

ZeffTime

Art is a homogenous reflection of every moment in my life. In the fall of 2019, I began researching my latest project - *ZeftTime**, only to discover that the whole world has entered into a collective *ZeftTime*, with the onset of the Covid19 pandemic.

The new reality made me reconsider my research when ventilators, masks, and the freedom to breathe, travel, and life became priorities. Then, a chemical explosion shook Beirut, destroying it. And the broken glass was the main cause of death.

I see time as a draft, and its reflections are the secret key to access *ZeftTime*. My artistic challenge expanded multifold, and glass became an integral part of painting with tar. This process added a structural dimension and paired the world of painting with sculpture. Time was no longer an abstract idea or a mere concept in my mind enticing me to perceive it in a three-dimensional way. This is the law of time: every passing moment is a new opportunity for a complete change.

I changed the work's vision by covering the fresh tar, burying it between glass and wood boards, taking my time in the slow process. I then shattered the glass surface and allowed oxygen to penetrate in measured intakes that I controlled through cracking. As the tar was drying up, it gasped more and more oxygen, creating arbitrary colored forms. In practice, I painted *Zefttime* with Oxygen and time.

Pierre Soulages once said: "Whoever looks at my painting is in my painting," so it is with me, but from a different perspective. The broken glass reflects the space that it contains, creating a mirror image projected from me to others and from others to the world. *Zefttime* is a mirror of time within time where between its layers Palestine is still suspended in the same state.

I sought all my life to learn how to swim and float in water, but I failed. Today, I manage to float in *Zeft* and even walk on its surface.

From Ibn Arabi's time till today and beyond, the conclusion remains when he said, "The face is but one; only by counting the mirrors it multiplies."

Hani Zurob
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*Zeft in Arabic means Tar in English. And the word Zeft is used in the Arab World in general and Palestine in particular as a contemptuous term to express a wide range of emotions from a discouraged state of mind to one of repulsion. Sometimes it points to bad luck as a way to describe an awful situation.