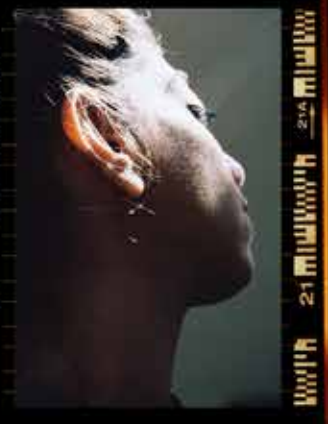


“That’s the thing with handmade items. They still have the person’s mark on them, and when you hold them, you feel less alone,” wrote American novelist Aimee Bender. Here at A Mag, we couldn’t agree more. This issue, we celebrate the craftsmen and women, artists, jewelry-makers, architects and designers who work with their hands to create inimitable pieces. We bring you their stories.





ABDUL RAHMAN KATANANI

INSTALLATION ARTIST AND SCULPTOR

Having grown up in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp, 34-year-old Abdul Rahman Katanani's foray into art began at a young age, when he started painting the harsh realities of living in the impoverished area. His works reflect feelings of both suffering and endurance, utilizing the camp's material – tin and cardboards, old clothes and utensils – in his installations. "The most I was inspired was, and still is, in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp," Katanani says.

What's the best thing you've ever made?

Everything, but the best was when I found myself totally devoted to my art

Your most embarrassing moment

It was when I was at the Fine Arts college, and I asked my parents for money to buy oil colors

What is your earliest memory?

When we were taking shelter under the JVC buildings in Corniche el Mazraa, and I went on a walk with my father late at night. I asked him why the clouds looked red, and he looked at the sky and said, "I don't know." But I felt how hard it was for him

How would you like to be remembered?

I don't know, but I'm searching to be effective. I leave this answer for the people

What's the most important lesson you've learned?

There is always a solution, but we have to work and search for it wisely

A word of advice to young designers

Be yourself, and go crazy with your art

Your favorite Beirut street

Sabra Street