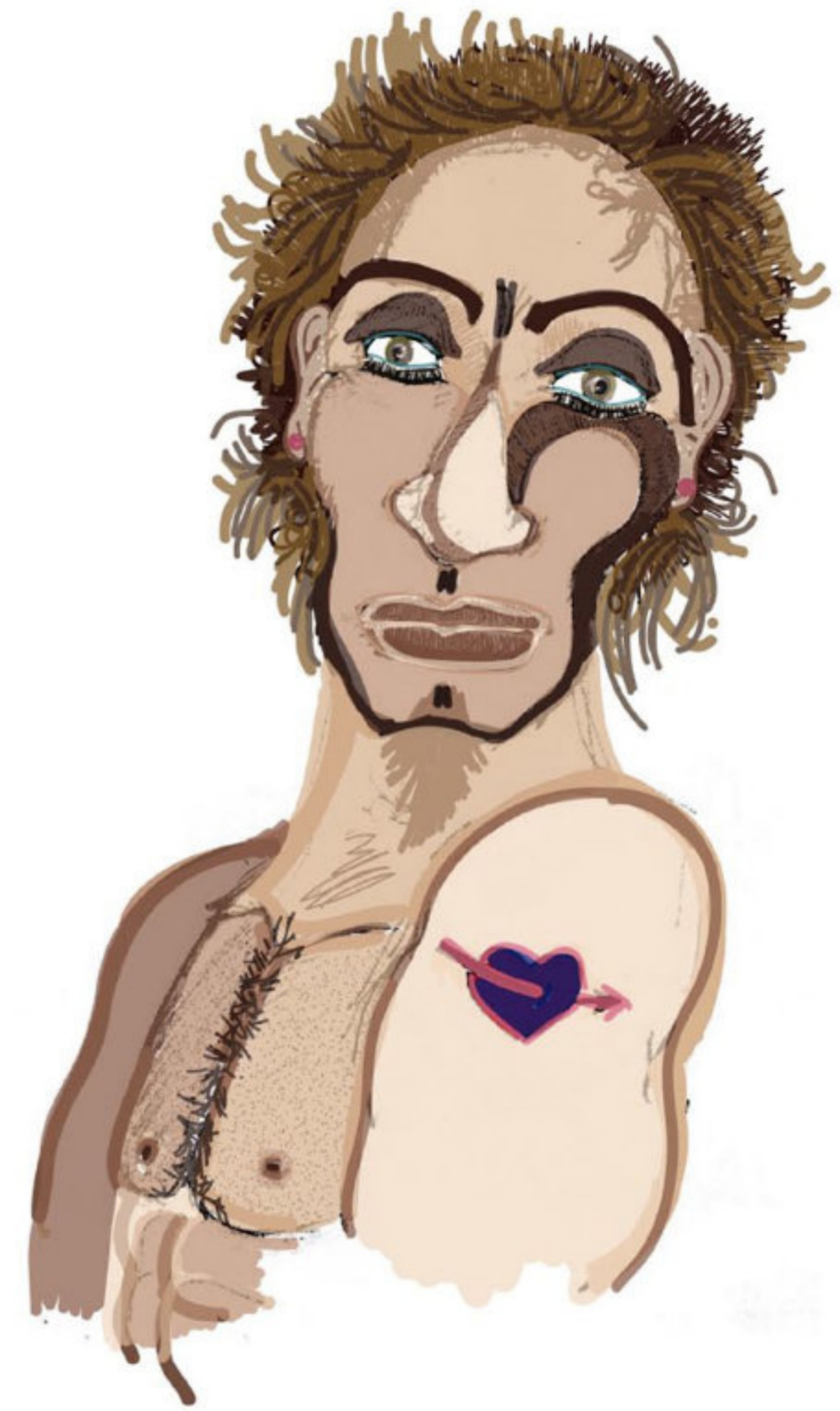


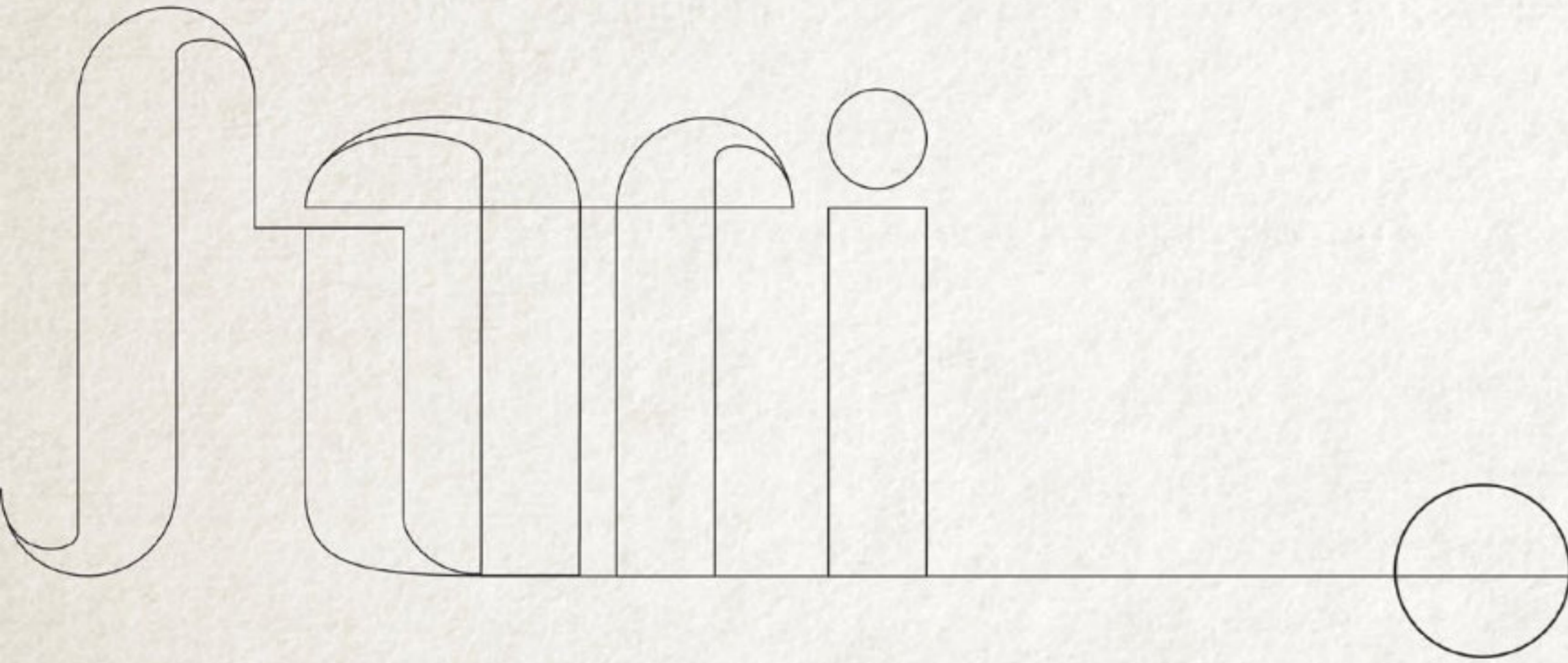




Inri introverted







The outbreak of war did not help mend his confusion nor did the frequent fleeing for himself and his family's safety to France! Although, the fleeing did lead Sari to identify more as French or European than Middle-Eastern and Lebanese. Twenty years of war had a major impact on young Sari's perception of life. With all the human suffering and injustice, luckily Sari came from a comfortable background, and was able to dodge the darkest days of Lebanon's civil war by traveling quite frequently to Europe.

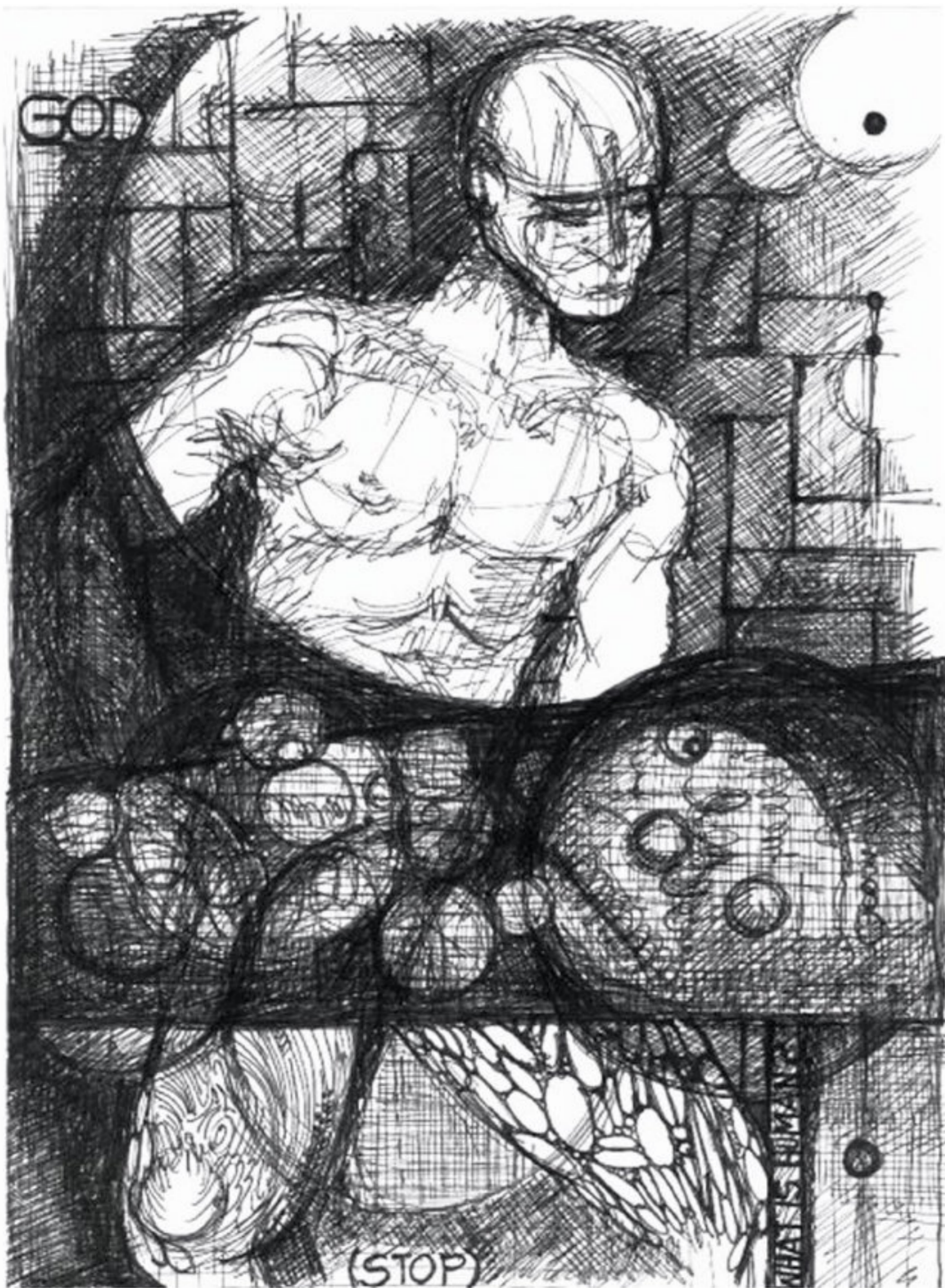
Sari later relocated to the United States to pursue his college education in Architecture. A discipline which allowed him to unite his interests in social behavior, people's diverse lifestyles and of course his passion for drawing. Far away from Lebanon, Sari started developing the symptoms of a feeling commonly portrayed as "homesickness." The feelings of melancholy and nostalgia invaded his soul, reinforcing an up-until now embryo of patriotism that included a mixture of French, Mediterranean, Arabian, Eastern/Western, and Christian/Islamic cultures. A diversity of influences that try to describe Lebanon's complex web of traditions, which oddly come together in one and only one very specific identity, the Lebanese, which unfortunately as all traditions, ended up being a weight on his shoulder as well as a trigger for openness and wider horizons.

