

VALERIE GHOUSSAINI

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am often inspired by a quote or particular stanza of writing. Images will come into my head when I read something that holds meaning for me or when I finish a painting a title will come from something in my memory that made an impression. I love the idea of bringing words to life with imagery or imagery bringing life to words. That connection to me is very visceral.

ARTIST'S BIO

Valerie Ghoussaini is a visual artist specializing in the fine art of painting. Her work is a narrative written in paint of her many travels and experiences. Her paintings are collected throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Japan and South America as well as the USA. In 2015 and 2017 she was featured at the Venice Biennale through the European Cultural Center. Her 2017 series, *Women of Power and Interest* was accompanied by a durational performance art piece, inspired by her work, for the opening nights of the Biennale. An additional interactive element allowed the viewer to participate through the internet.

Valerie was also commissioned by the Greater Naples Leadership Organization to paint a sculpted turtle which now resides in the Naples, Florida Zoo as part of the permanent collection. One of her paintings from her *Days at the Beach Series* is part of public art in Pompano Beach, Florida. Her painting *Blue Girl* hangs in the African art wing of the Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art.

Valerie has also worked as a curator producing over 10 pop up gallery shows in Florida and France since 2008. Her paintings have been shown in galleries throughout the USA and Europe since 2004. They include *Artbox. Projects* Basel and Zug, Switzerland, Miami, Florida; *Ashton Gallery* San Diego, California; *Kokomo Union Street Gallery*, Indiana; *The German Embassy*, London, England among others. Her clothing line is featured on shopvida.com an online website that produces textiles designed by artists and created by artisans in under developed countries. All proceeds from her artwork sales benefit charitable organization