

ATELIER

Diala El Yafi

Architecture through
a painter's eyes.

DECORATIVE ARTS

Diala El Yafi

For more than three decades and over two hundred commissions, Diala El Yafi has created murals, decorative finishes and original paintings, from palaces and grand hotels to private residences, across the Middle East, Europe and beyond.

Her work ranges from a single piece of furniture to painted ceilings and complete decorative schemes. She develops every finish herself, through drawing and physical samples, and is always creating new textures.

For each commission she assembles a team of specialist painters, working alongside architects, interior designers and private clients.



“I am always creating new textures, for the taste that lies ahead of us.”

Diala El Yafi

The decorative arts



Painted blossom ceiling



Gilded botanical panels



Painted galuchat

Murals & trompe-l'œil
Landscapes, figures and architectural illusion.

Patinas & textures
Layered colour, aged effects and textured surfaces.

Gilding & metallic finishes
Gold, silver and metal leaf on walls, panels and ornament.

Furniture & doors
Painted furniture, doors and joinery.

Children's rooms
Painted worlds for younger rooms.

Ceilings & ornament
Painted skies, domes, panels and architectural details.

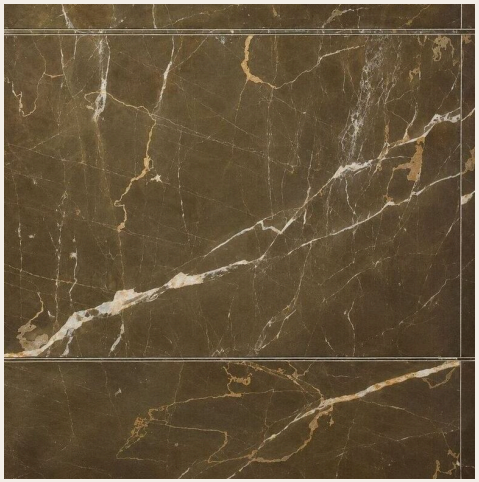
Faux finishes
Painted marble, wood grain, galuchat and other materials.

Verre églomisé
Reverse painting and gilding on glass.

Relief & raised ornament
Sculpted ornament and textured relief, painted or gilded.

Original paintings
Individual works and commissioned paintings.

Every surface, by hand



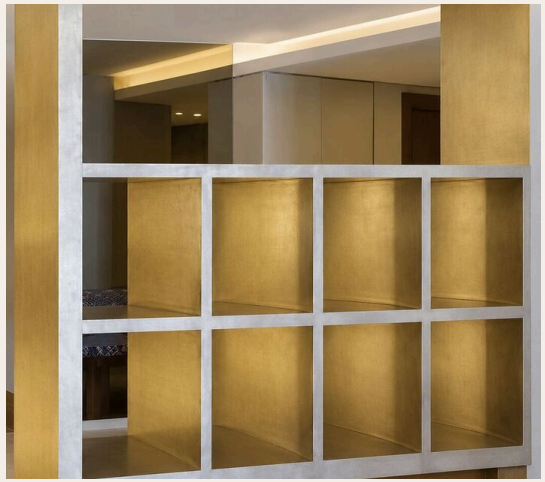
Painted marble



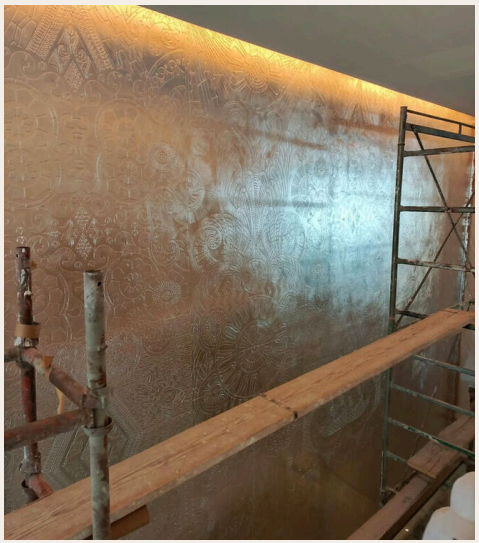
Gilded ornament



Colour and gold leaf



Metal leaf on joinery



Stencilled silver leaf



Painted glass



Children's room mural



Gilding on mirror

Selected commissions.

Hotels · Beirut
Le Vendôme, suites at Le Royal, the Four Seasons

Private palaces · Gulf*
Painted domes and skies, Islamic ornament, faux marble, gilding

Private commissions · Gulf*
Painted galuchat, silver leaf, complete schemes

Private residence · London
Painted panelling and classical ornament

Private apartment · Paris
Decorative finishes and painted detail

Private villas · Beirut & Damascus
Painted ceilings, panels, doors and furniture

Furniture
Painted and gilded pieces, made to commission

Original paintings
Exhibitions and private collections

Opposite: painted dome, private palace, Gulf*

* Gulf commissions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.