Sari flourished and graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Architecture and a Master's degree in Architectural and Urban Design from the esteemed Columbia University in New York being awarded best final project.

After ten years of the "American dream", Sari returned to Lebanon. Despite the war and the political unrest in Lebanon that was depicted by the media, Beirut remains the cultural hub in the Middle East, and as difficult as it may seem, it is business as usual in the main capital. Coping with all the challenges, adaptation, starting a career, and personal demands, Sari embarked on the new trip of his life.

Sari's career flourished through hard work and imposing charisma. Still despite the success and some glamour of a public figure, Sari wages continuous internal battles.

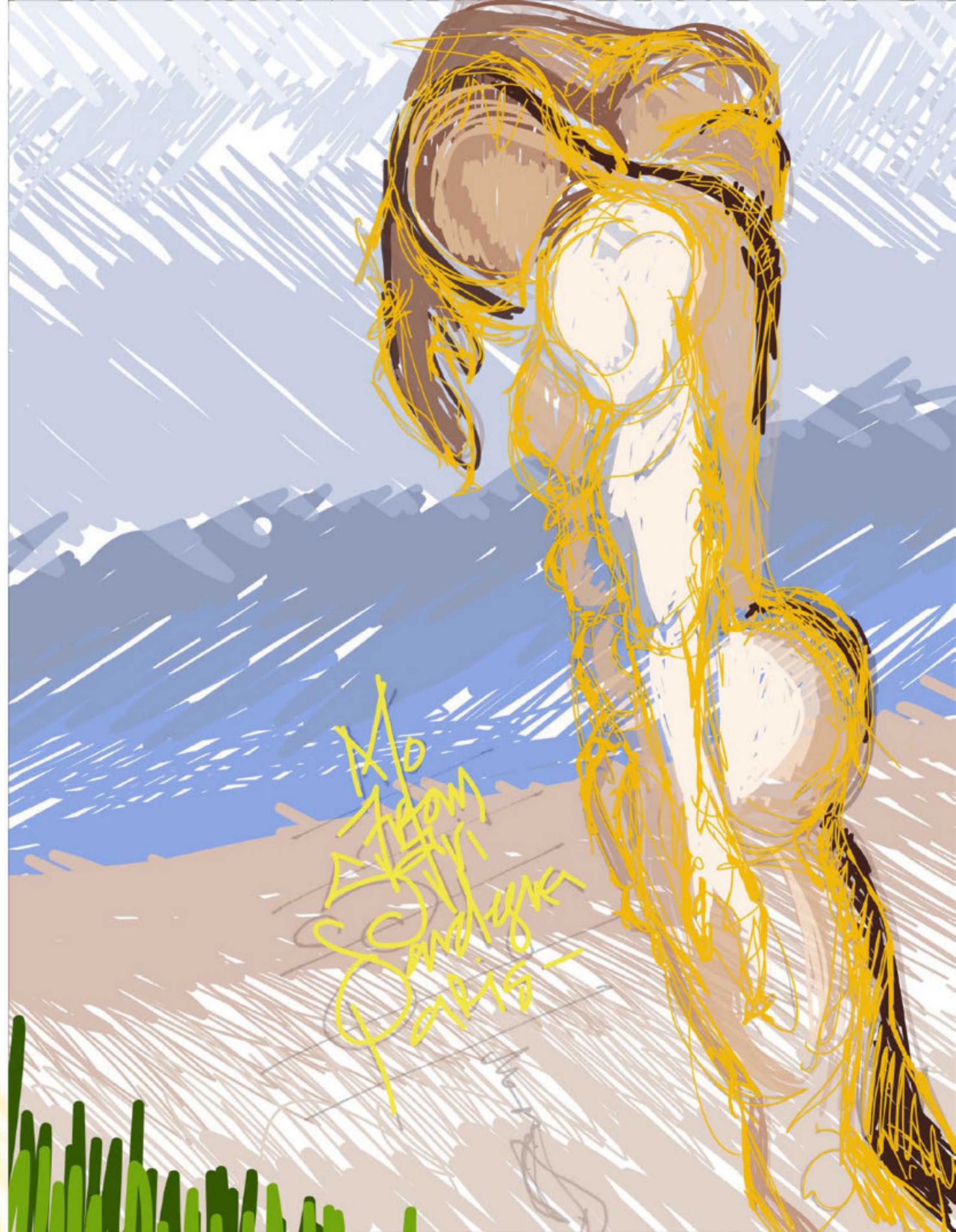
Being gay in Lebanon is a controversial issue! Even with gay parties like Pre-Circuit, roof top Splash, Super Marché, and regular gay bars and clubs like Bardo, Le Boy and Ghost. One might think with a history of war and political turmoil, and a diverse religious community, the homosexuality wouldn't be such an issue. Just a hundred kilometres away in Tel Aviv, gay relationships are not only accepted by community, but they are accepted by government, and allow some spousal privileges and even a chance to adopt a child.



