

SAFWAN DAHOUL: REPETITIVE DREAMS

Organisation: Ayyam Gallery

Time: 08 May 2013 6:30pm - 15 June 2013 6:00pm

Place: Ayyam Gallery, 1st Floor, 143 New Bond Street, W1S 2TP

Ayyam Gallery Presents

SAFWAN DAHOUL: *REPETITIVE DREAMS*



Repetitive Dreams is Syrian painter **Safwan Dahoul's** first solo exhibition in the United Kingdom. Firmly established as one of the most prominent Arab artists working today, he will present the first series of paintings he has created since leaving Damascus for Dubai last year. This coincides with an exhibition of large-scale works by Dahoul at Edge of Arabia London from 8 May - 15 June 2013.

The exhibition title, *Repetitive Dreams*, refers not only to the subject of Dahoul's works, but to the enduring influence that dreams have had in his career. He first started titling his paintings *Hulum*, or *Dream*, 25 years ago and sees the process of consistently re-interpreting the theme as an artistic challenge which inspires creativity.

Essential to the artist's work is the universality of dreaming, and the dream's potential for multiple interpretations: in responding to Dahoul's dreams as they would theirs, the viewer is able to form their own, unique understanding of the artist's meaning.

For Dahoul, every event that happens in our life time is a repetition of another past moment. Examining a diverse range of subjects, from love to war, his canvases feature images that recur and evolve while remaining essentially unchanged. Working in a predominantly monochromatic palette, the artist uses black and grey to suggest deep hollows of space. These muted tones also offer a reflection of his personal life, echoing the absence of vibrant colours which Dahoul perceived when living in his native Syria.

Dahoul's largest works will be displayed at Edge of Arabia's London space (details below). In addition to the work on show, there will be a book signing of Ayyam Gallery's 2009 monograph on Dahoul's work and a talk at the opening event on 8 May 2013.

About The Artist

Born in 1961 in Hama, Syria, Safwan Dahoul lives and works in Dubai. Dahoul attended the Suheil Al Ahdab Center of Plastic Arts and the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. In 1987 he received a scholarship to study abroad from the Ministry of Higher Education and relocated to Belgium, achieving his Doctorate from the Higher Institute of Plastic Arts in Mons in 1997. His work is held in numerous private and public collections including the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; The Samawi Collection, Dubai; The Farjam Collection, Dubai; and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait.

Ayyam Gallery

Preview: 9 May 2013 | 18:00 - 20:00

Exhibition Dates: 9 May – 15 June 2013 (Mon - Sat | 10:00 - 18:00)

Location: 143 New Bond Street, 1st Floor, W1S 2TP

Edge of Arabia

Artist Talk, Book Launch and Preview: 8 May 2013 | 18:30

Exhibition Dates: 9 May – 15 June 2013 (Mon - Sat | 10:00 - 18:00)

Location: Edge of Arabia, 40 Elcho Street, London, SW11 4AU

[More Info](http://www.ayyamgallery.com/exhibitions/safwan-dahoul_2/press-release) (http://www.ayyamgallery.com/exhibitions/safwan-dahoul_2/press-release)