

# ART AND WOMAN



Life and creative world of 100  
Women artists from around the world

ARTS TO HEARTS PROJECT

# Maisa Mreiwed



*Maisa Mreiwed is a Syrian-Canadian multidisciplinary artist whose work explores historical and contemporary themes through symbolic visual languages. She sees art as a narrative tool connecting people, place, and environment. Exhibiting nationally and internationally. Her art appears in leading research publications.*

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**When creating 'Tortosa,' you depict environmental vulnerability through the figure of a seahorse—what artistic choices did you make to convey urgency and collective responsibility without losing a sense of hope?**

In 'Tortosa,' I place the seahorse at the center atop a vibrant orange triangle, symbolizing urgency and alertness. Intricate ink patterns emphasize fragility and interconnection, while gold and turquoise details bring warmth and resilience. This balance between bold colour and delicate design conveys environmental vulnerability alongside hope, inspiring collective responsibility to protect and cherish fragile ecosystems.

**Reflecting on your practice, how has working with hand-painted techniques on paper shaped the evolution of your visual storytelling, especially in conveying messages about identity, environment, and connection?**

Working with hand-painted techniques on paper deepens my connection to each mark and detail, making the creative process intentional and meditative. This tactile approach allows me to layer intricate patterns and symbols that convey complex stories of identity, environment, and connection. The precision and delicacy of ink combined with vibrant paint bring both fragility and strength to my work, enriching the narrative and inviting viewers into a closer, more thoughtful engagement with the themes I explore.

Across 'Hidden Chords,' 'Joy,' and 'Turtosa,' your subjects range from urban musical culture to community harmony and marine conservation; how do you navigate these shifts in narrative focus while maintaining a coherent artistic voice?

I navigate these diverse themes by using a consistent visual language rooted in intricate patterns, symbolic imagery, and vibrant color palettes. Whether exploring music, community, or nature, I focus on connection, presence, and storytelling through layered symbols. This approach allows each work to reflect distinct narratives while maintaining harmony in style and intention, creating a cohesive voice that invites viewers to find meaning across different yet interconnected human and environmental experiences.



Turtosa, mixed painted with gold, ink and acrylic paint on paper, 22 x 28 inches, 2024

Being a woman is the most real intimate  
experience I have. It has given me a purpose  
and a reason to create this story.

When I began this book, I didn't  
know what I was doing. I was just  
writing. I was just trying to tell  
my story. I was just trying to  
share my experiences. I was just  
trying to be honest. I was just  
trying to be real. I was just  
trying to be me.

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