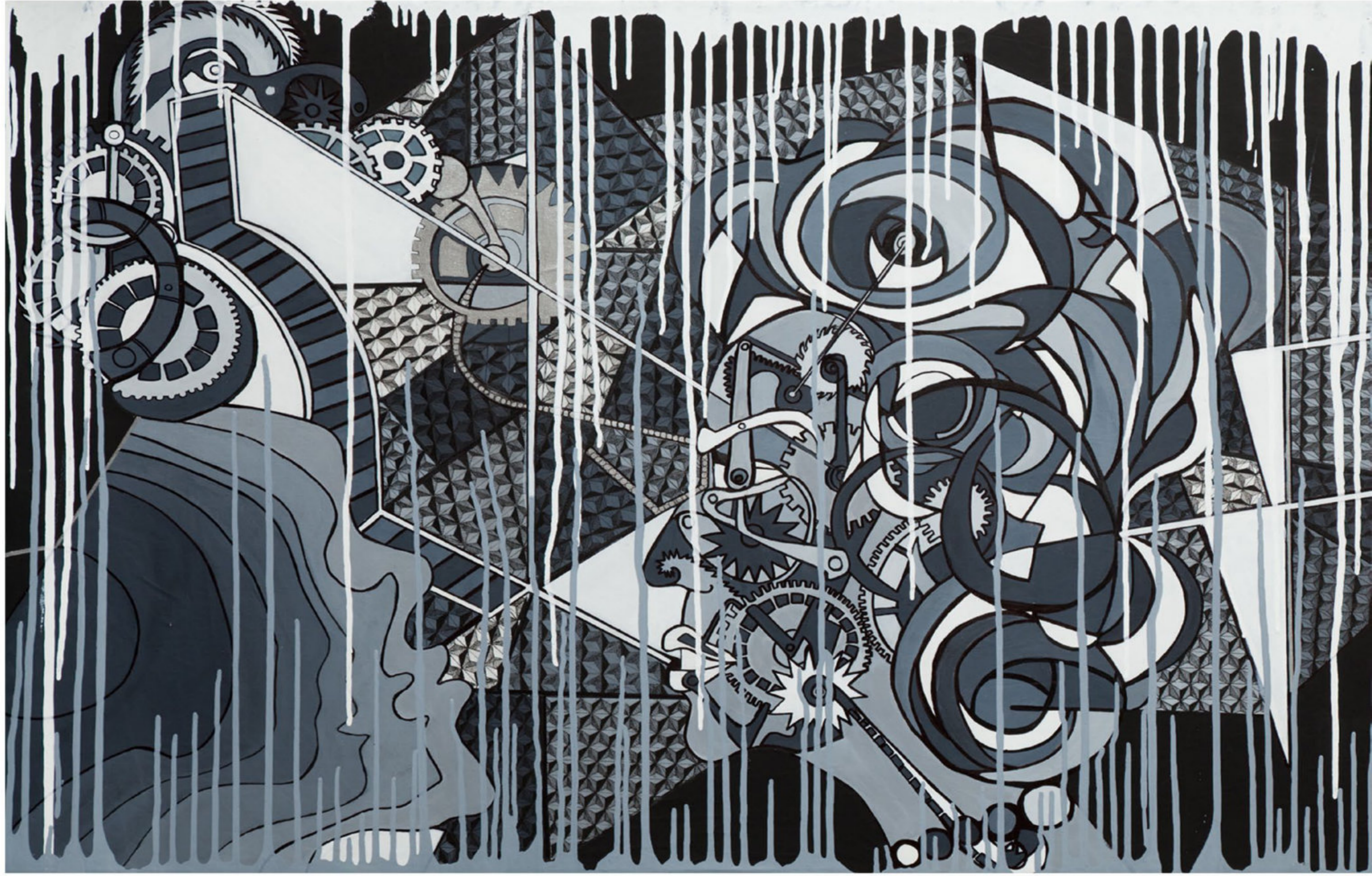


SARI-12

Ride down memory lane







Sari, the architect, teacher, and TV presenter who was living as an openly gay man in America for ten years had returned back to his homeland and struggle with oppression and be thrown back into the closet. The closet of sexual identity, still quite common in the world, got tighter by the over powering traditions of the country, lack of education of its people, in the corruption that lacked of professionalism. The hidden closet, in a third world country, in denial!

Sari's frustration, anger and rebellion, all took a huge toll on his life, until he took painting as a means for expressing all those internal turmoils. Sex, religion, freedom, death, evolution, time, morality, the good, and the evil, the turmoils of reality, we all call LIFE!

His paintings, full of distressed subjects, almost nightmares, with that fantastic aura, typically of the dream, depicted well with the paradoxical personal journey Sari had taken on.

