

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: Ammar Abd Rabbo 'Follow the Leader'

Location: Ayyam Gallery, Dubai (DIFC)

Opening: Monday, June 18

Dates: June 18 – July 12



From June 18 until July 12, Ayyam Gallery DIFC is pleased to present a new series of works by renowned photojournalist, Ammar Abd Rabbo, in his second artistic exhibition with Ayyam Gallery entitled 'Follow the Leader'. A chronicler of life's events, capturing nearly every moment from the poverty stricken on the street to the world's nobility and celebrated figures, Ammar Abd Rabbo focuses his lens in 'Follow the Leader' on the spontaneous moments that portray the humanity of our world leaders.

Featuring a rare collection of fifteen photographs of Arab and international leaders taken at various moments of their life, Ammar Abd Rabbo's new series offers an unprecedented glimpse at these leaders. Captured while on assignment and never staged or digitally manipulated in any way, Ammar Abd Rabbo manages to immortalize those moments reserved for private spheres that slip into view. An internal thought read across the lines of a face, a smirk and side glance, the way the poster of one leader is ignored while another is carefully cared for. With the eye of a journalist, each of Ammar Abd Rabbo's images relay just enough information to set the scene, yet with an unflinching artistic eye, his intriguing compositions retain a graphic beauty.

Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles, Syrian President Bashar El Assad and his wife, Saudi Prince and billionaire Alwaleed Bin Talal, and the fallen leaders of Iraq and Libya among others are featured in this exhibition. Whether attractive or repulsive in their political stances, each is a personality who engages our curiosity, and each portrait makes the same statement, that icons are simply human beings, sharing the same experiences and feelings as the wider public.

Born in Damascus in 1966, Rabbo lived in Libya and Lebanon prior to ultimately residing in France in 1978. As one of the Arab world's most important photojournalists, his work has been published in the world's most widely circulated publications, from Time Magazine to Paris Match, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and Asharq Al Awsat, where he signed more than 60 magazine covers, and his virtual exhibition on the photo-sharing website Flickr has had more than two and a half million visitors. From a twenty-year career, his portfolio amassed intimate portraits of head of states, war coverage in Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, world-renowned celebrities like the late 'King of Pop', Michael Jackson, as well as high society events such as the Cannes Film Festival and Paris Fashion Week. Rabbo's first solo artistic exhibition, 'Coming Soon' was held in Ayyam Gallery, Beirut in early 2012 and his photograph of Queen Elizabeth II was recently sold at The Young Collectors Auction in Dubai in May 2012.

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Since opening in 2006 Ayyam Gallery has become one of the most prominent galleries in the Middle East, with four exhibition spaces throughout the region, notably in Syria, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates. Ayyam Gallery proudly represents some of today's most recognized emerging and established Arab artists. For more information visit www.ayyamgallery.com

For interviews with the artist or any further details, please contact us at +971 4 4392395 or email difc@ayyamgallery.com