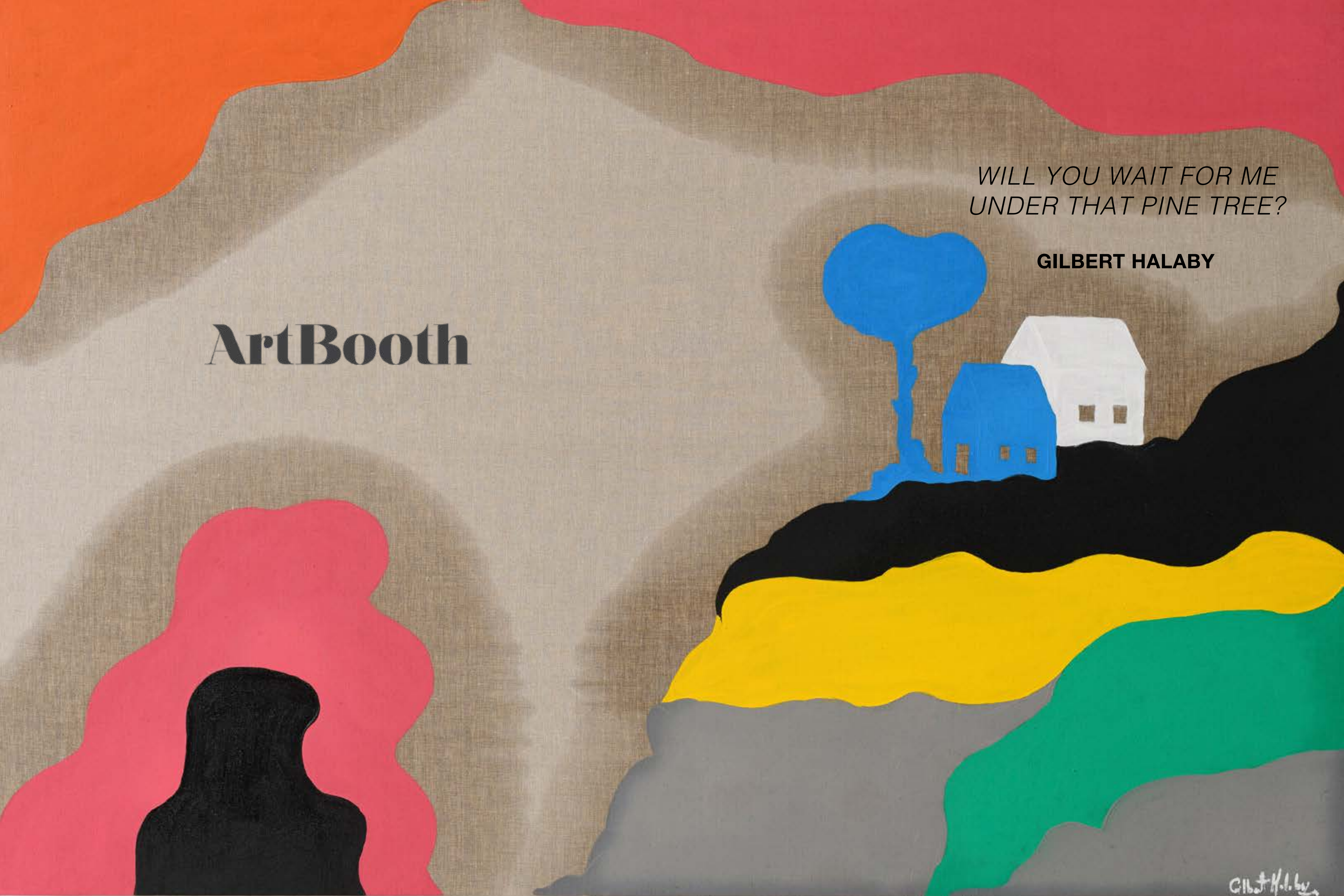


*WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME
UNDER THAT PINE TREE?*

GILBERT HALABY

ArtBooth

Gilbert Halaby



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Curated by Muriel Asmar

UNDER THE AUSPICES



Preface

Under the auspices of the Italian Cultural Institute in Abu Dhabi, ArtBooth presents:

“Will You Wait For Me Under That Pine Tree?” - A Solo Art Exhibition by the Lebanese-Italian artist Gilbert Halaby. Showcasing 13 Oil on linen paintings, the exhibition pays homage to Halaby’s roots, as he lovingly recreates the serene landscapes of his village. The houses, with their unique character and charm, stand as a testament to the artist’s deep connection to the place he calls home, towered by the majestic pine tree.

“Everything became possible because of me moving to Rome, I went back to Lebanon with my houses and pine trees because I was able to find my new home in the Eternal city, where I could pursue my passion and love for painting”

The exhibition takes inspiration from the childhood memories of the artist Gilbert Halaby, what he likes to call “moments of light”. After his first solo exhibition at the Beit Beirut Museum, where he exhibited this voyage of memories back to Lebanon specifically his village, Dhour el Choueir, this journey continues to reach Abu Dhabi with his solitary homes and pine trees.

