

Asma FAYOUMI (1943 -)

Born in Amman, Jordan in 1943, Asma Fayoumi's formative years as a painter occurred in the 1960s with the emergence of a particular school of Syrian abstraction that was led by the Italian artist and instructor Guido La Regina.

A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, she worked alongside fellow students Assad Arabi, Faek Dahdouh and Sakher Farzat, who later became recognized as seminal artists, during this time. As such, her journey as a professional artist unfolded at one of the most critical periods of the regional art scene—when modernist schools first displayed evidence of a gradual transition into contemporary modes of representation and a charged political climate urged regional culture to take up the call for social change.

A well-received solo show in Damascus in 1966 solidified her arrival on the local art scene, as it created a significant buzz. Since then she has been featured in countless solo and group exhibitions both at home and abroad and is acknowledged as a seminal female painter, one whose career has paved the way for subsequent generations of women artists. Today, Fayoumi's paintings are admired for their unique approach to depicting a range of subjects—from mythological figures to the stark realities of war, she freely reflects “an explosion of internal struggle,” giving her work a profound sensitivity and intuition.

From her early days of depicting Damascene scenes using colorist principles of abstraction to her more recent expressionist works that combine her signature style of layered and labored figurative compositions, Fayoumi has remained committed to depicting the world around her with fervent imagination.