



# The Young Collectors Auction

Art from the Middle East

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

An abstract painting featuring large, expressive brushstrokes in a variety of colors including yellow, green, blue, purple, and orange. The composition is dynamic and colorful, with some areas appearing more saturated than others.

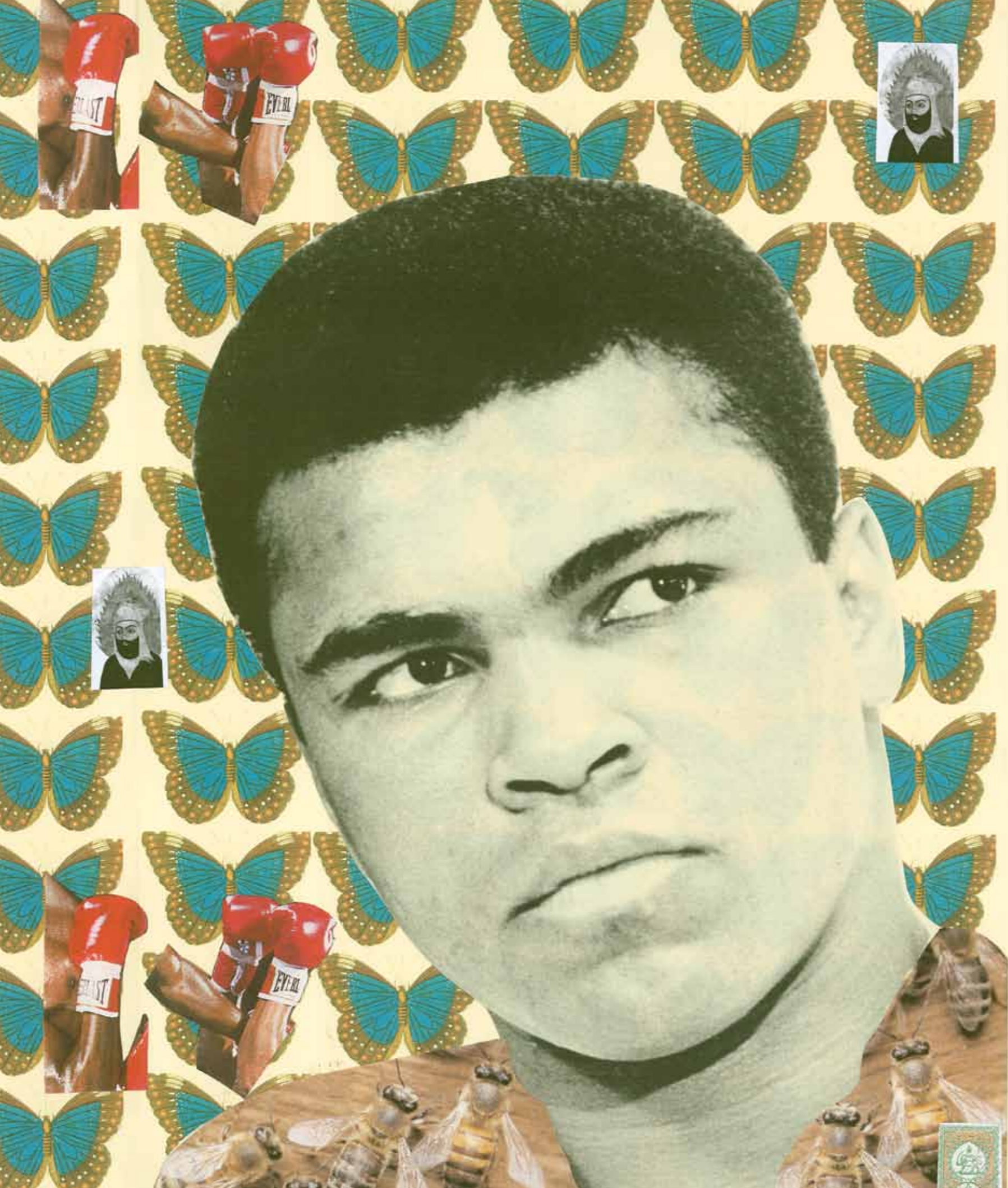
Auction No. 13

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Art from the Middle East

Viewing: May 8 - 14, 2012, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Auction: Tuesday, May 15, 2012  
7:00 PM



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Head of Session & Auctioneer  
Hisham Samawi



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# Lamya Gargash

(United Arab Emirates, born 1982)

## Lot 001

*Meelas Yadee*  
From the series, 'Presence'  
2007  
C-Print  
60 x 60 cm.  
Edition 5/7

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Emirati artist Lamya Gargash received her Masters of Arts in Communication Design from Saint Martins in the United Kingdom in 2007 after pursuing an undergraduate degree from the American University of Sharjah.

Concerned with the relics of an ever self-renewing architecture, Gargash's photographs document the forgotten spaces in public and private realms in Emirati society and also capture the notion of hospitality and the politics of interior design throughout the Emirates.

Lamya Gargash has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Canada, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan, and France as well as within the UAE. Her work was featured in the 2011 Thames & Hudson publication, 'New Vision: Arab Contemporary Art in the 21st Century'. Throughout her career, Gargash has won a number of awards for her work in film and photography. In 2004, Gargash received first prize in the Emirates Film Festival and won the Ibdaa Special Jury Award for her movie entitled, *Wet Tiles*. Lamya Gargash was the featured artist at the inaugural UAE Pavilion of the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009.





# Lamya Gargash

(United Arab Emirates, born 1982)

## Lot 002

*The Orange Room*  
From the series, 'Presence'  
2007  
C-Print  
60 x 60 cm.  
Edition 2/7

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000





# Mohamad Badr

(Lebanon, born 1981)

## Lot 003

*Prayers of Light*  
2011

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
120 x 80 cm.  
Edition 1/5

Signed, dated and numerated on reverse

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Born in 1981, Mohamad Badr is a Conceptual Artist with a deep sense of social responsibility. Creator of 'Lakum HamraZukum wa Li Hamra2i' ('Your Hamra, My Hamra'), the first professional photography project in Lebanon in 2009, and the acclaimed photography project, 'Mosaic: Achrafieh International Photography Contest' Lebanon's first and largest international photography competition in 2010, Mohamad Badr was awarded the "Live Achrafieh Honorary Award" for his contribution to the community.

With his 2011 series, 'Prayer of Light', he placed among the top five winners in the Pan-Arab Shabab Ayyam Photography Competition.

In 2012, his series 'Bloody Streets — Manifestation of Power' was nominated for the fourth cycle of the Prix Pictet, the world's leading photographic award in sustainability.





