

Ulla Repo (1957) lives and works in Helsinki, Finland and Beirut, Lebanon

She has studied painting in Kankaanpää Art School, Finland, 1976-78, graphic design and graphic arts in University of Art and Design in Helsinki, Finland and in Warsaw Academy of Art, Poland, 1978-84. In Royal University College of Fine Arts, Stockholm, Sweden she took part in the Artists` Professional Development Program 1998-99 in screen printing and mural techniques.

Ulla Repo has been participating in group exhibitions in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Poland since 1978 and has had solo exhibitions since 1994.

Her main techniques are photography, drawing, painting or a combination of all three. She has also used screen printing on her three-dimensional concrete objects.

Works which I´m showing in Marziart Internationale Galerie belong to a suite named “Kind of Paradise”

Living in Beirut feels often like you were living in the middle of a huge construction site. New skyscrapers are popping up everywhere. Whenever you see an empty lot the reason for the emptiness is a commercial fight of the ownership.

I have been fascinated of these empty spaces in the city. How they have transformed during the times. There have been ancient pine forests. There have been lush shadowy gardens with fountains and old stone houses on them. Now some of them function as parking lots some just are there covered with litter enclosed with fences and chains to keep the rivaling neighbor´s bulldozer way.

In “Kind of Paradise” I use painting and photographs of these non-spaces and flower petals which I have been collecting on Beirut streets from early spring in February till autumn in September 2012 and try to get in to the lost-paradise-mood of these places.