

Bonding

I entered the gallery located at the very heart of the city with great curiosity resulting from the exhibition's very title, "Women in R.E.D." I entered the room as a woman longing to feel part of a mystical community, a "Sisterhood" that shared common thoughts, troubles and fears. And I was surprised to eventually find more than I was looking for.

Art, as a form of exposure and expression, does create bonds; but perhaps more than the ones we can perceive. The obvious one is the interactive bond between the creator and the audience. Most of the creators in the specific exhibition shared and exposed quite personal and private aspects of their lives, of their own micro-universes. Amazingly, this exposure and vulnerability on behalf of the creator automatically created a bond not only of trust, but also of respect and honor between the creator herself and the audience, between people who had never even met before. Of course, an even stronger bond was created in the cases where each one of us could for some reason identify with the creator or the message of the painting. But the most amazing property of art is that its bonding power is not restricted to the relationship between the creator and the audience. All of us who were there, who shared this experience that evening, found ourselves moving one step closer to each other, with every response or interpretation that each one of us shared with the others; because the same kind of (self)exposure that can be traced in the creator's work, it can also be traced in the audience's interpretations and responses to it. So, the actual act of expressing and sharing these interpretations and responses is in itself nothing less than a creation of an artistic work from scratch; it is a "painting" in its own right.

But if there is one thing that I'd like to keep as a memory from this whole experience is the confession coming from the curator of the "Women in R.E.D." initiative herself. She said that that she feels really grateful for getting to know all these women and working with them all this time. The calmness in her voice made me appreciate the fact that the greatest piece of art is the human heart and soul that lies behind each work. This is for me a truthful sign of bonding.