

Oussama Diab (Syria, b. 1977)

Palestinian artist Oussama Diab applies a conceptual approach to painting by exploiting the stylistic variants of the medium as emotive prompts in order to explore how form can articulate the urgency of sociopolitical issues. In an age where digital media have taken a dominant role in filtering our everyday experiences and the construction of imagery has become integral to the negotiation of modern life, Diab addresses the contradictions and obstacles of political conflict, globalisation, and exile through playful symbolism, references to popular culture, iconic imagery, and narrative structures. With each new series he adopts a different painting style, reflecting the impermanent nature of art as it becomes increasingly conceptual and further dematerialised.

Born in 1977 in Damascus, Oussama Diab lives and works in Beirut. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 2002, he has featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout the region and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Shabab Young Artists exhibition in Syria. Solo shows include Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2012); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2015, 2010-11); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2009).