



Sami Haddad: The Award reflects the core values by which we do business at Byblos Bank

### **Ghaleb Cabbabé wins Byblos Bank Award for Photography**

Ghaleb Cabbabé was announced as the winner of Byblos Bank Award for Photography 2013 on Sunday, 22 September 2013, at the end of Beirut Art Fair in Biel. Cabbabé was one of the ten finalists whose photos were displayed at the Bank's booth in the Fair.

In the ceremony during which the winner was announced, General Manager of Byblos Bank former Minister Sami Haddad praised the organizers of Beirut Art Fair to holding this year's edition despite the "challenging times" in Lebanon. Byblos Bank Award for Photography, he said, "is designed to guide emerging Lebanese talents in photography, so they can launch their careers and reach international standards," stressing that "this award reflects, in its essence, the core values by which we do business at Byblos Bank."

Haddad reminded that "in its Top 1000 World Banks, *The Banker* confirmed that Byblos Bank is the most solid bank in Lebanon for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year." However, he added, "this is not where we stop. We want to invest this solidity to make our country better and to improve the quality of life in Lebanon."

Haddad highlighted that "Byblos Bank is actively involved in financing the Lebanese economy and creating attractive jobs for Lebanese young women and men. In addition, the Bank is committed through its CSR strategy to support education, preserve the environment and promote culture, namely photography."

Following a brief address by Beirut Art Fair Founder and Director Laure d'Hauteville who insisted that this year's edition was meant to reject the saying whereby the situation does not allow its organization, Beirut Art Fair Artistic Director Pascal Odille, who supervises the Award, said: "We shall work with the winner over the coming months to prepare for his exhibition, which shall be organized by Byblos Bank, and to choose the subject and techniques for the photos to be displayed during that exhibition."

Head of Group Communication Department at Byblos Bank Mrs. Nada Tawil announced that similar to last year's Award, Byblos Bank will host the winner's first exhibition at its headquarters in Ashrafieh. The Bank will also publish his first catalog.

"The winner will receive coaching and mentorship from renowned photography experts while preparing his first exhibition. His winning will be a robust departure in the world of professional photography," she said.

“By organizing this Award, we contribute to discovering talented photographers and pave their way to success by helping them out with their first steps,” Tawil concluded.

Ghaleb Cabbabé, the winner of the Award, said “I think that my winning of the Award will constitute a turning point in my professional and artistic career, and my work with the Award team over the coming months shall undoubtedly help me to improve myself. I am not a professional photographer for the time being, as I am involved in photography beside my original career, but I would be happy if winning the Award could help turn me into a professional photographer.”

Cabbabé said that his pictures “try to reflect simple stories from daily life, as I do not choose major issues, adding that the pictures he submitted for the Award were taken in the residential area near the Prague underground station. “People there live in tough conditions and my pictures sought to highlight a positive side, a space for joy,” he explained.

Cabbabé expressed his gratitude to Byblos Bank for this initiative that aims to encourage innovation and creativity in Lebanon, saying: “It is beautiful to see people in Lebanon rallying around art.”

The jury that chose the winner of Byblos Bank Award for Photography is composed of the following members: Renaud Bergonzo, Director and Co-founder of Galerie Acte2, a famous photography gallery in Paris; Patrick Codomier, Director of VU Agency; François Cheval, Director of Nicéphore Niépce Museum; Gilbert Hage, photographer and lecturer at ALBA; and Lebanese-French Patrick Baz, the Middle East Photo Manager for AFP.

The ten finalists who exhibited at Byblos Bank Award booth in Beirut Art Fair were: Alia Haju, Lina Hassoun, Samar Hawa, Richard Sammour, Charbel Sawaya, Lara Tabet, Charbel Torbey, Jacques Vartabedian, Ghaleb Cabbabé, and George Daou.