His first solo exhibition in 2011 Shades of Grey was a huge success! The Beirut art fair was his latest exhibition, with the first instalment of "Rated X." In April 2012, Dubai also exhibited some pieces of the Shades of Grey paintings. Sari, a self-taught artist, realized his art works on canvas, (with the use of acrylic, ink and oil colours), that his style is one that is not easily classifiable. Having deep underlying meanings of his work that boosts profound elements of expressionism and surrealism, that is illustrated by his inherent love of street art.

With art works titled "Call Me Fuck Buddy", Sari's outspokenness always lands him in trouble. Sari has also co-hosted a TV programme but resigned a year later because his words and philosophies were constantly edited and not to mention his sexuality for the fear he might land in prison.

Teaching at the University of the Holy Spirit (USEK), Lebanese American University (LAU) and the American University of Science and Technology (AUST), Sari finally opened his firm Sari ElKhazen Architects in 2003.

It was the opening of the exclusive Sky Bar, a roof top night club in Downtown Beirut, that confirmed his status as one of the most sought after designers in town and positioned him at the top of his league.

He has had international recognition for the famous Sky Bar design, which has won many awards and rave reviews as the number one night club in the world notably from the New York Times in 2009. Sky Bar is to this day, the number one destination for night clubbers in Beirut.

Sari has put his design expertise to the test by breaking and redefining the Lebanese concept of commercial interiors with such places as La Plage, 107, The Sunset Room, Canyon Dinner, 'O' bar, and internationally with La Tabkha at the Pearl Qatar, Il Cavaliere Pazzo at the Polo Club and Soho Place in Ghana; as well as Sky Bar in Egypt and Abu Dhabi.

These days, Sari, is finally living as an openly gay man in Lebanon. Although he does not believe in the concept of labeling, he uses his sexual preference to set an example to others who may be suffering from discrimination.

Prominently known for his ingenious architecture, it was only a matter of time before the divulged his artistic talent to the world. Sari has definitely come a long way since his days in a worn torn country...

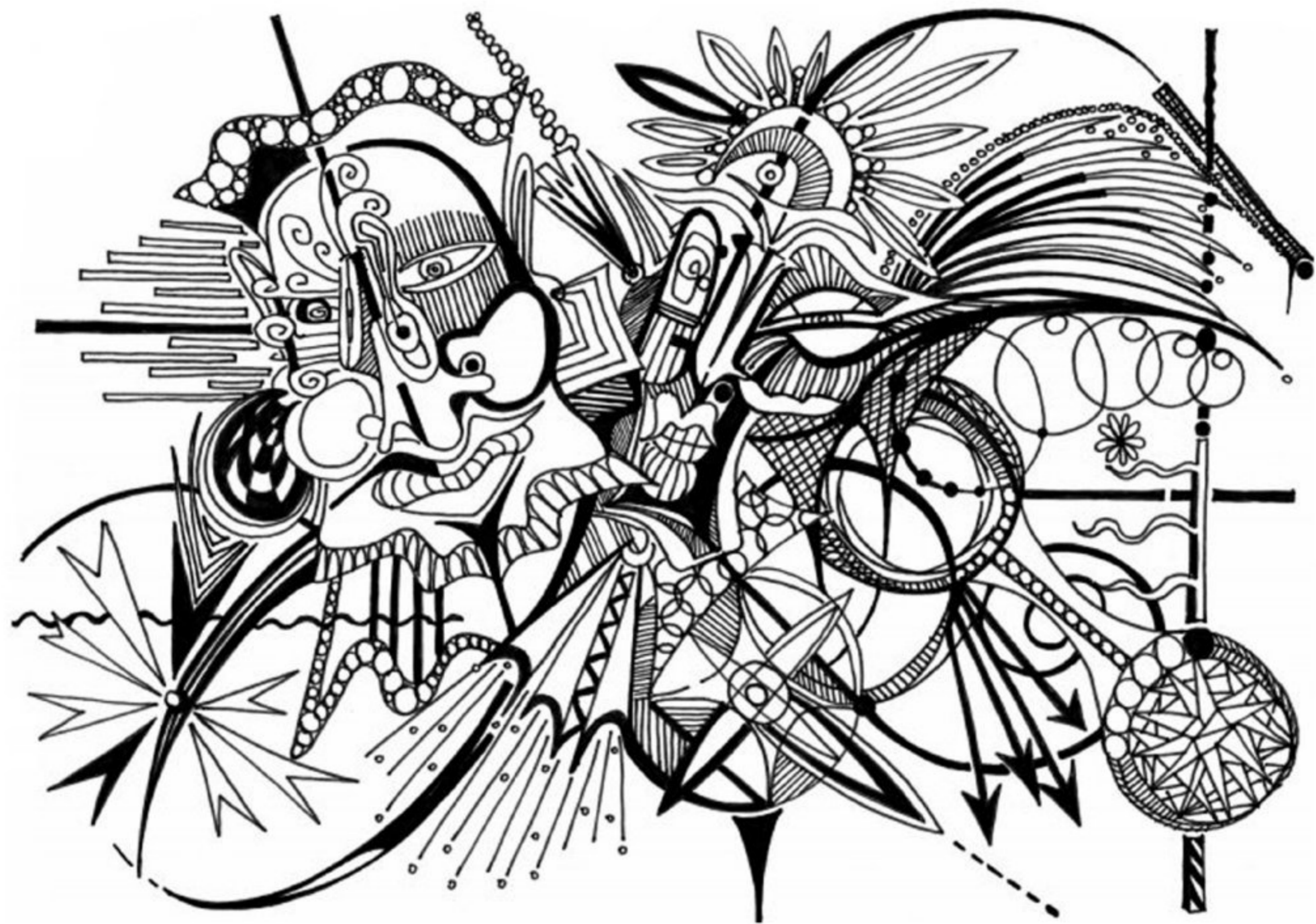


SARI EL KHAZEN

Earthly bounds







"My aim is not to get homosexuality recognized as being different, but to normalize homosexuality around the world! With time there should no longer be boundaries, I am in love and it so happens I am in love with a man!"