# Lara Atallah

(Lebanon, born 1989)

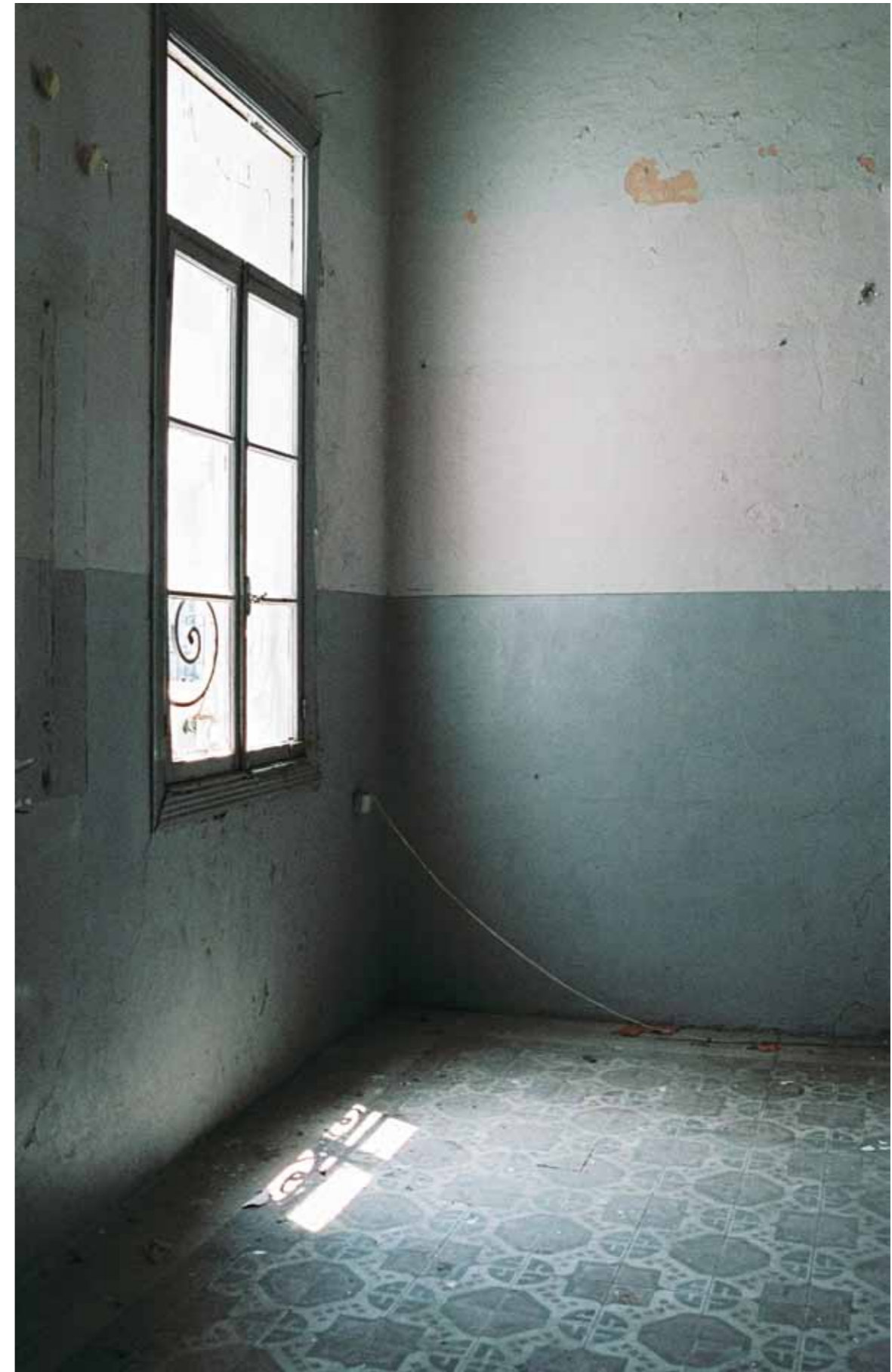
## Lot 004

From the series, 'Abandoned School'  
2011  
Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
105 x 70 cm.  
Edition 1/5

Signed, dated and numerated on the front border and reverse

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Lara Atallah was born in Beirut in 1989 and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut. Since graduating, she has dedicated her work to address social issues, translating her sentiments across different media, from podcasts to writings and photography. Living in a state of dissatisfaction with her country, she aims to highlight the current social problems encountered by the Lebanese in an urban environment. Passionate about photography, she uses her immense fascination with her urban surroundings to explore the dynamics of city-life through the depiction of objects, spaces and people. In October 2011, she claimed the second prize of the Shabab Ayyam photography competition for her series, 'If Walls Could Talk' organized by Ayyam Gallery, Dubai. Atallah has since expanded her work with a new series documenting everything from street vendors to construction sites, with the aim to capture the complex layers of Beiruti life. In January 2012, her photograph, *Thorne*, was featured and sold in the 12th edition of the Young Collectors Auction in Dubai.





# Lara Zankoul

(Lebanon, born 1987)

## Lot 005

*Excess*  
2011

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
80 x 80 cm.  
Edition 1/5

Signed, dated and numerated on front border and reverse

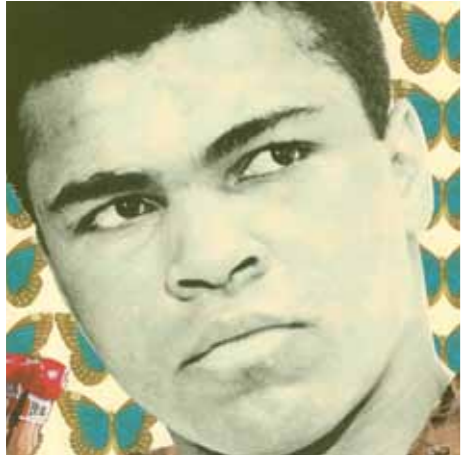
Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Lara Zankoul was born in Lebanon in 1987 and graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Masters in Economics. Driven by passion and impulse, she taught herself photography and started an enriching and self-fulfilling journey in the creative arena. She currently divides her life between economic research and the professional practice of artistic photography. She has participated in several local and international collective exhibitions such as the 2011 'Women's Art Exhibition', curated by Art Lounge in Beirut and she had a solo exhibition at Beirut's artistic center, Roof 68, under the supervision of the VAPA association. After participating in the 2011 Shabab Ayyam Competition, she joined the Shabab Ayyam's incubator programme.

Zankoul's practice of fine arts photography primarily appeared as a need to escape the monotonous life of the cubicle during her first full-time job. This need to evade reality was translated in her imagery, which is characterized by a fantastic atmosphere and surreal compositions common in dreams. Symbols are omnipresent in her body of work and characters are anonymous and timeless, making her images universal. The concepts are initially expressions of her subconscious as they are spontaneous visuals in her mind. Her photographic process resides in recreating or mimicking these cerebral moments rather than capturing reality. Primarily a means of self-expression, Zankoul's series is characterized by a feminine style and a unique cross-processing scheme that completes her vision of a dream.







# Afsoon

(Iran, born 1961)