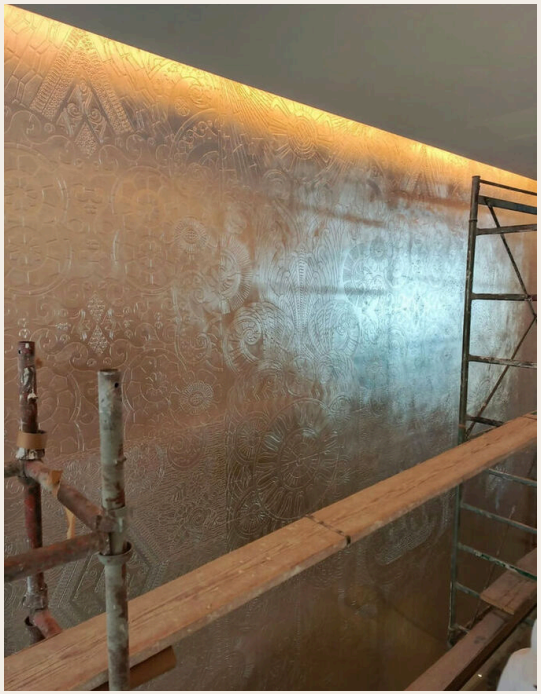


The silver leaf wall, stencilled and antiqued

Galuchat and silver.

PRIVATE COMMISSION · GULF* · PAINTED GALUCHAT, SILVER LEAF

For a contemporary interior in the Gulf, the walls were finished by hand in two materials. Silver leaf was laid, stencilled with medallions and scrolls, then softly antiqued. In the rooms beyond, the grain of ray-skin was painted panel by panel and set between strips of gold steel.

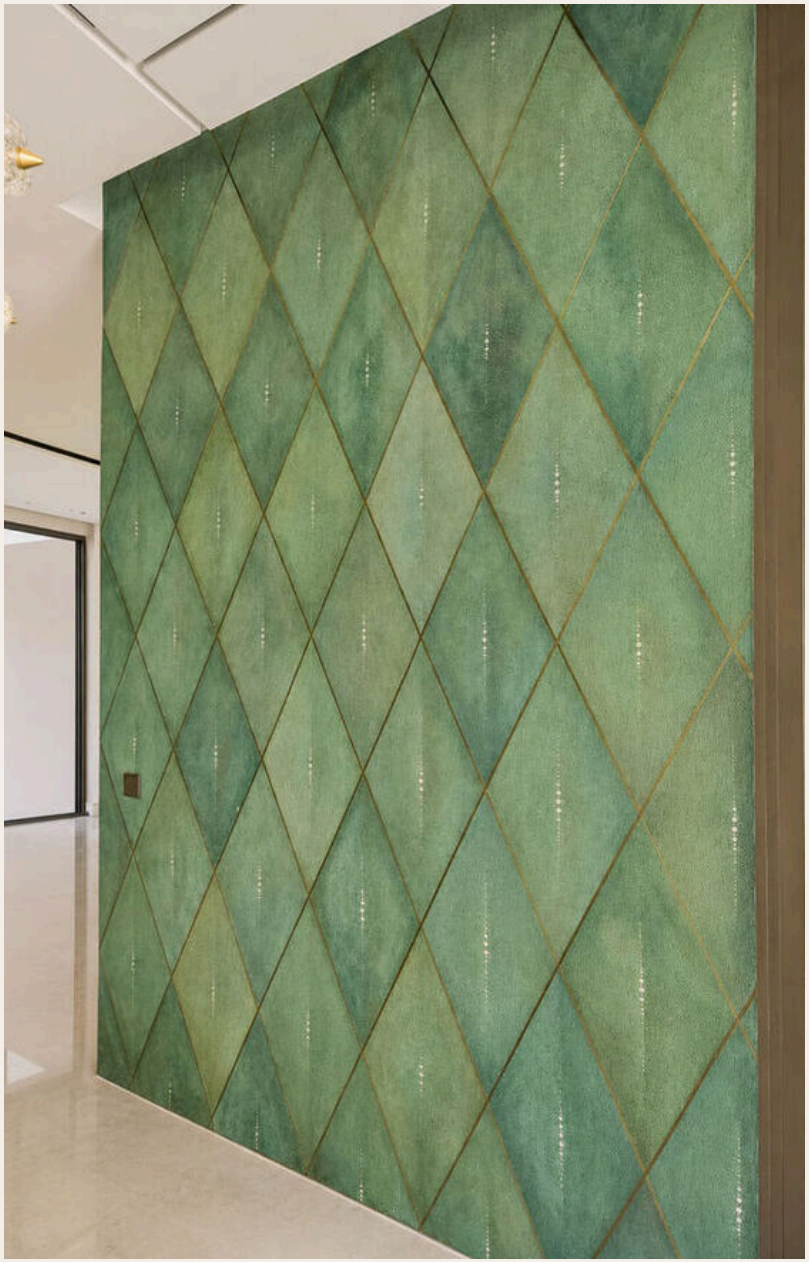


The wall during the work



Applying silver leaf

* Gulf commissions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.



Painted galuchat, set in gold steel



Galuchat, detail

Galuchat, the ray-skin prized by Art Deco cabinetmakers, painted panel by panel onto the wall and set between strips of gold steel.



Stencilled silver leaf, detail



Silver leaf, stencilled and antiqued

PROJECT · HOSPITALITY

Le Vendôme, Beirut.

HOTEL · BEIRUT · LOBBY AND PUBLIC SPACES

In the hotel's arrival hall, cream panelling, gilded mouldings and a painted ceiling frame the chandeliers, marble and light. The work is quiet by design.



Reception

ATELIER DIALA EL YAFI



Diala patinating a grisaille relief panel



Faux marble door, set in real marble walls



Carved relief panels, patinated by hand



The ballroom



The lobby



Chandelier and panelled walls



The salon, from the mezzanine



The painted dome

A painted sky.

