



Paintings from her latest exhibition. — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

'Mad World' after 'Man's World'

By Athoob A Al-Shuaibi

There is a difference between an artist creating an arbitrary stir and a controversial artist. Kuwaiti artist Shurooq Amin is definitely someone who provokes society, not merely with her artistic vision, but with her strength. Being a mother of



Artist Shurooq Amin

three hasn't stopped her from pursuing her dreams. She has displayed her art in London and Dubai to breathe the air of freedom after the shutdown of her exhibition by censors in Kuwait four years ago.

Perhaps her PhD in the connection between art and poetry makes her artworks trigger minds and extend to souls. In other words, Amin knows exactly what is going to be evoked by her paintbrush. Kuwait Times spoke to Amin about her upcoming exhibition at the Contemporary Art Platform of Kuwait (CAP) titled "It's a Mad

World", curated by Martina Corgnati in collaboration with Ayyam Gallery, Dubai.

Some excerpts:

Kuwait Times: This is your first exhibition in Kuwait after the closure of your earlier exhibition. Coming back with "It's a Mad World" is definitely going to stir up controversy. How are you going to deal with this?

Shurooq Amin: I've dealt with controversy all my life, as an artist and as a woman, simply because I live my life transparently - no easy feat in our society. So of course, I'm expecting some controversy, but I am not worried about censorship this time round. I think by now the authorities realize that if they try to stop me or shut me up by closing down my exhibition or banning my work, they will simply make a superstar out of me a second time. So I am not worried about that. This is not what is important here: What is important is the message I am trying to send through these images, especially the installation 'The Last Sip', which deals with the serious problem of alcoholism as a disease in our society.

Kuwait Times: The Mad World exhibition wouldn't have come to life if you hadn't been living in a mad world and breathing it. I wonder how "It's a Mad World" is adapted from real life.

Amin: The title "It's a Mad World" is not a unique phrase by any means; in fact, its very simplicity that makes it all the more relevant for this series. What has been going on in the world around us over the last four years has been a whirlwind of wars, genocide, climate change, financial crashes and a general mood of malaise and hopelessness.

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