

Splash of emotions

Iranian artist and poet Sharareh Salehi is in Dubai with her colourful creations. She shares her passion for art and literature with City Times

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THEY APPEAR TO be a splash of colours. However, the full-bodied compositions of Iranian painter and poet Sharareh Salehi are strokes of her enigmatic feelings and emotions, cemented under the wings of exceptional vividness. They are on display at the 4walls art gallery in Dubai. CityTimes speaks to Sharareh Salehi about her creative expressions.

In your recent work, we see an abstract approach in style and the use of dark colours.

I paint with my soul and my feelings. These feelings push me to dance with different colours! I was a figurative painter for many years. In early 2000, I began to experiment on a totally different style. In fact, it is my intention to create a universal contemporary language, but inspired from Persian culture. I search my roots. I may paint as an abstract expressionist painter; still you will find the old Persian motives in my work.



Sharareh Salehi

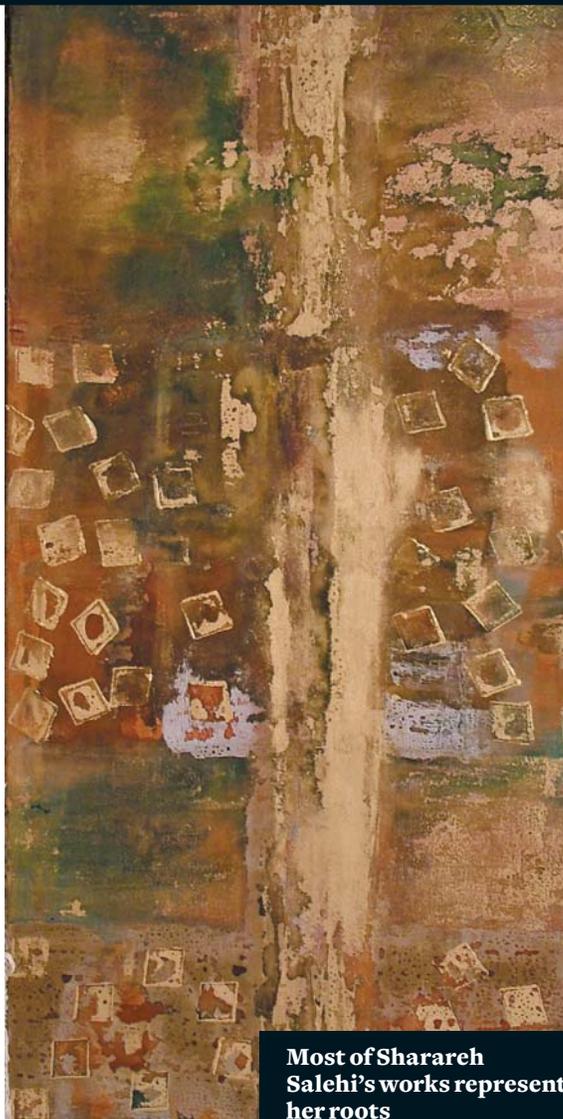
I've stylised, redesigned and simplified them. I don't like repetition. As an artist, I always search new horizons and experience different visual spaces.

Do you believe poetry by its political nature? How would you describe your poetry?

I believe the art is the unique creation that shouldn't be mixed with the other normal daily subjects. If you have a look to the work of political artists, you will see that their art has expired by time. However, the true art is always involved with the valuable subjects. Do you ever think why the works of Shakespeare or the poetry of Moulana and Hafiz still has relevance? It is because they talked about humanity and emotions. These subjects never change. What I'm trying to convey through my poems is mostly my emotional and moral sensitivity, my spirit and surroundings.

How has the revolution in Iran inspired your art?

Post revolutionary Iran's art has achieved great progress, especially in the fields of cinema and music. Obviously, every artist has been impressed by the adventures of his society. Our contemporary generation in Iran is a unique generation. We have passed through difficult moments in our life. We have experimented with revolution and war and also hard moments of sacrifice. This has been reflected in my art unconsciously.... To what extent can an



Most of Sharareh Salehi's works represent her roots

artist experiment, create and express in a closed society?

It is great to be a woman artist in Iran! Women artists always receive more respect and admiration. My works have been always admired. I've had many cultural activities and artistic creation in Iran. I never felt any limitation being a woman. However, to know exactly about Iranian contemporary art scene, have a trip to Iran and visit the artists' ateliers.

