



**The BYBLOS BANK AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHY granted to Dory Younes during BEIRUT ART FAIR 2012**

The first edition of the Byblos Bank Award for Photography was a total success as it witnessed an active participation. 15 young photographers were pre-selected and given the opportunity to be showcased among the greatest artists of the ME.NA.SA. region at the BEIRUT ART FAIR. It is the work of Dory Younes that the jury, composed of professionals in photography, has chosen to reward.

Genuinely created by Byblos Bank and BEIRUT ART FAIR, the ambition of the Byblos Bank Award is to actively support the young and talented generation of Lebanese photographers. During the exhibition, the nominees' photos were displayed in a special dedicated space. They enjoyed an exceptional visibility as collectors, journalists, gallery owners and more than 12,000 visitors discovered and appreciated their artworks. Camille Becam, Member of the Jury and Project Manager for the Collection at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie says: "A true springboard for the laureate, this prize sheds light on his approach and proposes a wider diffusion of his work".

Byblos Bank is diligently involved in contemporary art and strives to undertake sustainable actions in this regard. The Bank will reward the talent of Dory Younes through a personal exhibition in its Headquarters in Ashrafieh and the publication of his first catalog.

Dory Younes was awarded his prize on Sunday, July 8, on the occasion of the closing of the Fair. The young student majoring in Business at the American University of Beirut has distinguished himself with his work, combining aesthetics and social issues. He says: "In this series of images, my objective was to showcase the social struggles we still encounter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; from working classes sitting in the back of a truck to protect themselves from the sun to the fireman fighting the flames to save the nature, these struggles exist and should be tackled."

25 young photographers have participated in Byblos Bank Award. After a first screening, 15 were selected; Charbel Torbey, Dima Hajjar, Dory Younes, Ghaleb Cabbabe, Hussein Baydoun, Joe Elias, Johnny Tawk, Lara Zankoul, Marwan Zgheib, Mher Krikorian, Usra El Mahdoun, Valentina Azzi, Vanessa Mouawad, Yann Traboulsi, and Philippe Tyan.

The jury, composed of Nadim Asfar (Photographer), Emmanuelle Ascoët (In charge of exhibitions – Cultural Department – Magnum Photos), Camille Becam (Project Manager for the Collection - Maison Européenne de la Photographie), Roger Moukarzel (Photographer), Nada Tawil (Head of the Communication Department at Byblos Bank) has extensively deliberated over the creative and original

participants' works. This first edition of the Byblos Bank Award has been rich with the variety of the styles presented: Dream worlds, architecture, photo-reports, and snapshots of everyday life.