## Lot 006

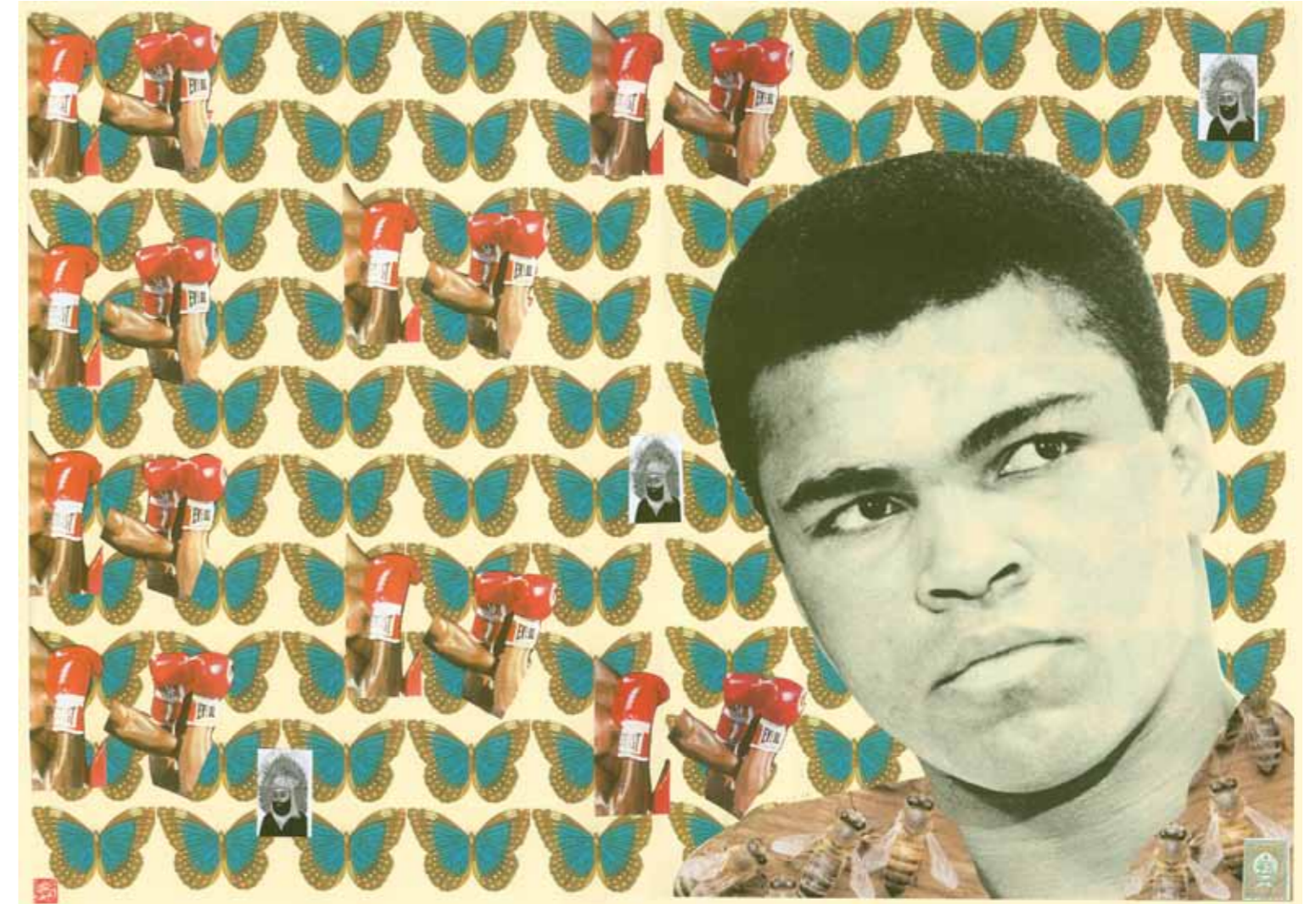
*Muhammed Ali*  
From the series, 'Fairytale Icons'  
2010  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
42 x 59 cm.  
Edition 5/8

Date and edition on reverse, artist stamp on the lower left hand corner

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Iranian artist Afsoon spent her childhood in Iran, received a BA in Media and Communications from Fresno State University in 1984, and presently resides in London. Her nomadic lifestyle is reflected in the clear meeting of East and West in her artworks. Employing various techniques such as linocuts, photography, etching and an overlay of images and text, Afsoon creates richly varied works of art. With solo exhibitions in London and New York City, and collective exhibitions in Europe, Turkey, the UAE, Finland, and Hong Kong, Afsoon's collages are globally recognized. Her work has been acquired by prestigious collections including the British Museum, The Farjam Collection, The Zoroastrian Institute in Paris, the Sabanci Collection in Istanbul, Salsali Private Museum, as well as the private collections of Fereydoun Ave, Farbod Dowlatshahi, and Rose Issa.

Afsoon's 'Icons of the Four Corners' series depicts some of the most outstanding personalities of the 60s and 70s from the Arab world to Iran and the Indian sub-continent to Turkey. In this piece, she features renowned Persian singer, Googoosh.





**Afsoon**  
(Iran, born 1961)

**Lot 007**

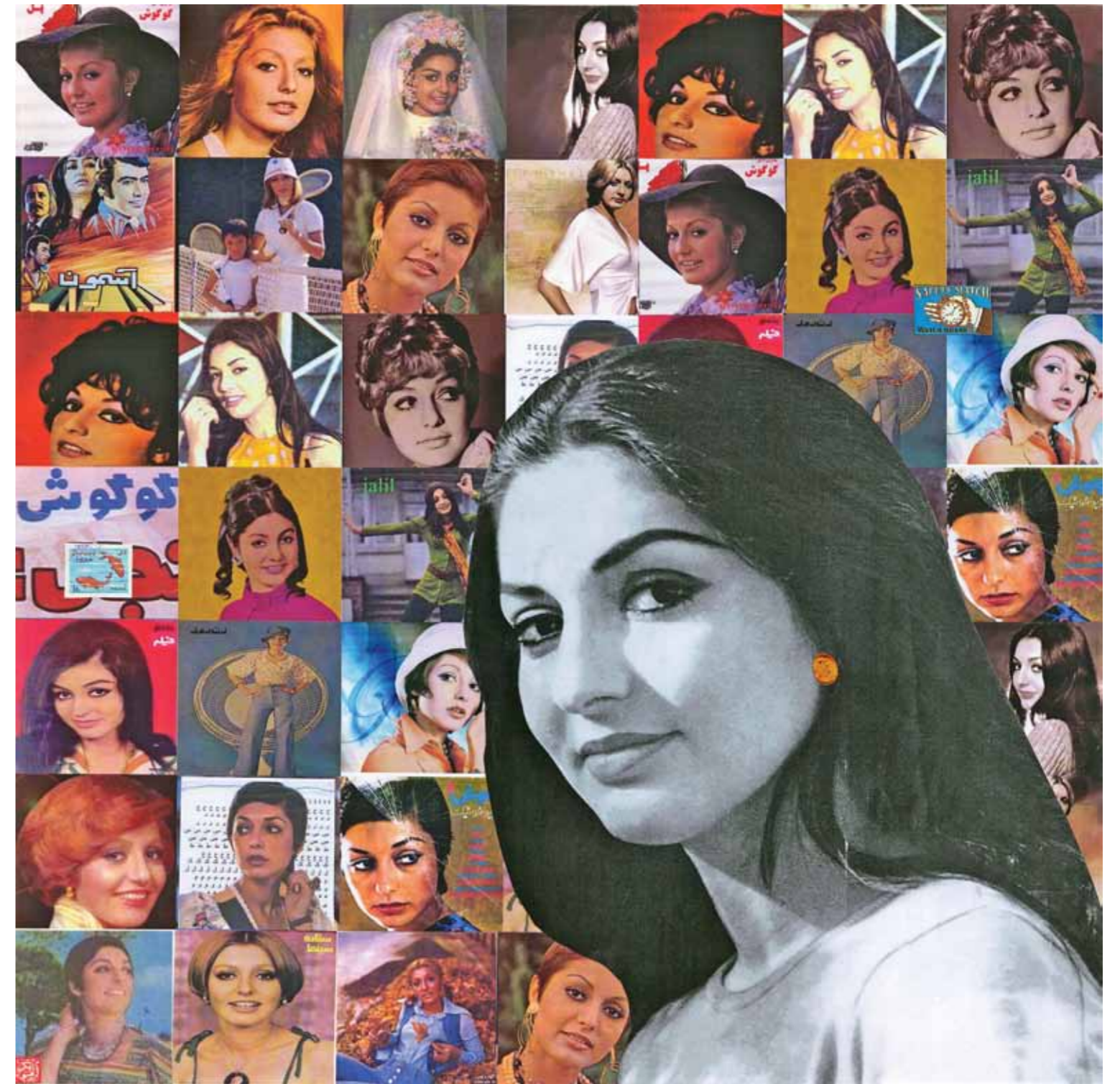
*Googoosh*

From the series, 'Icons of the Four Corners'  
2010

Mixed Media on Paper  
50 x 50 cm.  
Edition 2/3

Date and edition on reverse, artist stamp on front lower left hand side

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500





# Babak Kazemi

(Iran, born 1983)

