



Trial No. 132 - Trance at Sunset, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 185 x 200 cm

MOUTEEA MURAD *THRESHOLDS 3.0*

7 June – 31 July 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, 7 June from 5.00 to 7.00 pm

Ayyam Gallery Beirut is pleased to present *Thresholds 3.0*, the solo exhibition of painter Mouteea Murad.

About the Show

The third presentation of Mouteea Murad's latest body of work, *Thresholds 3.0*, highlights a selection of paintings from the artist's 2016 solo exhibition *Thresholds* presented at Ayyam Gallery Dubai. In this series Murad experiments with the use of mathematics in geometric abstraction, an approach to non-objective art that he developed over the course of a decade. Presenting a select number of large-scale paintings in a different setting allows the viewer to further

explore Murad's emphasis on space and dimension, which he masters by both drawing on the formalism of Op art and using the Fibonacci number sequence as a starting point for his compositions. The artist's use of the numerical sequence and mathematical functions results in an impression of motion and the illusion of expanding space within the works. His grid-like patterns partially conceal the interactions of the polygons and lines of the layer below them, creating an illusion of depth. As the distances between the grid lines change, the paintings appear to swell and contract in front of the viewer.

Murad continues to draw inspiration from Islamic art while employing forms and lines largely defined by algebraic functions, allowing for his work to see a unification of spirituality and formalism.

About the Artist

Mouteea Murad's work sees a unification of spirituality and formalism, continuously drawing influence from the geometric forms and motifs of Islamic art. Murad began his career as a painter working on monochromatic, expressionist compositions that depict the anguish of modern man. In 2007, his work took on a renewed outlook that redirected his painting style, exploring relativity, spatiality, and the visual dynamic of geometric forms.

The evolution of Murad's work is reflected through the gradual stages of abstraction in his compositions as he builds on the breakthroughs of previous movements, experimenting with automatic brushwork, the illusionistic perspective of Op art, the symmetry of geometric abstraction, and the collapsing planes of Suprematism. In his most recent series, his relationship with mathematics plays an integral role, with the Fibonacci numbers and sequence at its centre. His forms and lines are largely defined by algebraic functions and their geometric application within the work.

Murad lives and works in Sharjah, UAE. He received a Bachelor of Art from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2001. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2011, 2017); Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz (2016), Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2011); and Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2010). His work can be found in private and public collections internationally, including the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

About Ayyam Gallery

Founded in 2006, Ayyam Gallery is a leading arts organisation that manages the careers of diverse established and emerging artists. Blue-chip art spaces in Beirut and Dubai, a series of collaborative projects in the United States, Europe, and Asia, and a multinational non-profit arts programme have furthered the gallery's mandate of expanding the parameters of international art. With its widely respected multilingual publishing division and a custodianship programme that manages the estates of pioneering artists, Ayyam Gallery has also contributed to recent efforts that document underrepresented facets of global art history.

Exhibition Facts

Exhibition Dates: 7 June - 31 July 2018

Opening Reception: Thursday, 7 June from 5.00 to 7.00 pm

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri: 11.00 am to 7.00 pm, Sat: 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Location: Beirut Tower, Ground Floor, Zeitoune Street, Across from Beirut Marina

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For media requests or interviews with the artist, please email the gallery's press office at press@ayyamgallery.com or call +961 1374450/51.