SARI


www.sarivisualartist.com
www.sarielkhazen.com

*The
Naked
man*
PROJECT
BY
*Terry
Cyr*









*- MY LOVE AND PASSION HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THEATER AND THE
ARTS. I WORKED AS A LIGHTING
DESIGNER AND PROFESSIONAL
STAGE MANAGER FOR YEARS
UNTIL I BURNED OUT OF
CONSTANTLY LIVING OUT OF MY
SUITCASE.*










- GAVE UP THEATER AND MOVED
BACK TO MY HOME IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN
MONTANA AND BOUGHT MY
FIRST CAMERA AND BEGAN
TAKING PICTURES. I HAVE A
PASSION FOR ALL THINGS
CREATIVE.









*- GREW UP ON A CATTLE RANCH
THAT WAS HOMESTEADED BY MY
GREAT GRANDFATHER, HAVE
TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD
AND THERE IS NOTHING LIKE MY
HOME IN MONTANA.*







- I AM FASCINATED AND IN LOVE WITH LIGHT. IT'S WHAT DRAWS ME TO THE STAGE AND WHAT I STRIVE TO CAPTURE IN MY IMAGERY. TO ME THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY IS THE ABILITY TO SEE AND PAINT WITH LIGHT. I AM CAPTIVATED BY THE BEAUTY OF MEN, ALL MEN, AND HAVE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY TO EXPLORE MY CURRENT SEXUAL WORLD AS AN AGING GAY MAN AND CONNECTING MY PAST SEXUAL/SENSUAL HISTORY TO CREATE A SORT OF HOMOEROTIC IMAGERY JOURNAL OF MY LIFE.



*The
Naked
man*
PROJECT
BY
*Terry
Cyr*

ONE MAN'S EXPLORATION IN FINDING HIMSELF
AND HIS SEARCH FOR LIGHT, BEAUTY, DESIRE
AND ART. THE CREATION AND ARTWORK OF
PHOTOGRAPHER TERRY J CYR.