Lot 008

*Suggested Package 5 + 1 Group*  
2010  
C-Print  
100 x 80 cm.  
Edition 1/6

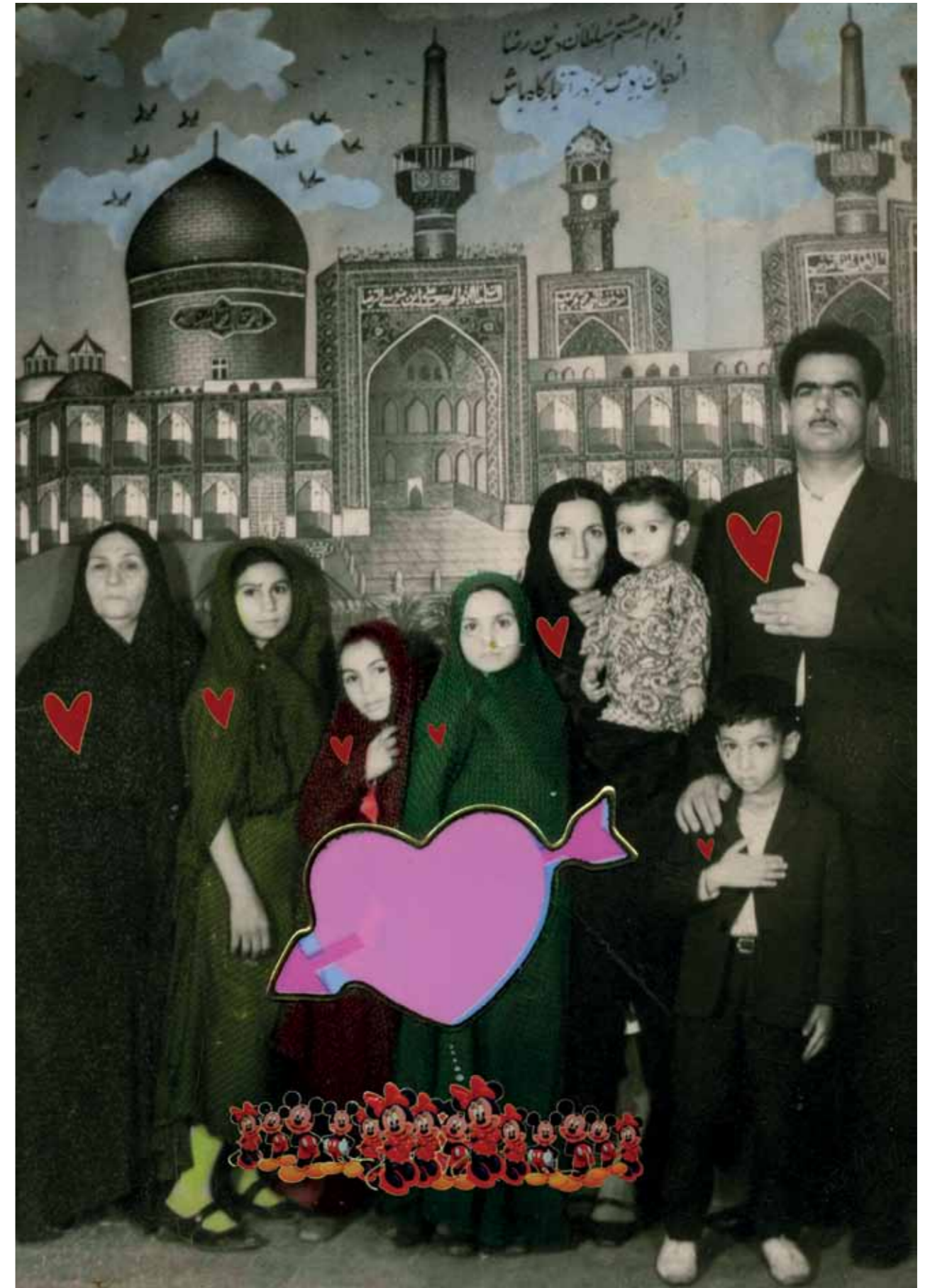
Signed, dated and numerated in English and Farsi

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Born in Ahvaz, Iran in 1983, Babak Kazemi received an Associate degree in Graphic Design in 1996 and has since focused on photography. A self-taught experimentalist, Kazemi immerses collage in petroleum products in a technique known as 'petroleum printing'.

Kazemi has had several solo exhibitions in Iran, his works featured in numerous collective exhibitions in Iran, Kuwait and France, and he has been widely published, notably in the Trans Globe publication, 'Different Sames, New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art'.

His work has been highly acclaimed and he has received several awards including the first place prize at the 2006 Resistance Art Festival held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.





## Ammar Abd Rabbo

(Syria, born 1966)

### Lot 009

*Queen Elisabeth II*  
2004

Photograph on Archival Paper  
90 x 60 cm.  
Edition 2/5

Signed, dated and numerated on front border and reverse

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

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. 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.

In 2012 Ammar Abd Rabbo held his first artistic exhibition entitled 'Coming Soon' at Ayyam Gallery Beirut. This exhibition transported the viewer beyond the wall of informality and provided a privileged look into one of life's most intimate spheres.





# Rania Matar

(Lebanon, born 1964)

## Lot 010

*Rania 13 - Reem II, Bethlehem*  
2009

Archival Print on Museo Silver Paper  
112 x 168 cm.  
Edition 1/3

Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Award winning photographer Rania Matar originally trained as an architect at the American University of Beirut before immigrating to the US in 1984 and continuing her studies at Cornell University. After attending the New England School of Photography and studying in Oaxaca, Mexico under Magnum photographer Constantine Manos, she became a full-time artist.

Having exhibited throughout the United States and abroad, she is the recipient of several honors including first prize in the Women in Photography International competition and an honorable mention from the UNICEF Photo of the Year Award. Matar's work is housed in international collections such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and in the private collection of the Emir of Kuwait. Based in Boston, she teaches documentary photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and makes frequent trips to Lebanon where she conducts workshops with teenage girls in the country's refugee camps with the assistance of NGOs.

Often focusing on the lives of women and the issues that surround them, she has highlighted the experiences of women and children in the Middle East with a particular emphasis on Palestinian refugee camps, the recent rise of the hijab and its meaning, the aftermath of war, and religious communities such as Christians in Lebanon—all with the intention of giving voice to the forgotten or misunderstood. In her acclaimed series, 'A Girl and Her Room', Rania Matar revisits the private spaces of teenage girls in the US and Arab world and sheds a light on their hidden ambitions, insecurities, and aspirations.





# Nadine Kanso

(Lebanon, born 1968)

## Lot 011

*Past...Present...Future*  
2012

Collage on Photographic Lambda Print  
102 x 160 cm.

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Photographer and jewellery designer Nadine Kanso was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1968. She graduated from the Lebanese American University with degrees in Communication Arts and Advertising Design. Kanso exhibits a clear passion for the visual expression of Arab culture through her photography and her jewellery line, Bil Arabi, which is inspired by the Arabic alphabet.

Her photography and collage work has been exhibited in numerous regional and international art fairs and collective exhibitions such as 'Arabize Me', a group exhibition in 2006 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. In 2010, Kanso was commissioned by Louis Vuitton to create a series of work that celebrated Dubai's relationship with the ocean and the sport of sailing, which was later auctioned for charity by Bonhams.





