

## **Byblos Bank and the French Institute of Lebanon Give a Boost to the Young Lebanese Photography**

**Byblos Bank Headquarters, 20 September 2012:** Sharing the same drive to support the young Lebanese photography talent, the French Institute of Lebanon and Byblos Bank are jointly organizing, at the onset of the academic year 2012, two exhibitions that bring to the limelight two young Lebanese photographers. Held at the exhibition hall of the French Institute, Damas Street, Beirut, they highlight the works of two young Lebanese photographers; Roy Samaha, from 11 September to 5 October, and Rima Maroun, from 11 to 27 October 2012.

Roy Samaha is a filmmaker and photographer and a holder of a Masters degree in filmmaking from USEK. Since 2001, his films are being screened in a number of film and modern art festivals. He is currently holding workshops on alternative film practices in various universities in Beirut. He participated in a number of festivals and exhibitions in Lebanon and Europe and is represented by "Espace Kettaneh-Kunigh" gallery.

Byblos Bank chose to promote photography by putting the spotlight on the talent and potential of young Lebanese photographers and artists. *"Stemming from this perspective, Byblos Bank launched, during the Beirut Art Fair 2012, the Byblos Bank Award, a yearly prize to reward innovation and creativity in photography. The Bank is reiterating its commitment to photography through its collaboration with the French Institute of Lebanon, as well as a set of upcoming activities in 2013,"* stated Nada Tawil, Head of the Group Communication Department at Byblos Bank.

In his turn, Roy Samaha thanked both Byblos Bank and the French Institute of Lebanon for this noteworthy initiative and for their passion to support culture and Lebanese artists. *"I was granted at the end of 2010 a scholarship from the German maker of photography equipment, Leica, to follow in the footsteps of James Bruce, a travel journalist, and create a photography documentary of the Nile of Alexandria in Assouan. I arrived to Egypt the day the revolution was spurred and 'A week in Cairo' relays, through photographs, this unusual experience,"* he stated.

The French Institute of Lebanon embraces young Lebanese creativity. On the renovated premises of the exhibition hall in Beirut, the French Institute has put forth a strategy to voluntarily promote young Lebanese artists. Following Abdulrahman Katanani, the exhibitions in the fall will be allotted to photography, primarily through two artists who share different visions.