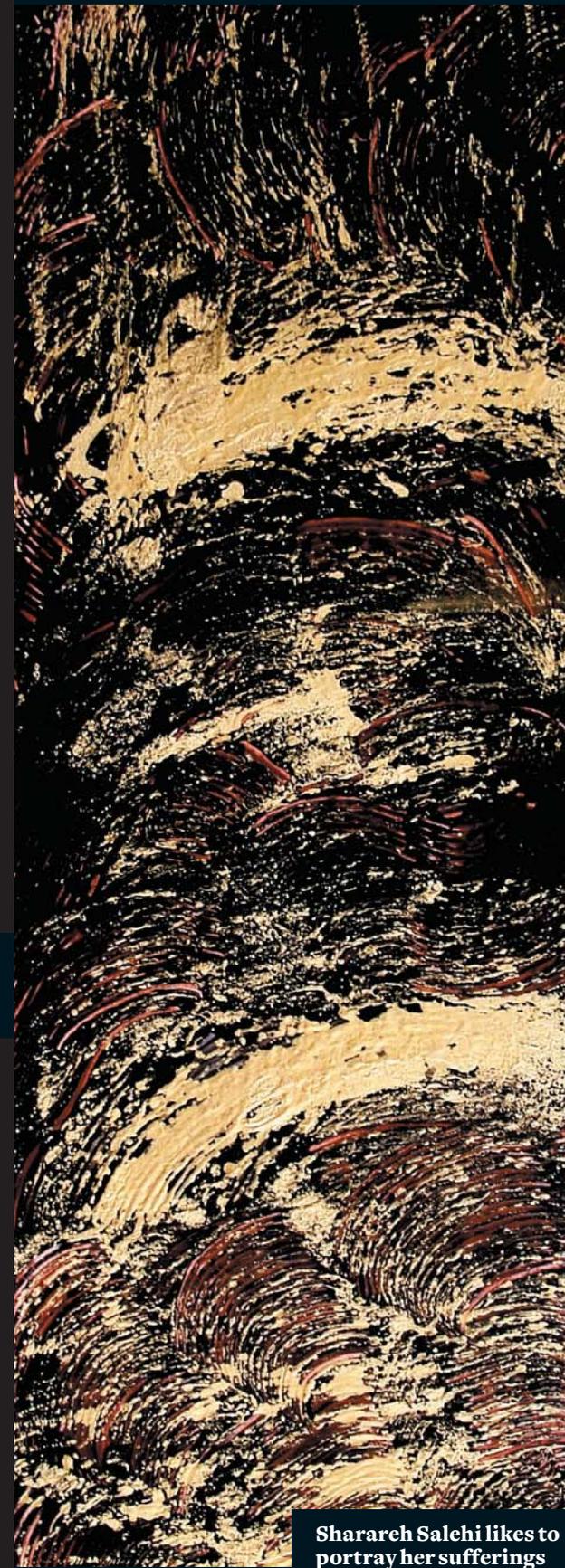
What work have you brought to 'The Roots' exhibition?

These are my most recent works. They are in three categories: The Roots, Poetry of Colours and Phoenix. Sometimes, I even used my fingers to paint. I feel that I need to create my painting directly from my body that transfers my soul's concepts. The first category 'The Roots' represents the state of striving for the best whilst following you roots — that is my artistic identity. Did you ever wonder how trees fly with the open arms, but their roots keep them on the earth? It is similar for me, with a combination of the body



Persian motives are the common element of Sharareh's paintings

and soul. This indeed is a bit philosophic. In the 'Poetry of Colours,' I portray my Persian culture inspired from our architecture, music, motifs of our carpet and rugs or the Lorestan motifs. I'm more a post modernist artist there. 'Phoenix' is me! It por-



Sharareh Salehi likes to portray her sufferings through her work

trays my sufferings, sadness and my resistance. **Do share with us something about your recent projects in literature.**

Five years ago I published a collection of my poetry titled 'On the Roof of the Sky.' I've just started translating my French poems to Arabic. Dr. Mohammad Abdi, also a poet, is translating these poems. Two of them were recently published in Al Etihad newspaper. However, I would like to translate my Persian poems to Arabic. Unfortunately, I haven't had this occasion so far as I am in a search

of a Persian translator! Obviously, he should be a poet or literature specialist, because we have to maintain the essence of the text along with the translation.

I am writing an article about Abu Dhabi titled: 'A beautiful small Island but big as a world.' While living in Abu Dhabi, I discovered great things. The city has the capacity to become the cultural hub of the Middle East.

EVENT DETAILS:

The Roots exhibition runs until November 18 at the 4walls art gallery, Dubai