# Manal AlDowayan

(Saudi Arabia, born 1973)

## Lot 012

*The Choice II*  
2010

Silver Gelatin Fibre Print  
41 x 51 cm.  
Edition 8/10

Signed in Arabic, dated, titled and numerated in English on lower left and right corners  
This is the last available edition.

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia in 1973, Manal AlDowayan holds a Master's degree in System Analysis and Design and received further artistic training through courses and workshops at various institutions in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Dubai and London. Her work has been reproduced in several local and international publications and has been exhibited in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and North America. Her black and white images have been closely associated with the touring exhibition, 'Edge of Arabia', which was first exhibited at the Brunei Gallery SOAS in London and went on to be featured in the 53rd Venice Biennale, the 2010 Berlin Biennale, Contemporary Istanbul, and the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission in New York. Her works are housed in the permanent collections of the British Museum, the Jordan National Museum of Fine Art, the Delfina Foundation, the Barjeel Art Foundation, the Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation, the Nadour Foundation, and the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage.





# Saeed Salem

(Yemen, born 1984)

Lot 013

*Neonland II*  
2012

Digital Print on 400 Somerset Tub Paper  
190 x 230 cm.  
Edition 2/10  
Signed, dated and numerated on front

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Born in 1984 in Jeddah, Saeed Salem is of Yemeni decent. Having travelled to Malaysia for further education, he received a Diploma in Advertising from Limkokwing University in 2006, and he completed his Bachelor degree in Advertising from Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Photography was a module taught in his course, however Salem paid little attention at the time. Having worked in several established photography and design studios, Salem established a photography studio called 181 Degrees in 2009. His first major stint in the contemporary art world was through Edge of Arabia's Jeddah exhibition, 'We Need to Talk'. Here, Salem began the project 'Neonland', comprised of a series of iconic photographs capturing the essence of the cosmopolitan city of Jeddah.

Of 'Neonland' Salem stated, "These neon kiosks are a symbol of Jeddah ... they are iconic and you only find them in this city. They are the only places open really late...2am...4am...selling Madinah mint tea and everything else: cigarettes, noodles, swimming goggles, popcorn, prayer mats ... Everything you want. Its like a mini hypermarket. To me, they symbolize both the old Arabic culture: a place to meet and talk; as well as something very futuristic. An intense ball of consumer energy."







**Abdalla Omari**  
(Syria, born 1986)

**Lot 014**

*Syrian Child*  
2012  
Oil on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Syrian painter and filmmaker Abdalla Omari was born in Damascus in 1986. In 2009, Omari simultaneously graduated from Damascus University with a degree in English Literature and the Adham Ismael Institute for Visual Arts. During his studies, Omari made and collaborated in many animation films, series and video arts including *The Eleventh Commandment*, a film directed by Syrian filmmaker, Muafaq Katt, and participated in the 2010 Damascus International Cinema Festival.

Since his graduation, Omari's work has been featured in many exhibitions and festivals in Syria and Lebanon, including three consecutive years in the annual Youth Salon, the 2011 International Animation Festival at the French Cultural Center in Damascus, and the 2011 Shaghaf Youth Artists Competition in Kamel Gallery, where he was awarded third prize.

Fraught with emotion, Omari's oil on canvas compositions tackle complex psychological states, yet retain a profound beauty through their painterly application and realistic portrayal. A full-time artist represented by Kamel Gallery in Damascus, Abdalla Omari is presently collaborating in a new workshop at the gallery with Ghassan Sibai and Fouad Dahdouh.





# Alfred Tarazi

(Lebanon, born 1980)

## Lot 015

*After the War*  
2010

Print and Mixed Media on Paper  
71 x 72 cm.

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Born in Beirut in 1980, Alfred Tarazi is a multidisciplinary artist and member of Nadim Karam's experimental Atelier Hapsitus, a creative collective that blends experimental design, architecture and art. Although formally trained as a graphic designer, Tarazi has been active with a series of collaborative actions and initiatives that seek to expand the horizons of contemporary art and design in the Arab world while provoking and infusing its social environment with new thinking patterns. This has included a significant role as a founding member of The Feel Collective, a group of cultural activists who practice and organize events and public interventions in Beirut. Tarazi's work with Atelier Hapsitus has consisted of a number of acclaimed projects such as 'The Cloud', a groundbreaking proposal for the reconfiguring of public space in Dubai that received international attention.

A graduate of the American University of Beirut's Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Tarazi has been exhibiting work in a variety of media including animation, installation and mixed media since 2000. Featured in group exhibitions and urban projects throughout the Middle East and Europe, he has also participated in the Creek Art Fair and the Bastakiya Art Fair.





Sabhan Adam  
(Syria, born 1972)

Lot 016

*Untitled*  
2008

Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$4,000 - \$5,000

Born in Al-Hassaka, Syria in 1972, self-taught artist Sabhan Adam has developed a highly recognizable style of figurative painting that captures the darker side of man. Despite the heavy content of his canvases, his work remains widely popular. He has exhibited throughout the Middle East and Europe and is represented by both regional and international galleries. Adam's paintings have been featured in several recent auctions and fairs in the Gulf.

With grotesque faces, distorted frames and piercing eyes, his protagonists leap out from the canvas with a startling visual agility. Adam once explained the frequent appearance of this peculiar subject by stating, "The figures I paint have so many things in common with me—they look like me, they have the same head and the same eyes as me. I draw myself with everything that exists inside— the sadness, the misery, the shocking things I have faced, the isolation, and the feeling of not belonging to this world. These heads could be stuck on any kind of animals' bodies. I spread Sabhan Adam on all the canvas, so Adam exists in many shapes."

While his portraits do possess physical traits that are reminiscent of his own features, this form of representation is merely a journey for the artist; an existential path through which the self will eventually become liberated, free from the burden of representation and from earthly things such as alienation and sadness.





# Kais Salman

(Syria, born 1976)

## Lot 017

*Chrome Platinum*  
2012  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 90 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Born in Tartous, Syria in 1976, Kais Salman graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus in 2002. A prominent member of a young generation of artists that is currently transforming Syrian painting, Salman's experiments in depicting the human form stems from an interest that took hold during his student days.

Featured in group exhibitions in Syria and the Arab world, including the 4th Annual Youth Exhibition in Damascus, where he took first prize, and the inaugural exhibition of the Damascus Museum of Modern Art, Salman has been a regular fixture of the local art scene ever since. In addition to several solo exhibitions with Ayyam Gallery, he has recently participated in such shows as 'Shabab Uprising' and 'Damascus Calling', which was held at The Park Avenue Armory in New York City in 2008. His paintings are currently housed in collections throughout the world.

In 2010, Salman was profiled in the Wall Street Journal Europe's Weekend Edition as a must-watch figure of the contemporary Middle Eastern art scene. One of Salman's large critically acclaimed 'Fashion Series' canvases graced the cover of the magazine's May 2010 issue, a first for an Arab artist.





# Nihad Al Turk

(Syria, born 1972)

## Lot 018

*Vase*  
2012  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
90 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1972 amidst abject poverty, Nihad Al Turk has developed a mature painting style against all odds. Without formal training, yet through several years of practice and experimentation, he has established himself within the contemporary Middle Eastern art scene, holding solo exhibitions in leading art spaces in Syria and Turkey, in addition to being included in a number of collective exhibitions in the US.

Al Turk's haunting mixed media canvases are largely influenced by his outlook on life and personal political convictions. Believing that man is innately flawed and that only through an existence filled with love can there be human progress, he drafts compositions that hint at the injustices of the surrounding world. He does so with a sophisticated technique of flattening space and utilizing color fields and patterns to give illusions of depth and dimension. Creating an aesthetic that is based on the tradition of still life painting, yet is dominated by symbolic representation, his works employ a detailed system of signs that allude to philosophical conclusions.

