

Vogue Arabia's June issue is a Love Letter to Lebanon Starring Majida El Roumi

by ALEXANDRIA GOUVEIA



Majida El Roumi wears a Lebanese flag, over her Zuhair Murad couture gown, for the June 2020 cover of *Vogue Arabia*.
Photography: Sandra Chidiac

As the current pandemic adds to her country's struggles, she remains defiant. "I advocate for Lebanon to exercise sovereignty, dignity, and prestige on its land, and I call for confederation. Why shouldn't there be a United States of Lebanon?"

Providing a voice for her nation, particularly in times of hardship, El Roumi will be releasing two new singles soon: "Sawt El Ha2," which is dedicated to the people, and "Mahjoureen," a joyful song to offer some light relief during these difficult times.

Arnaut further explains his decision to publish an issue dedicated to Lebanon, when other Arab countries are also experiencing adversity: "When the topic is fashion, there is no question that Lebanon is the leading hub for the industry in the Arab world, with designers from Elie Saab to Zuhair Murad, Georges Hobeika, and Rabih Kayrouz conquering international fashion weeks. Outside the realm of fashion, director Nadine Labaki, Maya Ibrahimchah (Beit el Baraka), Adib Dada (Beirut RiverLESS), and Olfat Mounzer (representing Dafa) are some of the citizens with significant projects making a difference in the lives of hundreds of struggling Lebanese people. This issue aims to celebrate their artistry and work – those with inspiring stories and a sense of mission. I consider it a duty to support a country that is a pillar of what *Vogue Arabia* represents."