

## Two exhibitions prove that artistic communication can be an esoteric experience

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Special to The Daily Star

[...]

While visiting the exhibition, I met and chatted with someone who was provocative in his thoughts as were Salwa's paintings. His name is Joseph Majdalani and he is - hold on to your hat - president of the Society of Friends of White Knowledge and founder of the Esoteric Center in the Middle East.

Mystified and curious, I immediately wanted to know what he was selling. "Esoteric Science" is the science of man as a whole, which employs "psychic questing" to attain self-knowledge and find "the path to human perfectness."

So I asked him to apply his "White Knowledge" to Salwa's paintings. His response was an instant course in appreciating abstract art. "It's a very personal communication," he began. "You can't offer one of these paintings to someone as a gift. Abstract art is an amalgamation of both the conscious and unconscious levels of thought and feeling, and appreciating it is a very exclusive, personal experience.

"Wisdom, or call it appreciation if you like, comes when you're able to link the painting with your unique being and make of it your own painting. I'm as totally free in the making of my painting as Salwa was in making hers. Once it leaves her hands, her painting becomes the inspiration for mine."

It all has to do with a work of art becoming a third presence, independent of its maker and possessing its own life which, in turn, establishes dialogue with the viewer. So all I could say was, "Right on, Dr. Majdalani."

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