In Al Turk's work an image of a vase takes on inferences that point to a deformed character as its distorted form seems to teeter on the edge of a surface. Floral arrangements appear weathered as they are depicted under the darkness of a heavy shadow, while human figures are often rendered as alien beings and animals are mutated nearly beyond recognition. Increments of seven are often manifested in reoccurring anthropomorphic figures such as a mouse or devil-like figure and this reference may possess greater meaning than just the artist's number of siblings as the seven deadly sins seem appropriate in Al Turk's tragically spiritual universe.





## Othman Moussa

(Syria, born 1974)

### Lot 019

*Untitled*  
2008  
Oil on Canvas  
100 x 90 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Born in 1974 in Zabadani, Syria, a rural town on the outskirts of Damascus, Othman Moussa has emerged as Syria's leading hyperrealist painter despite economic hardship. Although nurturing his love for art with alternative formal training due to the demands of a grueling schedule that included 12 hour days at a family business, Moussa's unwavering resolve and artistic prowess led him to a successful partnership with Ayyam Gallery shortly after entering its Shabab Ayyam competition for emerging artists in 2007.

A graduate of the Adham Ismail Centre for Plastic Arts and the Walid Izzat Institute for Sculpture in 2000, he began his artistic career by entering group exhibitions in Syria, including three consecutive years of the annual Youth Salon in Damascus. Holding his own among some of the region's greats, he made his official debut in 2009 with Ayyam Gallery's two-person exhibition, 'Visual Dialogue', alongside distinguished painter and art critic, Assad Arabi.

An unmatched draftsman among his peers, Moussa creates still life compositions in the tradition of 17th century Dutch painting, which used a meticulously executed realism to extract the poetic essence of everyday objects. The artist's choice of subject matter—a lit cigarette, a Syrian clay pot or evil-eye ornaments—are aligned with the hybrid approaches that have been employed by artists in the Postcolonial era who seek to assert their identity while traversing international styles. His are the quiet moments of Syrian society that are often overlooked, the subtle yet profound beauty that exists away from the busy existence of modern day life.

In 2012, Ayyam Gallery DIFC held Moussa's first solo exhibition entitled, 'The Throne'. Upholding his superb realism, Moussa's new works veer away from traditional still life painting of inanimate objects that quietly and poetically speak to the viewer to a form of still life that shouts.





# Othman Moussa

(Syria, born 1974)

## Lot 020

*The First Sin*  
2010  
Oil on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000





## Nadim Karam

(Lebanon, born 1957)

Lot 021

*Music Girl, House & Music Boy*  
2006

Wood Treated Lead Parchment Sculpture  
66 x 70 x 10 cm.

Estimate: \$10,000 - \$15,000

Born in Senegal in 1957, Nadim Karam is a multidisciplinary artist known for landmark urban design and cutting-edge painting and sculpture. A prominent figure in the Lebanese art scene, he attended the American University of Beirut and received graduate and postgraduate degrees from the University of Tokyo, Japan.

In 1996, he established Atelier Hapsitus in Beirut, a studio that the artist defines as “the satellite grouping of young architects and designers around happenings and situations.” Since then, Atelier Hapsitus has become a vehicle for Karam’s oeuvre, boasting a number of works and projects that blend architecture, design and art while defying conventional modes of creativity and thought. Individually, Karam has exhibited in galleries, institutions and art fairs worldwide, contributing to such notable events as the Liverpool Biennial, the Venice Biennale, the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea, and SCOPE Art Fair, Basel. With a collector-base that spans the globe, his work is housed in corporations and cultural foundations in the Arab world, Europe and Asia. Gaining critical acclaim for his urban art projects in Lebanon early on, he has been commissioned to produce large-scale works in the UAE, the Czech Republic, Australia, and Japan. The former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design at Lebanon’s Notre Dame University, his influence has also been felt on an academic level.

Recently, Karam’s architectural plan, *The Cloud*, made international headlines for its revolutionary ideas of how to reconfigure public space amidst Dubai’s growing cityscape. Initially submitted to the International Design Forum in Dubai in 2007, the concept outlined a massive public entertainment complex containing floating gardens, a lake, restaurants, a palace, and a museum suspended in the air by rain-like stilts and covered with artificial condensation. Lauded as “mind-blowing” by The New York Times, Karam’s proposal commented on the need for communal space amidst a landscape characterized by private spaces, suggesting endless socioeconomic possibilities created through advanced technology and avant-garde urban planning.

The whimsical character of *The Cloud* and its intended impact on everyday interactions and culture reflects the fundamental principles of Karam’s art. With a distinctly international vision, his paintings and sculptures draw heavily on his diverse background, transcending social, political and national borders, and captivating the viewer with the childlike freedom and depth of his imagination.







## Sahand Hesamiyan

(Iran, born 1977)

### Lot 022

*Masjed Jame I*  
2009

Steel, Paint, Resin and Sand  
112 x 112 x 35 cm.  
Edition 1/3  
Signed

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1977, Sahand Hesamiyan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Tehran University. Primarily interactive and derived from Islamic architecture, Hesamiyan's work extends the intense relationship between angles, symmetry and structure beyond the mere reflection and repetition of the forms. His welded steel sculptures are large dynamic abstract forms that playfully challenge the viewer's perception of Islamic art, eradicating its often associated ornamental quality.

A current member of the managing board for the Sixth Tehran Contemporary Sculpture Biennial, he participated in the inaugural biennial for Urban Space in 2008. Hesamiyan recently exhibited at Mohsen Gallery, Aaran Art Gallery, and Haftsamer Gallery in Tehran and has received national recognition for his contemporary Iranian sculptures.





## Armen Agop

(Armenia/Egypt, born 1969)

### Lot 023

*Akhnaton 2*  
2002  
Granite  
19 x 49 x 49 cm.

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Armen Agop was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1969. After graduating from the sculpture department in the Faculty of the Fine Arts from Helwan University in Cairo, he received an assistant research scholarship, also in the Faculty of the Fine Arts. Later, he received the Sculpture prize in the Autumn Salon in Cairo, Egypt. His national recognition was confirmed in 2000 when he received the prestigious Rome Prize.

Since moving to Europe, Agop has been increasingly present and successful on the international art scene with exhibitions across Asia, the Middle East and Europe. His works are represented in the Egyptian Modern Art Museum, the Aswan Open Air Museum in Egypt, Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar, Comblain-au-pont in Belgium, and Coral Springs Museum of Art in Florida, USA.

For Agop, the process of shaping constitutes a circular, repetitive motion of cutting, sanding and smoothing, creating a rhythmic meditative force that reverberates in each of his sculptures. Varying from discs with subtle indentations to cone-like structures all based from the idea of the sphere, Agop's sculptures are characterized by smooth surfaces juxtaposed with harsh angles.





## Ahmed Al-Askalany

(Egypt, born 1978)

### Lot 024

*Donkey*  
2008  
Acrylic on Polyester  
46 x 78 x 22 cm.  
Edition 1/3  
Signed, dated and numerated  
  
Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Ahmed Al-Askalany was born in 1978, Nag Hammadi, Egypt and he presently works and resides in Cairo. Al-Askalany's subjects are simplified human figures and animals inspired and representative of his native town, which retain an explicit connection with traditional materials and craft methods associated with the ancient cultures of Egypt. Characteristic of Al-Askalany's works are aesthetic forms that place an emphasis on both structure and volume as well as an innocent sense of isolation that reflects both frankness, candor and a poetic sensitivity. His art is therefore unique, unmistakable and undeniably modern.

