

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: Kais Salman: Material World
Location: Ayyam Gallery Dubai DIFC
Dates: December 13 – January 15, 10am to 8pm
Opening: December 13 at 7pm

From December 13 – January 15, Ayyam Gallery Dubai DIFC will present “Material World,” the solo exhibition of Syrian artist Kais Salman. Known for his bold, expressionist explorations of human subjects, Salman is currently gaining the attention of regional art critics and collectors as he challenges notions of beauty and comments on our ever-growing dependence on materialism. This has been most evident with his highly acclaimed “Fashion Series,” a daring body of work that is at once provocative and introspective with its jarring portrayals of scantily clad women.

The artist’s latest canvases continue to undermine purported social norms, as his disfigured anti-heroines are even more audacious, yet exist as merely objects themselves. In these works we find a noticeable departure from earlier paintings, as the background is simplified and his compositions contain references to high-end fashion lines or goods. His palette is also more vibrant, while his female protagonists are given sharp features. In some instances their faces seem to come into focus. Salman appears to have moved his figures from the grotesque to the bizarre and abject, as he seeks to focus our attention on the stark state of alienation in which his subjects exist. Stripped of their identities through constant exploits in vanity, they lay bare to the world, alone with nothing more than their physical and psychological nakedness and a few couture items.

Born in Tartous, Syria in 1976, Kais Salman graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus in 2002. Since then he has become a prominent member of a young generation of Syrian artists that is currently transforming regional painting. Featured in countless group exhibitions in Syria and the Arab world, including the 4th Annual Youth exhibition in Damascus, where he took first prize, and the inaugural exhibition of the Damascus Museum of Modern Art, Salman has been a regular fixture of high profile shows. Recently, he has become essential to Ayyam Gallery's lineup with well-regarded solo shows and his participation in such standout events as its "Shabab Uprising," "Young Collectors Auction" and “Beirut Sale.” A favorite among collectors, his work is housed throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

Since its founding in 2006, Ayyam Gallery has become one of the Arab world's leading art spaces. With a selection of cutting-edge painting, sculpture and photography that represents some of the Middle East's most exciting talent, the gallery has sought to promote the region's dynamic cultural scene at home and abroad. For more information visit www.ayyamgallery.com