

## DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

*Artists seldom provide an interpretation of their own work; they leave this to the observer. Each of us will have his/her own individual view of a specific piece of art, seeing different contents and experiencing a range of own feelings and emotions. Bearing this in mind, I created this page where you will find regularly selected masterpieces from different epochs and I express my thoughts on what the work conveys to me personally. My interpretation will refer specifically to the theme "Environment". Any comments or suggestions regarding this column should be addressed to [stegmann@tuhh.de](mailto:stegmann@tuhh.de).*



TABCHARANY HANI / "The Bride of Beirut" (Beirut 2020).

In memory of the Beirut port explosion victims on August 4, 2020, and from the remains of the rubble and broken glass resulting from the explosion, the young artist Tabcharany Hani from Gemmayzeh, Lebanon created and sculpted a statue entitled "The Bride of Beirut." The sculpture was made of debris collected from the explosion site, broken glass, pieces of destroyed furniture, pieces of cement, and concrete blocks all collected from the streets of Beirut following the blast. The choice of materials allows the sculpture to be a true reminder of the devastations. The statue has been placed in the centre of Beirut.

The sculpture symbolizes a beautiful girl (Bride of Beirut) who rises from under the rubble, despite the wounds that tore her body due to the broken glass. So, she selects glass beads to make a crown on her head like a garland of thorns and a robe in which she covers her nakedness. Her upright posture, beauty and self-confident appearance send the message that the people of Beirut shall not give up; on the contrary, the sculpture conveys strength and confidence for a new start.

"This monument serves as a message to the world to show the power of humans in creating beauty from chaos". "The sculpture serves to be a true reminder of the devastations and will be place to pay respect for the precious lives that were lost." (Hani)

I selected this piece of art from waste because it sends a strong message to the world, and it may help people affected by this disaster; in this way, we also show our solidarity with the people of Beirut. The sculpture raises hopes, especially to the younger generation, by choosing a young woman, somebody like themselves. This statue is a particular example of waste to art because it makes a strong social and political statement. It also shows that it does not need sophisticated materials to create this expressive sculpture; even waste can do. It requires creativity and- in this case- love to his homeland and defiance, enthusiasm and hope. I hope that the "Bride of Beirut" reminds the responsible politicians and administrators day by day never to let such a disaster happen again.

This edition of the DETRITUS Waste+Art page was made possible with the great support of Amani Maalouf from Beirut now a postdoc at Oxford University.

*In the next edition of DETRITUS I will show some examples of waste to fashion from the Fashion Akademie JAK in Hamburg and will have some thoughts about the fate of used clothes*



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THE AKADEMIE JAK / Henri-Nannen Award