With over a decade of solo exhibitions in Egypt, the UAE, Italy, France and the Netherlands, and participation in the Cairo and Venice Biennales, critics and art connoisseurs have described Al-Askalany as one of the most unique and inimitable sculptors of his generation.





# Ahmed Al Bahrani

(Iraq, born 1965)

## Lot 025

*Untitled 13 (Couple)*  
2005  
Iron  
22 x 30 x 14 cm  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Born in Babylon, Iraq in 1965, Ahmed Al Bahrani's sculptures possess a minimalistic quality, which is attained through their clarity and simplicity of design. His sculptural approach results in heavy, rigid materials achieving a sense of movement and flexibility. Though primarily a sculptor, Al Bahrani creates bold isolated forms in his abstract etchings, which have become integral to his artistic practice.

Al Bahrani has been featured in numerous solo and collective exhibitions in Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait, the US, and the UAE. He was commissioned to produce the 2006 GCC Soccer Tournament Trophy and the Olympic Rings for the 16th Asian Games.





# Arash Nazari

(Iran, born 1981)

## Lot 026

*Little Boy*  
2011

Painted Carbonated Iron Sheets  
153 x 40 x 40 cm.  
Edition 3/3  
Dated and numerated on base

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Iranian artist Arash Nazari is particularly inspired by the rich artistic and mythological heritage of his homeland. Employing steel sheets in his artworks, Nazari has amalgamated his background degree in Architectural Engineering and his deep interest in Persian culture. The reflection of the steel sheet and its interference with the objective reality is, for Nazari, an integration of history and the present. Of his work, Nazari states, "I have tried to provide the opportunity for such a vivid symbiosis and create an artificial appearance to some extent. The result is refreshing and renewing the past and not adoring or denouncing the history....whatever is seen are all the most familiar illusions of our most strange feelings, a place named Iran...the most familiar and common dream of all Persian speakers."





# Mehdi Nabavi

(Iran, born 1981)

## Lot 027

*Exquisite Pits*  
2012

200 x 47 x 47 cm.  
Plexiglass, PVC, Mirrors

Estimate: \$4,000 - \$5,000

Iranian artist Mehdi Nabavi has had recent solo exhibitions in the Mah Art Gallery and Azad Art Gallery of Tehran and has been featured in collective exhibitions at the Azad Art Gallery and the 4th Biennale of Contemporary Painting in Iran in 1997. Nabavi's large standing missile sculptures, 'Exquisite Pits', were the subject of his most recent solo exhibition. Each intricately mosaiced with mirrors and colored glass panels, these faceted projectiles reflect upon the walls a plethora of colours, causing the viewer to balance the delicately dancing reflections with the cruel intention of the object.





## Mustafa Ali

(Syria, born 1956)

### Lot 028

*Warrior Head*  
2011  
Bronze  
29 x 15 x 20 cm.  
Edition 2/8  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Mustafa Ali, Syria's foremost sculptor, was born in Latakia in 1956. Known for elegant, monumental sculptures that pierce the consciousness and underscore the fragility of mankind, he has been widely collected in the Arab world for nearly three decades.

After training in Sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, he continued his studies at the Fine Arts Academy in Carrara, Italy, graduating in 1996. He has exhibited extensively on the international art circuit since 1979 and has participated in a number of high-profile events such as the Latakia Sculpture Biennial where he was awarded the Golden Prize of 1997, the 1994 Biennial of Alexandria, Egypt, the 1995 Sharjah Biennial, and the International Symposium for Sculptors in Valencia, Spain in 2001.

Ali's work is housed in private and public collections such as the National Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Damascus, the Jordan National Gallery in Amman, the Sharjah Museum of Art, and the Arab World Institute in Paris. Many of his bronze and wood sculptures can also be found in public spaces, such as The Gate of Syria, which is on display in the Mediterranean Olympiad in Paris, Italy, and The Tower of Memory, which stands in the Damascus International Fairground.

Indispensable to the Syrian art scene, Ali is also the director of the renowned Damascus art center, The Mustafa Ali Art Foundation, which presents exhibitions, workshops, lectures and cultural events throughout the year to local artists and the public. Through his work and his nonprofit organization, Ali has inspired and supported generations of Syrian artists.





**Ramin Shirdel**  
(Iran, born 1981)

**Lot 029**

*Eshgh 2*  
2011  
Mixed Media on Board  
120 x 180 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

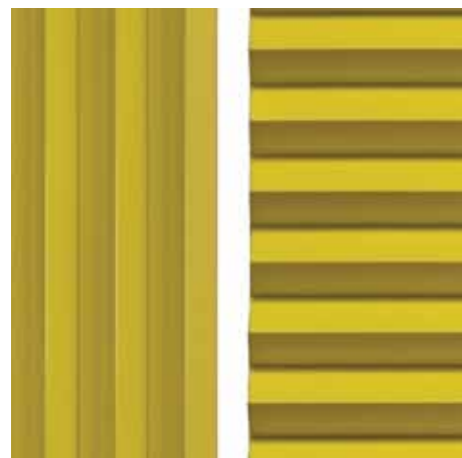
Born in Tehran in 1981, Iranian artist Ramin Shirdel graduated with a Masters in Architecture from Tehran Art University and has worked as an architect and design director since 2000.

During his academic pursuits, Shirdel was awarded the first prize of Architecture Faculty Interior Design competition of 2004 and the first prize for his Master's thesis in 2008. He has participated in various architectural design competitions such as a World Pavilion in 2002, the Bam City Hall in 2004, the Benetton multi-story building in Tehran as well as the large emblem of Dubai in 2009.

He first exhibited his sculptures in 2011 at the Sixth Biennale of Sculpture at the Niavaran Cultural Centre in Tehran and at a solo exhibition in Elahe Gallery.







## Rana Begum

(Bangladesh, born 1977)

