

Craft report (Lebanon 2014)

It grieves me to write my yearly report about the crafts in Lebanon where every year we hope for an improvement in the difficult conditions of our country. Unfortunately it seems that the situation is a cycle of ongoing complications causing a status quo.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that the craft activity is nonexistent, but it surely lacks innovation and creativity. The craft exhibitions that were usually held over a period of one week, displaying the works of the craft ateliers of many NGOs have been reduced to a one-day event. This event is usually accompanied by lunch or breakfast aiming at collecting donations. Recurrent designs are being displayed unlike the specialized crafts of various craftsmen that were exhibited before.

These exhibitions displayed many reasonably priced false jewelry (bracelets, earrings, and necklaces) due to the increase in gold prices, many have worked with copper manually (cutting, designing and welding) and then plating with gold (photo 1).

One lady used empty soda glass bottles of different sizes and colors to design very unique lamps (photo 2).

A clear development was in the food items and traditional sweets highlighting the idea of the food reserves that no longer exists in the city but is still so much so the villages.

We pray that God will help us politically, socially, and economically so that Lebanon can regain its status of excellence in innovation and creativity in the field of the crafts.

Regards,

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