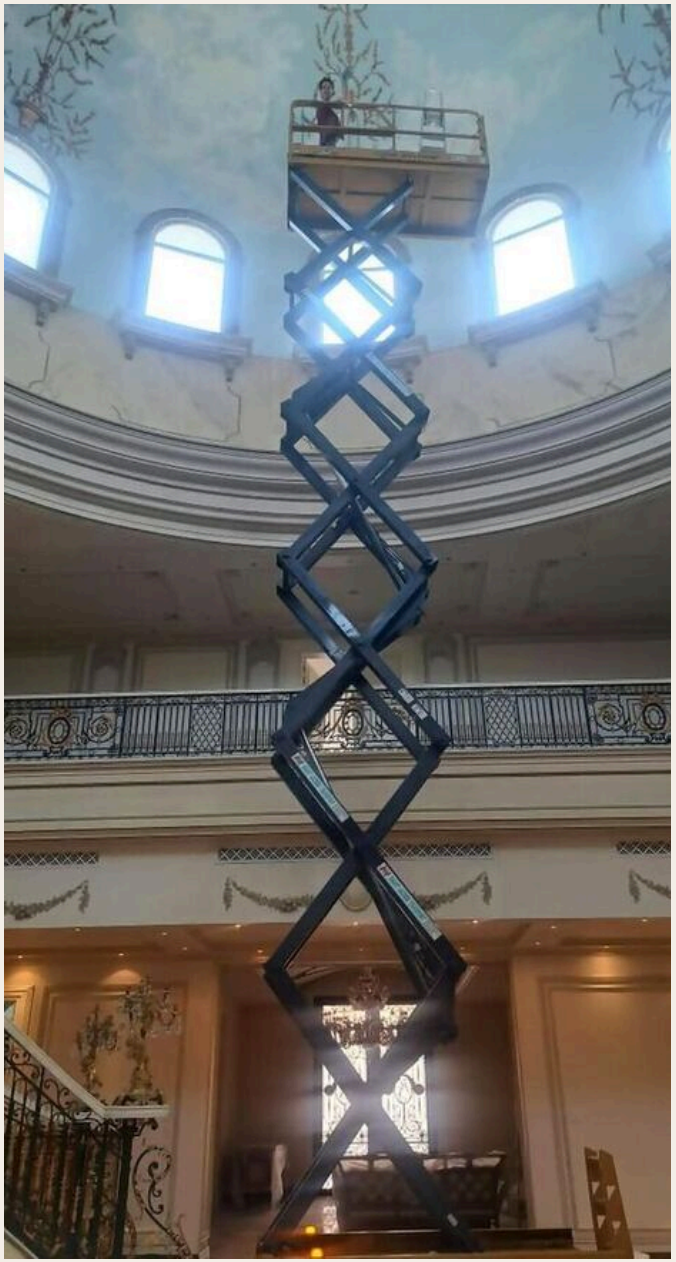
PRIVATE PALACE · GULF* · DOMES, FAUX MARBLE, GILDING

At the heart of the palace, a rotunda rises to a painted dome. Cherubs and gilded foliage climb towards the light between the windows, while below, columns in painted marble and gilded capitals carry the classical order through every floor.



The rotunda: dome, gallery and painted columns

* Gulf commissions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.



Working at the height of the dome



The atelier's team at work on the dome



Faux marble column



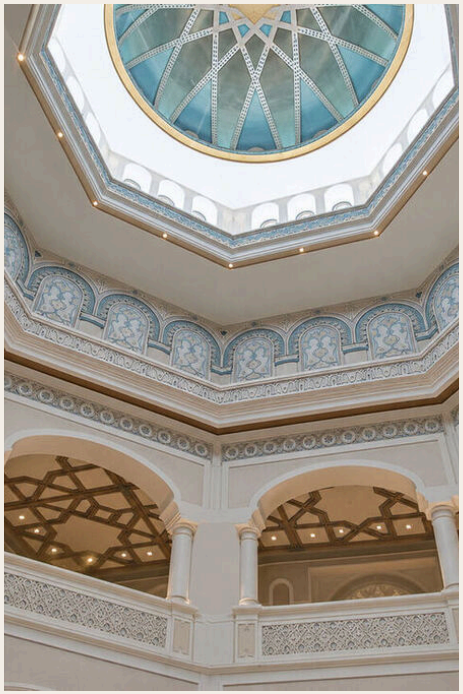
Veining a fluted column

EXPERTISE IN DETAIL

Geometry and light.

ORNAMENT, CEILINGS, RELIEF · GULF*

The language of Islamic ornament: carved arabesque panels finished in ivory and gold, star motifs, and painted geometry rising into domes and majlis ceilings.