Credits

CHAD
CHRIS
BRANDON
COREY
JARED
JEREMY
JOHN
KEN
LUCAS
MATTHEW
RICKY
TRAVIS
TY
VICTOR

WWW.NAKED-MAN-PROJECT.COM

thomas

arker



SHROUD

Palm husk



**Ready
for recycle**





Finding
gnibniF



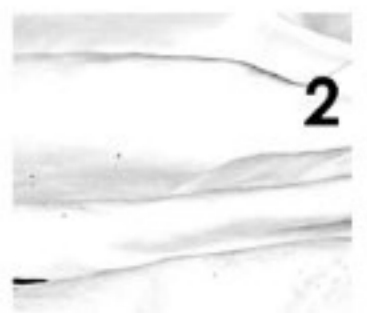
Trying to keep it together

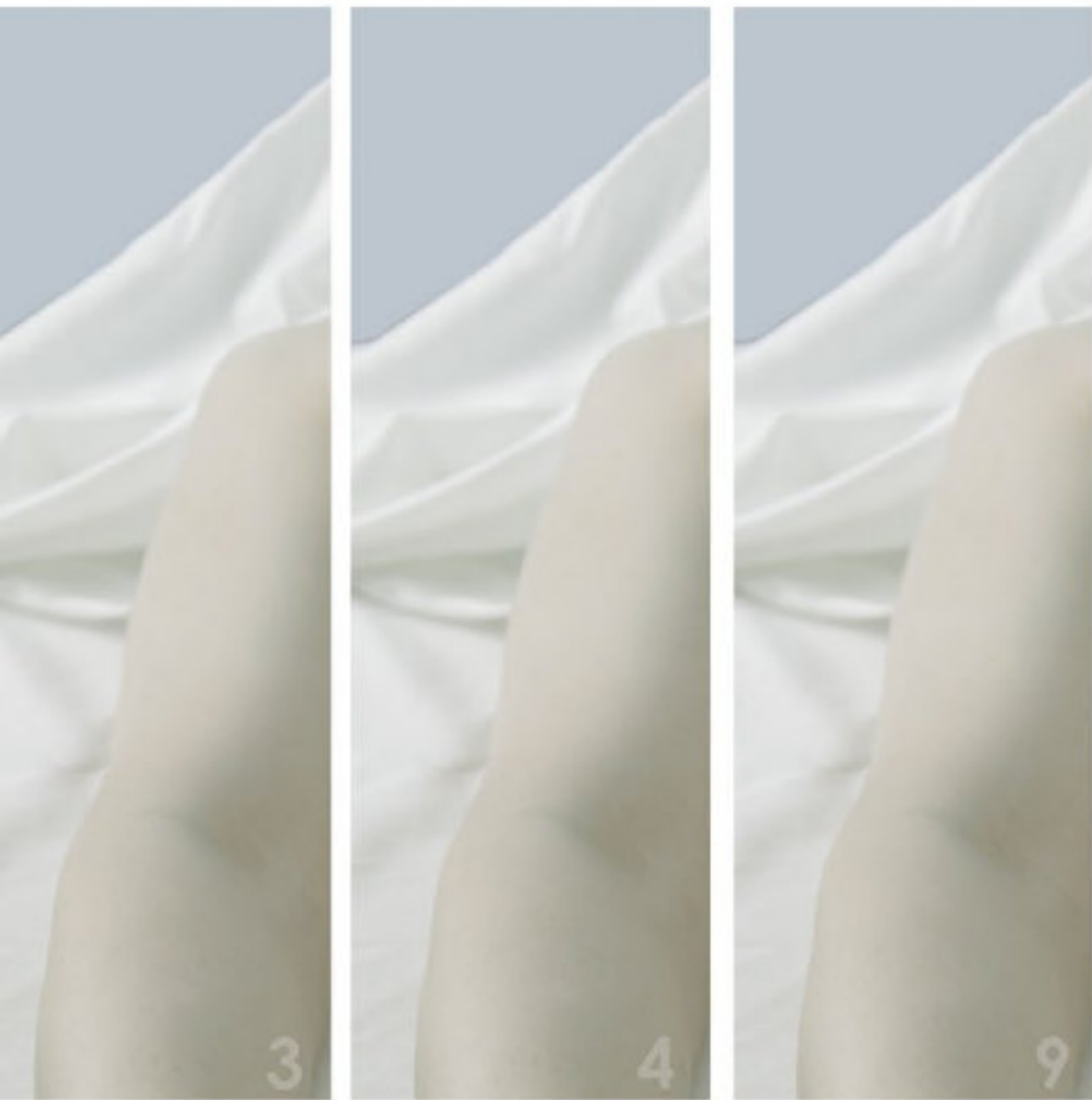


Cigarettes and Sex on Route 66



Trash





Rest



Thomas Barker is a photographer in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. He started his photographic life at 13 with a Brownie Hawkeye camera and rapidly graduated to Hasselblad and Contax cameras.

He studied art, photography and architecture at Pratt Institute and the University of New Mexico.

Work started in earnest when he collaborated with M. Prouse on a series of photographs on Route 66 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Those negatives did not become prints until thirty years later when they were rescued from years of desert storage. Scanning the negatives and using many just as scanned captured the prints. The results seemed to accurately reflect the faulty and obscure memories of those days.

Now his photographs concentrate on change and relationships among men. Recently the work has focused on the transitory nature of life watching as he and those around him change and age. He started this work in effort to find out what he looked like on his seventieth birthday. What did he really look like? The mirror wouldn't reveal that but the camera would do so without mercy and, more importantly, without preconception or vanity. He was surprised that he found not something unpleasant but rather a different esthetic.

The prints became harsh, sometimes colorful but mostly quiet and celebrating the life of the person.

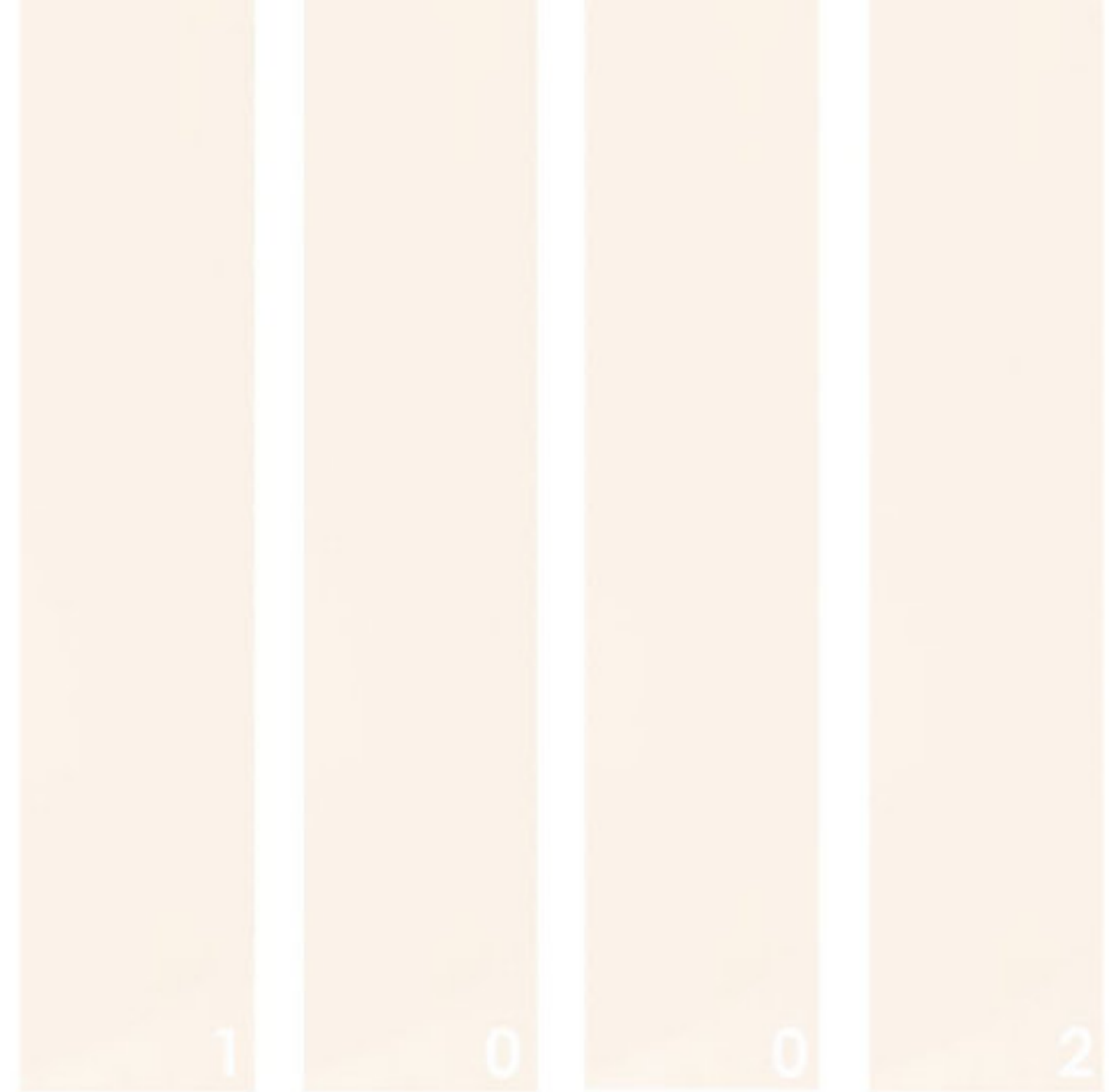
There are more actors populating his images now. The models are younger and anonymous.



