

NADIM KARAM

The Lebanese artist on Gibran Kahlil Gibran, going to Kabul, glitter and Kazimir Malevich.

Five prerequisites for survival in the art world:

A bulletproof jacket, endurance, resistance to arrogance, a sense of humour and an appetite for enjoyment.

Looking back at my career in the art world, I wish I had:

A passport with no need for visas.

In the art world, it's never too late to: Fail and start again.

I was lost for words when: An elephant appeared on a cloud heading towards the North Pole.

One of the art world's greatest unsung heroes is: Gibran Kahlil Gibran.

My biggest vanity is: The Wisteria in my front garden.

At art fairs, I wish they would provide: Roller-skates at the entrance.

My biggest pet peeve is: That I haven't been to Kabul yet.

Mankind is capable of: Blunders.

For inspiration, I go to: My atelier.

Life would be meaningless without: Glitter.

I owe my success to: The public arena.

The three things I look for in an artwork are: Fun, absurdity and power.

My best art investment is: In the production of my work.

I am happiest when: I realise an urban art project, the encounters it generates and the way it affects the city where it happens.

My biggest vice: A bowl of *Debs El-Kharoub* (molasses and sesame paste).

The song I can listen to over and over again is: *Batwannis Beek* by Warda.

I would have loved to be a fly on the wall when: Kafka met Kandinsky.

I just don't understand: Anything until I hear its confession in the mirror.

If I weren't doing what I do, I would have been: A fisherman.

The artwork that best describes me is: Every new work I produce.

The artist I'd want my portrait created by is: Kazimir Malevich.

Bad art is: Potentially good art.

I'd like people to remember: My hair, my eyebrows and the thin black tie that my professor Hara Hiroshi offered me during my studies at Tokyo University.

Without art, the world would: Lack vision.

I wish people wouldn't: Stop dreaming.

The actor who would play me in a movie about my life: Charlie Chaplin. ◻