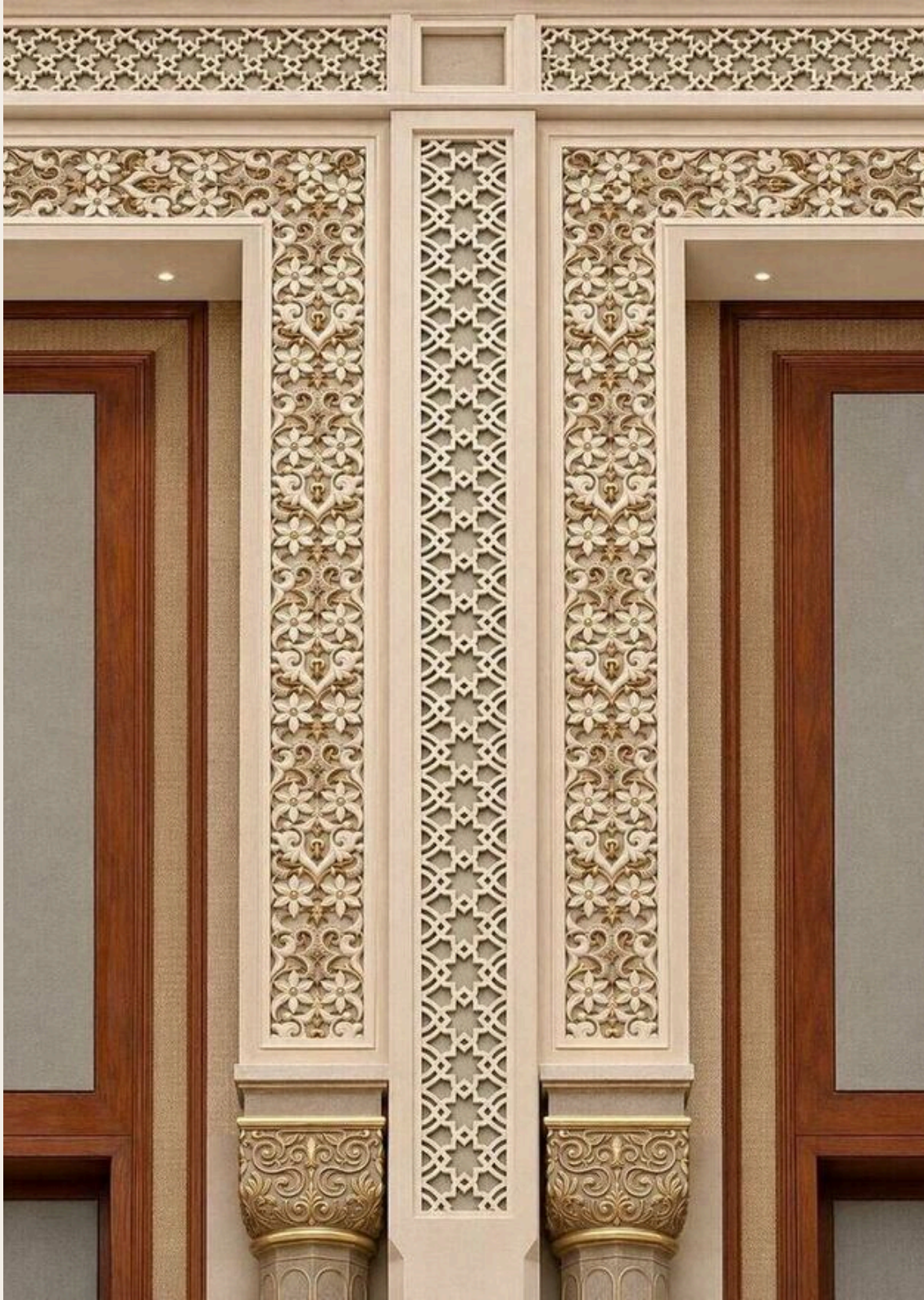
The octagonal dome



Painted star medallion

* Gulf commissions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

ATELIER DIALA EL YAFI

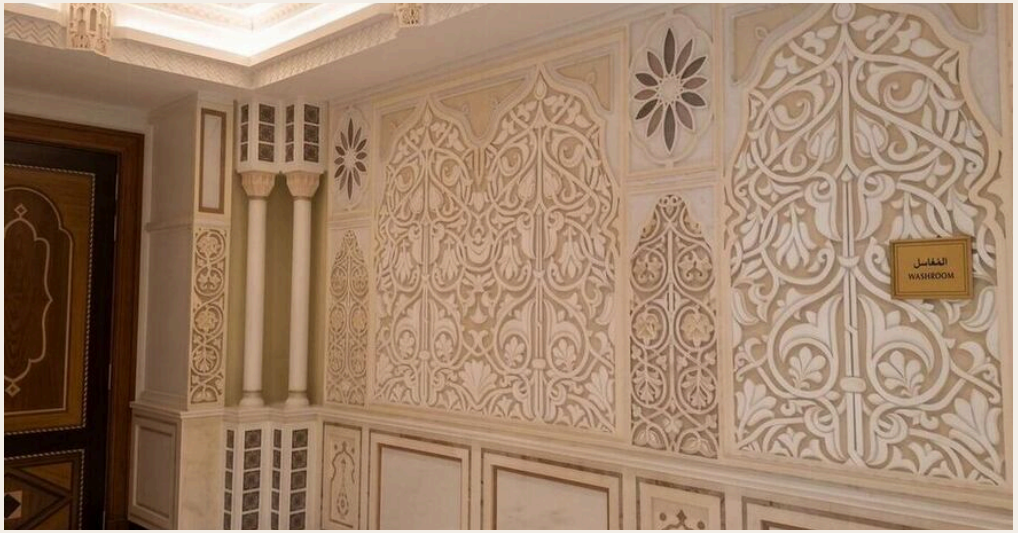




The grand salon



The monumental arch



Carved arabesque panels in ivory and gold

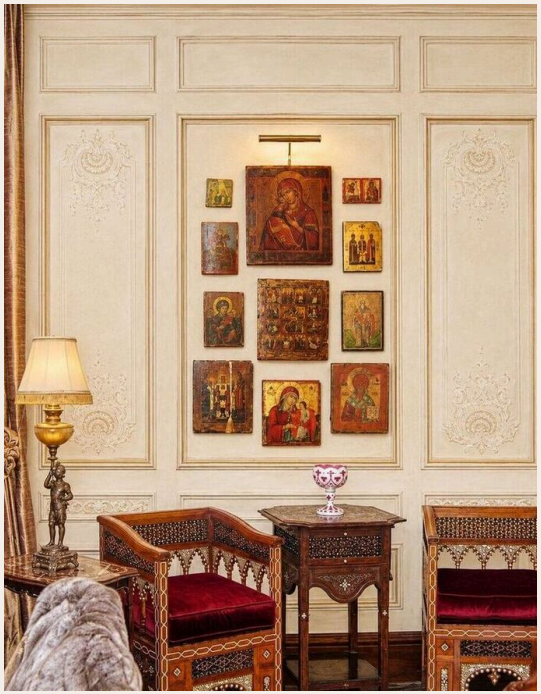


Painting the ornamental panels

Classical ornament.

PANELLING, RAISED ORNAMENT, PATINA · LONDON

Plain panelling becomes a classical interior: scrolling ornament raised and painted by hand onto each panel, then softened with patina so the rooms feel as if they had always been this way.