Gilbert Halaby masterfully employs primary and vibrant colors because this is what he wants to carry from his childhood, the colorful memories and not the dark memories of war. His expert brushwork brings to life the intricate textures and interplay of light and shadow within each composition. The delicate strokes and careful layering of oil paint create a unique depth and sense of movement, specifically the little bright houses, evoking a sense of nostalgia and a longing for home, wherever it might be. During the years, he kept “Home” at the center of his artistic work, and he developed his philosophical thoughts around it. He goes all the way to simplifying it and transforming it into a pine tree since trees were indeed the first shelter for humans, and they shall be their last.

“Will You Wait For Me Under That Pine Tree?” is not only a visual feast for art enthusiasts but also a poignant exploration of the artist’s personal and emotional journey. The artist cherishes his solitude and represents it with the solitary homes and pine trees he used to encounter while playing in his village in solitude when he was able to be out of the shelter. Through his unique technique, Gilbert Halaby invites viewers to reflect on their own memories and experiences.

About Gilbert Halaby:

Lebanese-Italian artist Gilbert Halaby was born in 1979 in a village in Mount Lebanon. For as long as he can remember, he loved to paint. Halaby was captivated by the beauty of the natural landscape in Mount Lebanon as a young boy. To this day, it continues to influence his art.

After studying Archaeology at the Lebanese University in Beirut, he went to Rome in 2003, where he became captivated by the Eternal City.

Gilbert Halaby debuted in 2023 with his solo exhibition titled “Domus Berytus”, which took place at “Beit Beirut Museum” in the Lebanese capital. His second solo took place in his adoptive city, Rome under the title of “Une Comédie Romaine”. Among his international collectors, his work was recently acquired by the UAE Royal family.

About ArtBooth UAE:

ArtBooth is a renowned art space dedicated to showcasing exceptional works of contemporary art. Located in the heart of Abu Dhabi, the gallery aims to foster the appreciation and understanding of diverse artistic expressions, while providing a platform for emerging and established international artists to showcase their talent.

Muriel Asmar
Art Curator

Rome, January 2nd, 2024

My dearest boy,

When I asked you, "Will You Wait For Me Under That Pine Tree?"

I wasn't sure that I was going to find you still there. Forever enchanted by the beauty of our majestic green creatures, and forever daydreaming of a colorful journey and harmonious existence.

I have been away for long, and I feared that a dark iron cloud would disrupt your peaceful sky and that a malicious Notus wind would shut the harmonious poems of the timid breezes of your forests.

I am overjoyed that your pine trees and the solitary homes you adored where you played tirelessly, dreaming of becoming a painter one day; the same ones I translated into canvases of light, are serene and joyful.

Trust me, my boy; despite our trees having seen many dark scenes; they keep on gifting us light, and always guiding us to the shores of happiness.

I leave them under your watchful eye and your loving protection.

I was hoping you might write to me regularly, my boy, and describe the birds who sing the rhymes they whispered, and recount tales of the inhabitants of those beautiful homes and the warmth they emanate to history.

I am taking them with me to my third shore into the realm of color, to a new city where great friends await me and where you can sense the worth of bounds and families.

I hope, my boy, that our kind trees find new homes, and our homes infuse warmth into human hearts, whilst our words echo to the deepest cliffs and gift light to those willing to see.

I salute you and kiss that tree you crouch under, reading my words and dreaming of a peaceful path to humanity.

Yours always,

Gilbert Halaby

01

Will you wait for me under
that pine tree, Rome - 2022

Oil on linen
150 x 150 cm

Price upon request





02

Abstraction, Rome - 2023

Oil on linen
150 x 150 cm

Price upon request



03

Beatitudo, Rome - 2022

Oil on linen
150 x 150 cm

Price upon request

04

Prudentia, Rome - 2022

Oil on linen
150 x 150 cm

Price upon request





05

Solis, Rome - 2022

Oil on linen
130 x 200 cm

Price upon request

06

Melancholy, Rome - 2023

Oil on linen
90 x 90 cm

SOLD



07

In good company, Rome -
2023

Oil on linen
50 x 50 cm

Price upon request





10

Harmony, Rome - 2023

Oil on linen
100 x 150 cm

SOLD

11

Rupes, Rome - 2022

Oil on linen
100 x 150 cm

Price upon request



12

Embrace, Rome - 2023

Oil on linen
100 x 150 cm

Price upon request



13

Soror, Rome - 2023

Oil on linen
130 x 200 cm

Price upon request



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ArtBooth UAE - Ground Floor - Centro Capital Center by Rotana
Al Khaleej Al Arabi street - Al Ma'arid - Abu Dhabi

Open on Monday to Friday - 10 AM to 7 PM - Saturday 10 AM to 3 PM
info@artboothuae.com +971 2442 0243