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Arab contemporary artist: Deena Abdelwahed

Biography:

Deena Abdelwahed is a contemporary artist of Arab who deals with experimental sound. She was born in 1998 in Doha, Qatar. Her parents were Tunisians. She lives in Qatar until her 18 years of age. She spent these 18 years in a community of immigrants. She felt confused because she was not living in her cultural home and she did not have acquaintance with the locals of that place in which she was living. Most of the time of her late teens was spent learning music. But not because of interest but because of boredom as she did not have a personal computer at that time. So she used to spend time on the family computer searching things on the internet and making a playlist of funk soul brother song. She used to dance to this song when nobody was around. According to her music became a secret garden to her.

When she visits Tunisia in summers she always thinks of moving here. And the idea that she would become Tunisian excites her. But when at the age of 18 she moved here things were different for her. Her speaking style was totally different, she felt like a foreigner or some kind of alien. She used to sing songs in hotels which helped her in discovering artists of hip-hop and electronic music. Her first musical home was Chicago footwork (style of street dance). The Club culture of Tunisia was not so big so it was easier to get noticed there. During the time of the Revolution Abdelwahed also participated in protests and she was satisfied with the result. Because people become free after that they got the right to speak freely. People felt strong, satisfied, and brave. As there was no blocking of the internet anymore. So she would search for any music she wanted to. She was graduated in 2011 from Tunis institute of fine arts, she had a degree in interior architecture and design. She is a DJ (Disc jockey) and a producer. She is a Tunisian Electronic dance music (EDM) DJ in a city of France named Toulouse. She was recently working with InFiné music. Her albums include Klabb(In Tunisian language the

word Klabb means rabies. The adjective of Klabb is Makloub and in Tunisian language word Makloub is used to refer a person whose behavior is strange.), Khonnar and Dhakar. As I open my eyes is the movie she has produced. She found electronic dance music in 2011 in Tunis. She did Disc joking with a local team/crew. The name of this local crew was a World full of Bass. She herself started Disc joking in 2013 and made her presence eminent here after this in 2015 she moved to Toulouse, France. Her work is highly affected by traditional Arabic music. Klabb was her first album which was released on InFiné on March 8, 2017. her famous album Khonnar was launched on InFiné on November 16, 2018. Dhakar was released on InFiné on January 17, 2020.

Tawa, Khonnar:

Khonnar is pronounced as Ronnar. this detail is necessary so the simple misrepresentation can be avoided by the speakers of French. Most of Tunisian culture and language is made by this term. It induces the reprehensible, awful, and troubling side of the things and situations. The one people wants to hide but Deena tried to interfere in this side by the introduction of Khonnar which is an indication that Deena is trying to make sure that is coming as an artist. Self-made irritation, resentment, restrictions which got support from negative or unprogressive minds, Neither east nor west has power over it but Deena is trying hard to reveal or break these. All the time of Khonnar, Deena disintegrates the rules of resonant, ambient, and electronic music. She tried to give an announcement to the people who do not want to go back to the identities they hid somewhere under their skins. Khonnar is comprised of 9 songs. It is a criticism on Arabian society and the way it is observed by people. It is a combination of modern music and blended Arabic music. It's mostly songs are in Tunisian Arabic. Khonnar is totally different from Deena's other album Klabb. Klabb shows the dark and disturbing side of her but this one is totally different. It is based on club culture.

Tawa: The English translation of the word ‘Tawa’ is ‘now’ Deena Abdelwahed has combined Arabic music with the non-traditional beat in her song **Tawa** it was an endeavor to make a dance room track. She described this as a sardonic play of assumptions. She described that the start of the song shows that it is an Arabic melody that represents Arabic culture but the remaining part has nothing to do with Arabic culture that represents Khonnar. However, this long play (LP) makes a person want to dance. Tawa is a mixture of pulsing drum instruments and Arabic tune which make the brain of a person keep revolving even in it’s a bad mood. It is a mixture of Middle Eastern and North African sound with electronic music. Which is much of Deena Abdelwahed’s style. It is a type of sound that is full of energy to make a person’s mood energetic. It has the power to make a person who is facing bad situations can feel better by listening to it. It is a proof of her creativity. She is an absolute musician. She has used her music for a good cause. Her music is a march against social injustice and inequality of gender and homophobia. This song represents her visionary approach. She transformed her voice into different forms that represent the people she wants to defend. This song was made so after listening to it a person can enjoy the moment, dance and feel lively. This song and others in the album make Khonnar a masterpiece.

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