The finished room



Panelling above a carved chair



A full ornamental panel



Scroll and shell, detail



Raised ornament within a gilded frame

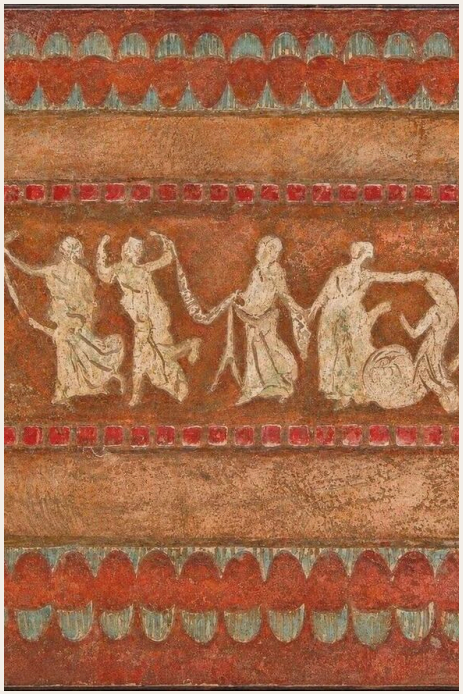
Painted ceilings and doors.

CEILINGS, FRIEZES, DOORS · BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS

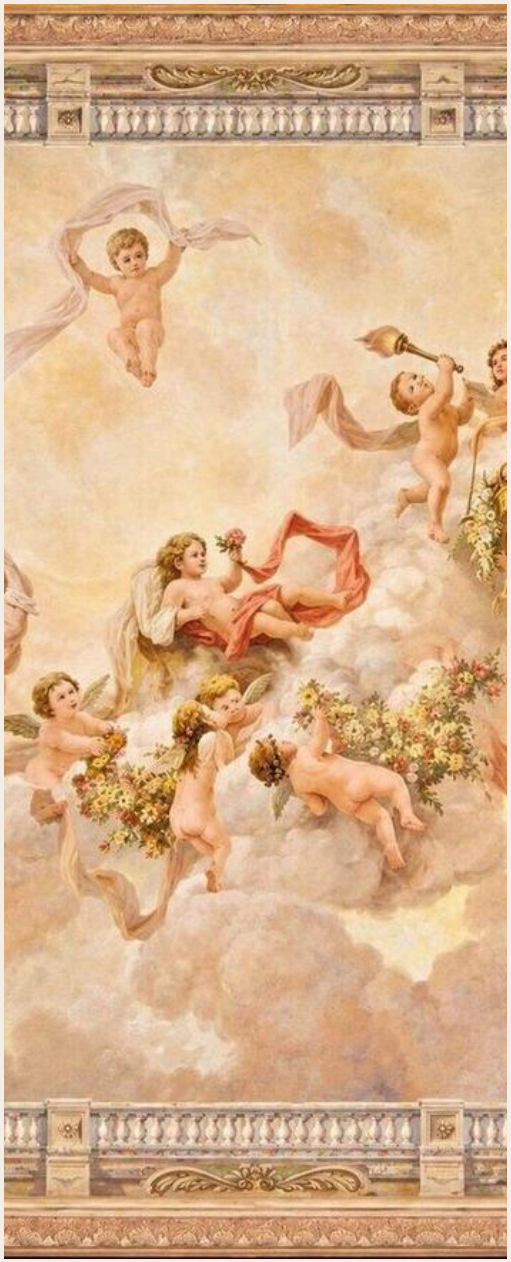
In the homes where her practice began, Diala painted figurative ceilings, red and gold friezes, and doors and panels in the classical French manner, each scheme drawn for its rooms and finished by hand.