We became nearly



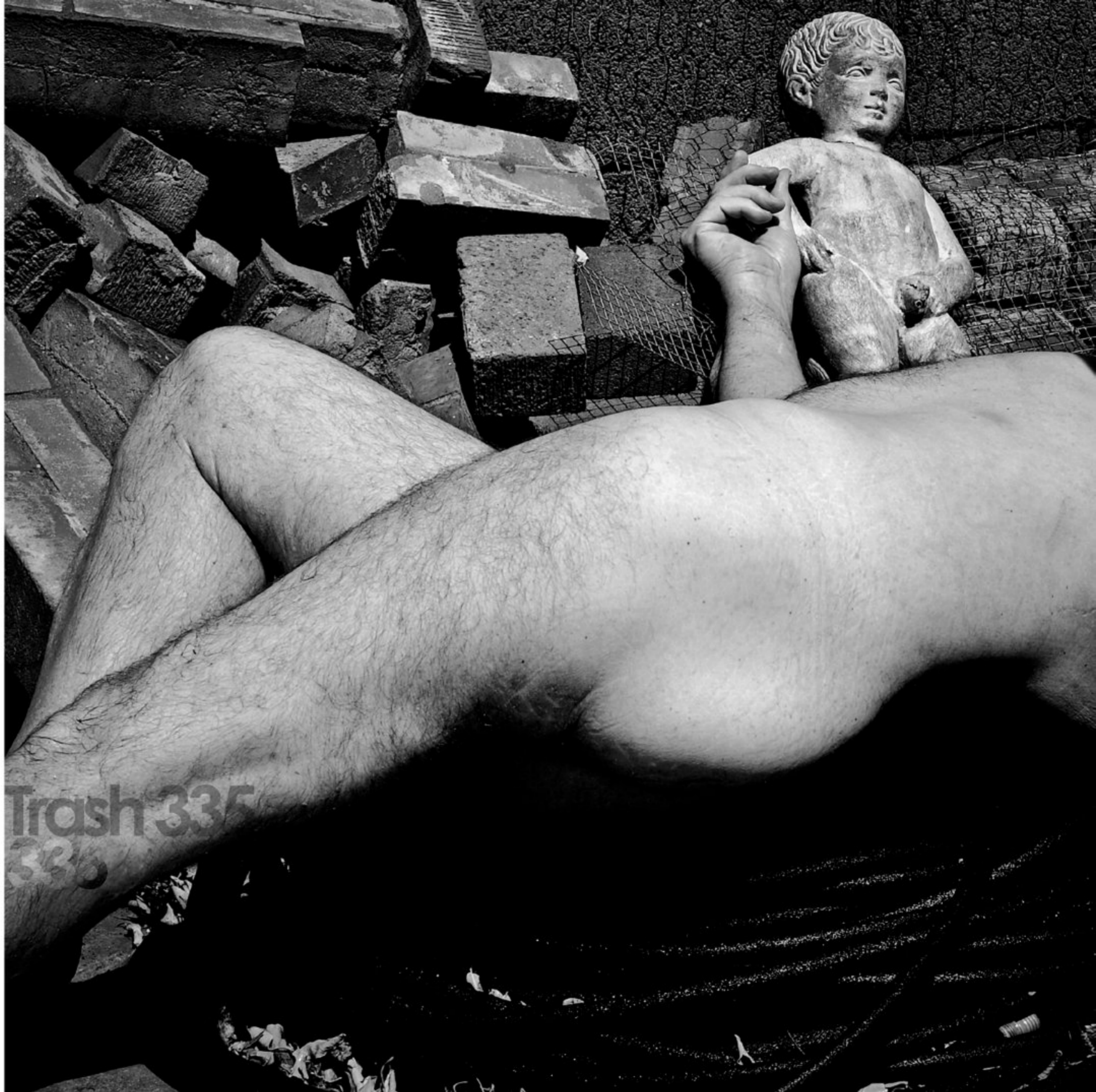
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FEAR



**Shroud
1022**



Trash 335
Trash 336



Dancing in geometry



Steven 2004



Thomas is shown at Art One Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona and has had a recent one man show at Tilt Gallery, also in Scottsdale. His work is in many private collections across the United States.

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