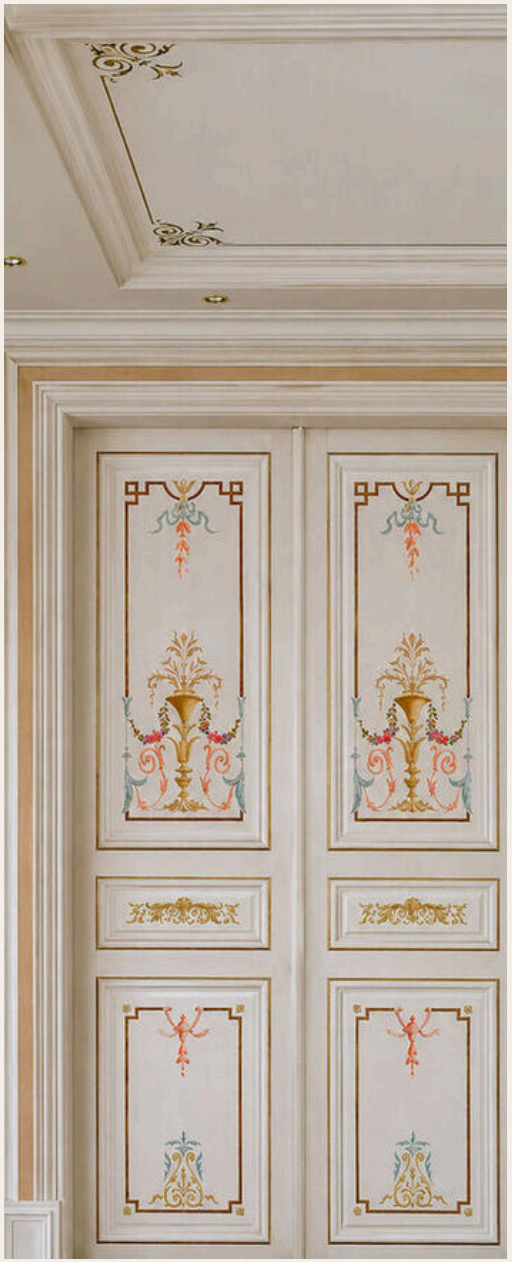
Painting a ceiling border



Figurative frieze



Figurative ceiling



Painted double doors

Branches and skies.

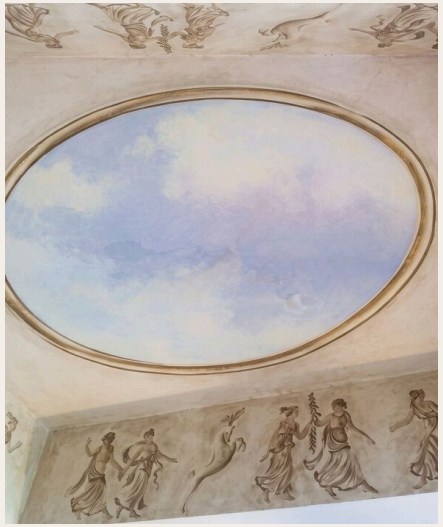
Blossoming branches, open skies and climbing roses return again and again in Diala's work: on ceilings, in recesses and across whole walls. Painted with a light hand, they bring nature and light into a room, and have become a signature of the atelier.



Blossom wall



Climbing roses on a trellis



Sky oculus and figure frieze



Sky and vine ceiling



Blossom bedroom wall

Marble, metal and patina



Green faux marble pier



Dark veined marble



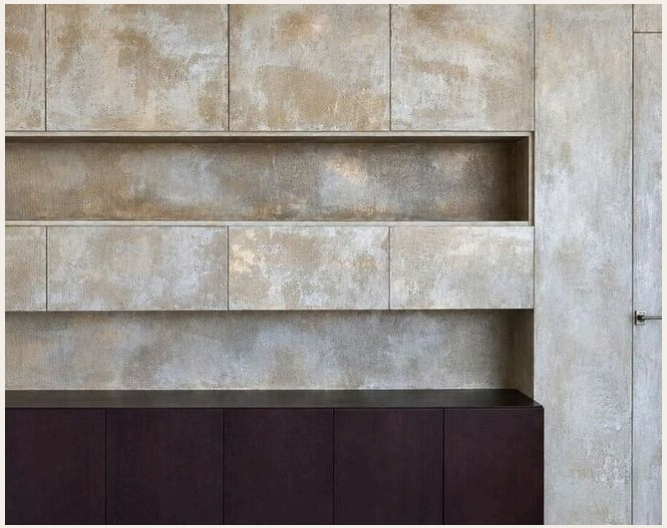
Flowing metallic relief



Gold and silver leaf foliage



Clouded metallic wall



Patinated joinery

Furniture & doors



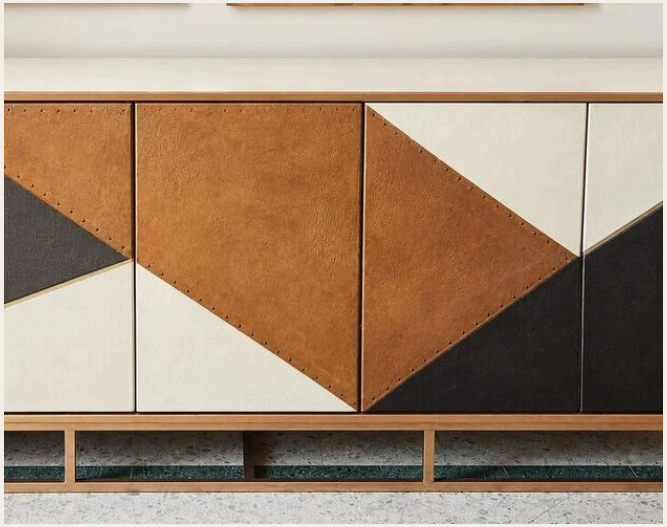
Painted and gilded console



Painted folding screen



Painted floral door



Geometric sideboard in colour and leaf

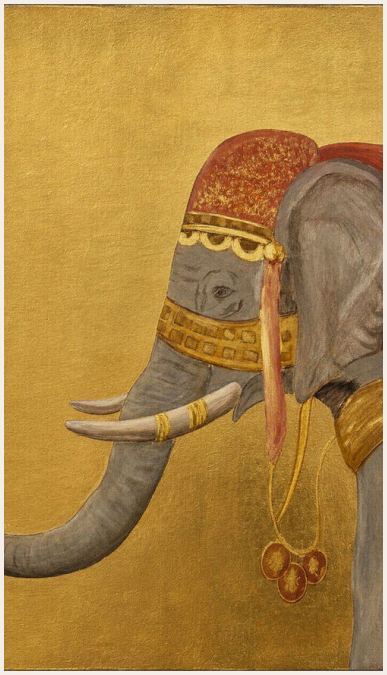


Gilded wall sconce



Painted leaf wall by a pool

How a commission comes to life



01

Brief & study

A conversation about the room, then a painted study of composition, colour and gold.



02

Samples

Every finish is painted by hand as a physical sample until it is right.



03

The team

For each project Diala assembles specialist painters, chosen for the techniques it needs.



04

Her hand

On site she leads the work and paints the signature passages herself.



05

The finished room

Every surface finished by hand and handed over complete.

01 · Preliminary study for a mural, Gulf* Gulf commissions in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Samples & studies

The Beirut atelier holds an extensive collection of painted samples and studies. Patinas, textures, ornament and material effects offer a point of departure, with new samples developed for each commission.



The sample collection, Beirut

FROM THE COLLECTION



Patina



Metallic effect



Textured finish



Raised ornament



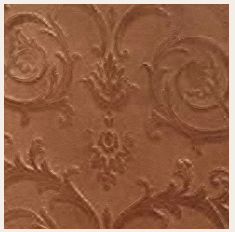
Botanical relief



Scrollwork



Painted motif



Damask pattern

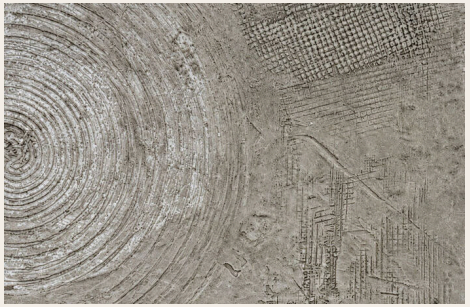


Linear pattern

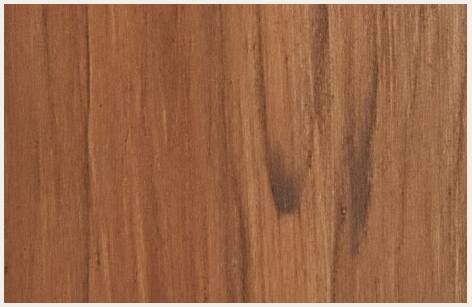
Finishes & painted details

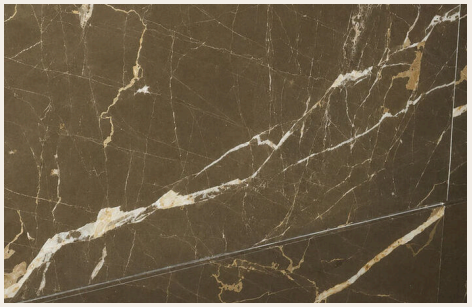

Teal and ochre patina


Sculpted ripples


Combed texture


Warm metallic finish


Painted wood grain


Brown marble effect


Red marble


Silver ornament


Red & gold ornament


Gold damask


Painted blossom


Pale relief ornament

Recent samples



Layered silver



Layered gold



Verre églomisé



Blue floral stencil



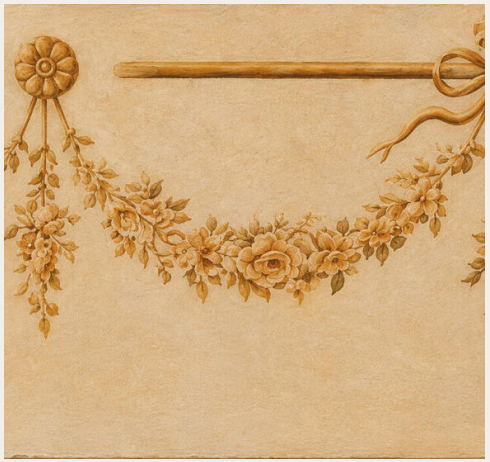
Rosettes on navy



Embossed damask



Painted medallion



Garland on gold



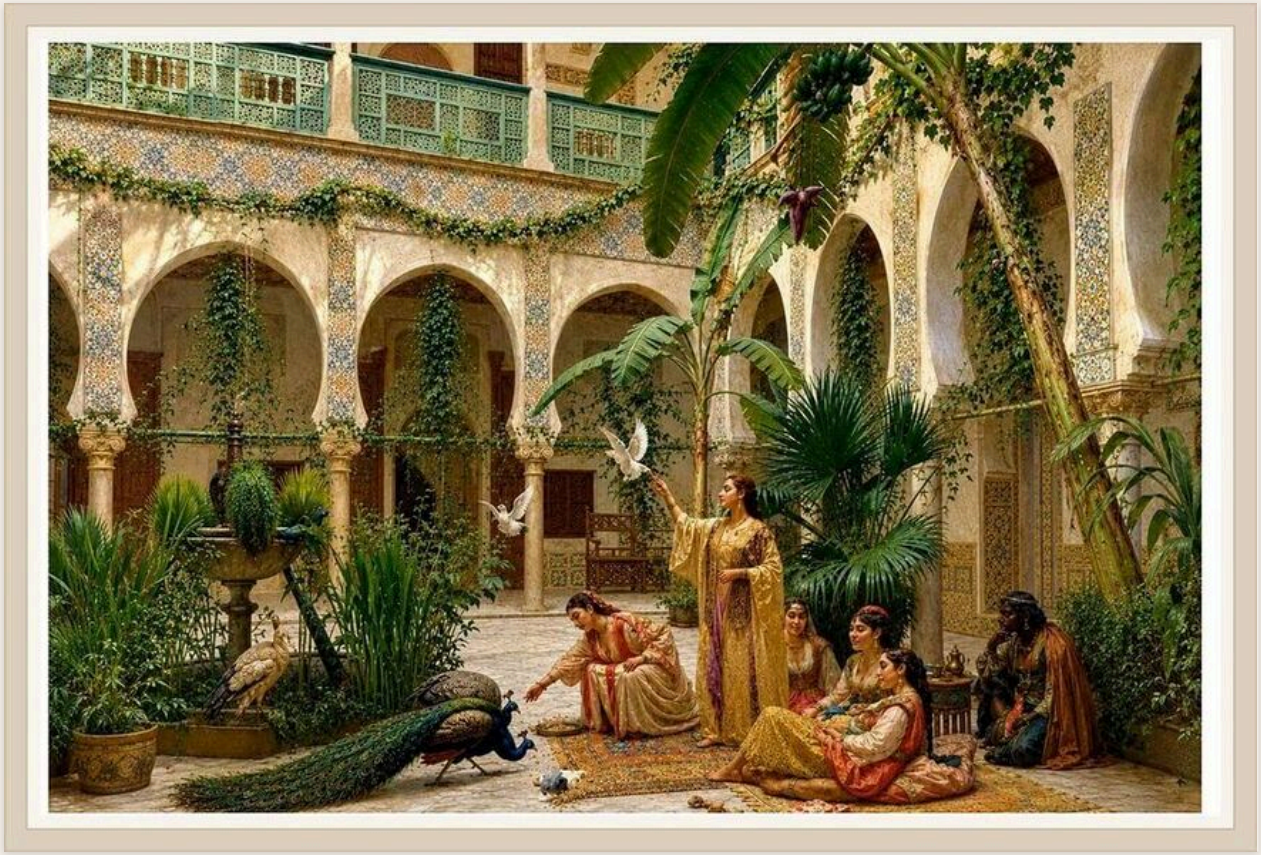
Original paintings.

Diala's paintings form a distinct part of her practice. Figurative, landscape and abstract works explore colour, texture and composition, alongside paintings commissioned for a particular space.

Many begin in the same atelier as her decorative work, with the same gold leaf, layered grounds and textured surfaces carried onto canvas.

Portrait in gold and blue

Painted courtyards



The peacock courtyard

Courtyards, fountains and figures painted in the Orientalist tradition, at the scale of a wall.



In place, in a private interior



The garden fountain

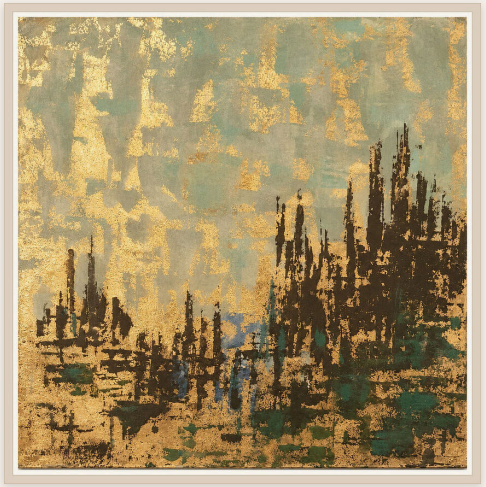


The courtyard pool

Trees and birches



Cedar of Lebanon



Gold and dark forest



Violet and gold



Silver birches



Birches in blue and yellow



Birches with gold leaf

Seas and shores



Silver and sand



Pale blue horizon



Silver sea



Sailboats in pale blue

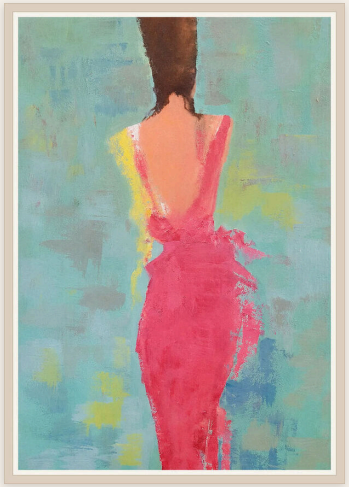


Sails in white and gold



Three figures on a pale shore

Figures



The pink dress



Figures in white and gold



Figure in red and gold



Portrait with Arabic verse



The turning dancer

Cities, landscape and form



City silhouettes I



City silhouettes II



Geometric composition



Fields of poppies

COMMISSIONS & ENQUIRIES

Commissioning the atelier.

Every commission begins with a conversation. Drawings and samples give form to the proposed work, refining its colour, composition and finish before execution.

From a single artwork to a complete decorative scheme, the atelier welcomes commissions from architects, designers and private clients.

Whether you have a developed brief or an initial idea, we would be pleased to discuss your project.

PROJECT ENQUIRIES

Sherif Haidar

sherif.haidar@gmail.com
+44 7375 553086

ATELIER
DIALA EL YAFI