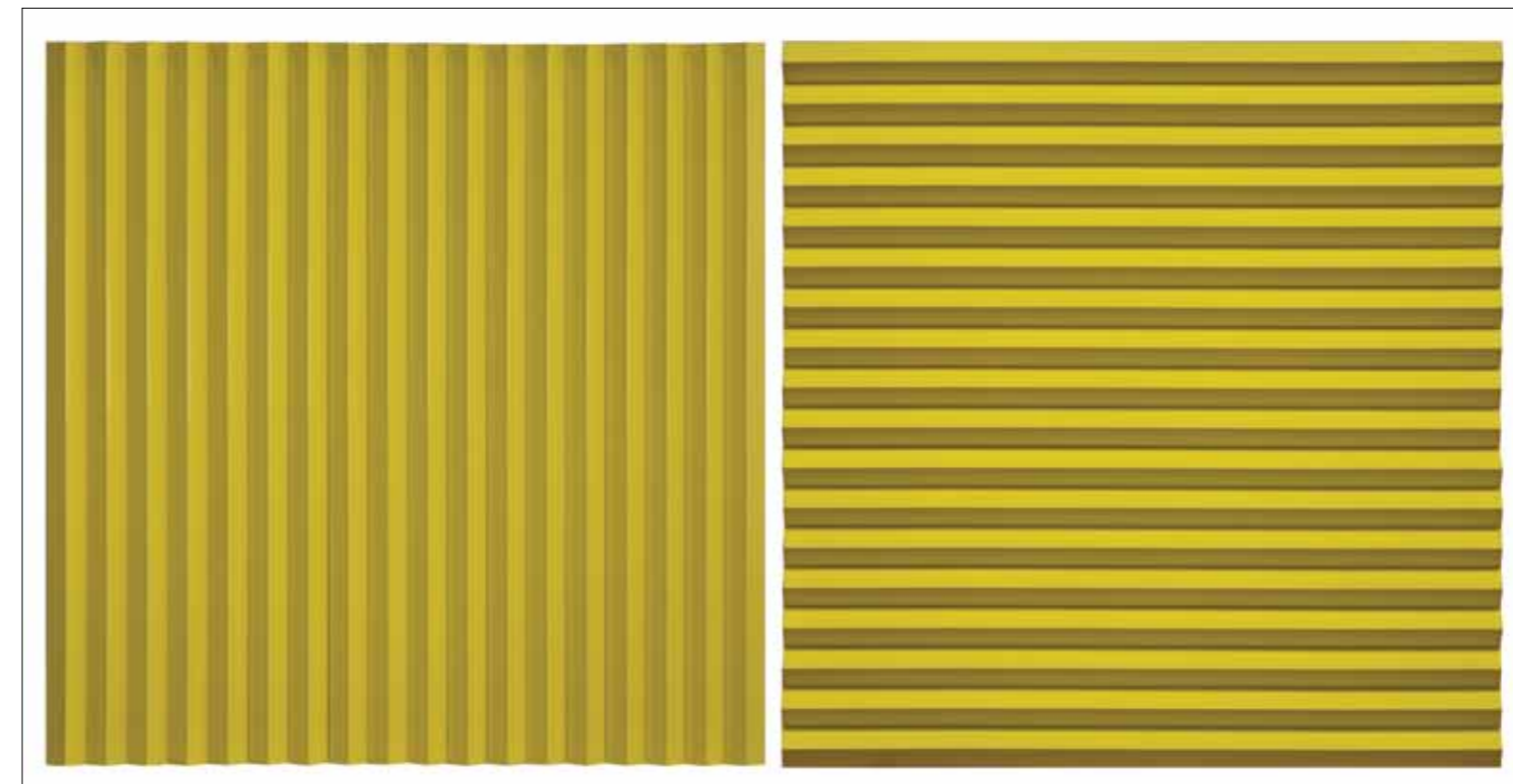
### Lot 030

*No. 154*  
2008

Powder Coated Aluminum  
50 x 50 x 2 cm (Diptych)  
Edition 1/3

Signed, titled, dated and numerated on reverse

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000



Born in Bangladesh in 1977 and raised in the United Kingdom, Rana Begum received her Fine Art Degree in Painting at the Chelsea College of Art and Design and her MFA in Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art, London.

Lodged between optical art and minimalism, Begum's paintings draw inspiration from repetitive geometric patterns within Islamic art and architecture. The result is a series of tightly controlled rhythmic compositions, where impeccably applied colorful hard-edge lines are coated in a thick layer of glossy resin to create seductively tactile, reflective surfaces. In her recent work, Begum has delved into installation and minimized her palette to dual or even single color panels. With this reductive approach, Begum creates a compelling visual language with the slightest of movements.

Rana Begum has been internationally exhibited at select solo and collective exhibitions in the United Kingdom, Europe, the US, the UAE, India and Thailand. She has completed artist residencies in Beirut with the Delfina Foundation and in Bangkok with the British Council. Her works can be found in international collections and institutions such as the Museum of Old and New Art in Tasmania, the Art Museum of Western Virginia, British Telecom Headquarters, The London Institute, The Farjam Collection in Dubai, Ernst & Young Collection of London, and Dhal Gallery of Lucerne.



**Rana Begum**  
(Bangladesh, born 1977)

**Lot 031**

*Work on Paper No. 20*  
2009  
Paper

29.7 x 42 x 1.5 cm

Signed, titled and dated on front bottom right

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500





## Safwan Dahoul

(Syria, born 1961)

### Lot 032

*Reve*  
From the series, 'Dream'  
2011  
Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
110 x 119 cm.  
Edition 4/7  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Hama, Syria in 1961, Safwan Dahoul is among the highest grossing Middle Eastern artists to date with record-breaking auction sales and blockbuster shows that have made his paintings popular with regional and international collectors.

After graduating at the top of his class from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1983, Dahoul went on to receive a scholarship to study abroad from the Ministry of Higher Education in 1987. Choosing to travel to Belgium due to its rich artistic heritage, particularly its 16th century Flemish school of painting, he obtained a doctorate from the Higher Institute of Plastic Arts in Mons in 1997. Since then, he has participated in a multitude of international art fairs and individual and collective exhibitions throughout the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

As Dahoul's art is undeterred by national borders, his style of painting is inspired by a vast range of art history including ancient Assyrian and Pharaonic art and European masters such as Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Elements of international Modernism and Post-war painting such as the Cubist-inspired monumentality of Picasso and the sociopolitical foreboding of Francis Bacon can also be detected in Dahoul's works. Yet the Syrian artist's canvases demonstrate a profound originality, namely with the formation of his aesthetic through the detailed exploration of a reoccurring female subject in his widely-recognized 'Dream' series, a continuous body of work that has evolved since 1982.





# Shadi Ghadirian

(Iran, born 1974)

## Lot 033

*Purple*  
From the series, 'Be Colorful'  
2006  
Color Photographic Paper  
90 x 60 cm.  
Edition 3/10  
Signed and numerated on reverse

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Tehran in 1974, photographer Shadi Ghadirian emerged in 2000 among a generation of young photographers willing to tackle the confusing reality of a woman's place in contemporary Iran. Widely exhibited, Ghadirian has participated in biennales in Russia and Sharjah and has had solo exhibitions in the United States and India. Her works have been featured in prestigious group shows including 'Unveiled, New Art From the Middle East' at the Saatchi Gallery, London, and the touring 'Word into Art' exhibition at The British Museum and DIFC, Dubai.

Ghadirian's photography takes conflicting visual signifiers and drags them into ironic yet subtly unnerving relationships with the viewer. In her 'Be Colorful' series, Ghadirian juxtaposes and contrasts, thus expressing the difficulties women face in Iran today. Torn between tradition and the modernity of globalization, these women are depicted as unsure of which era they belong. Not merely isolated to Iranian women, Ghadirian questions the wider role of women in society and explores ideas of censorship, religion, modernity, and the status of women.





# Ali Taptik

(Turkey, born 1983)

## Lot 034

From the series, 'Accident and Fate'  
2006  
Lambda Print  
90 x 90 cm.  
Edition 2/3

Estimate: \$4,000 - \$5,000

Ali Taptik was born in 1983 in Istanbul where he continues to live and work. Taptik graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at Istanbul Technical University and is an autodidact photographer. Presently, he is working on his Master's thesis in the History of Architecture MSc. at I.T.U..

Of his series 'Accident and Fate' ('Kaza ve Kader') Taptik states, it is "about interconnected frames of the experience of accumulated urban realities, it is about the relationships, places, people, emotions and coincidences". This series could be considered his initial foray into blurring the lines between the simulacra and the written word, questing for a new hybrid where the images come together to go beyond some didactic document and make a play for prose.

'Kaza ve Kader' was published by Filigranes Editions, France in November 2009 as a narrative where the relationship between the intimate and the social is one of the key elements. Currently, Taptik is working on 'Nothing Surprising', the second volume in the series of "novels" that started with 'Kaza ve Kader'. 'Nothing Surprising' centers itself around the theme of crisis and resistance in an urban context.





Arash Nazari  
(Iran, born 1981)

Lot 035

*Registered Trademark*  
2011  
Printed Steel on Board  
170 x 300 cm. (Triptych)  
Edition API, AP2, API/3 + 2AP

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000





**Pierre Koukjian**  
(Lebanon, born 1962)

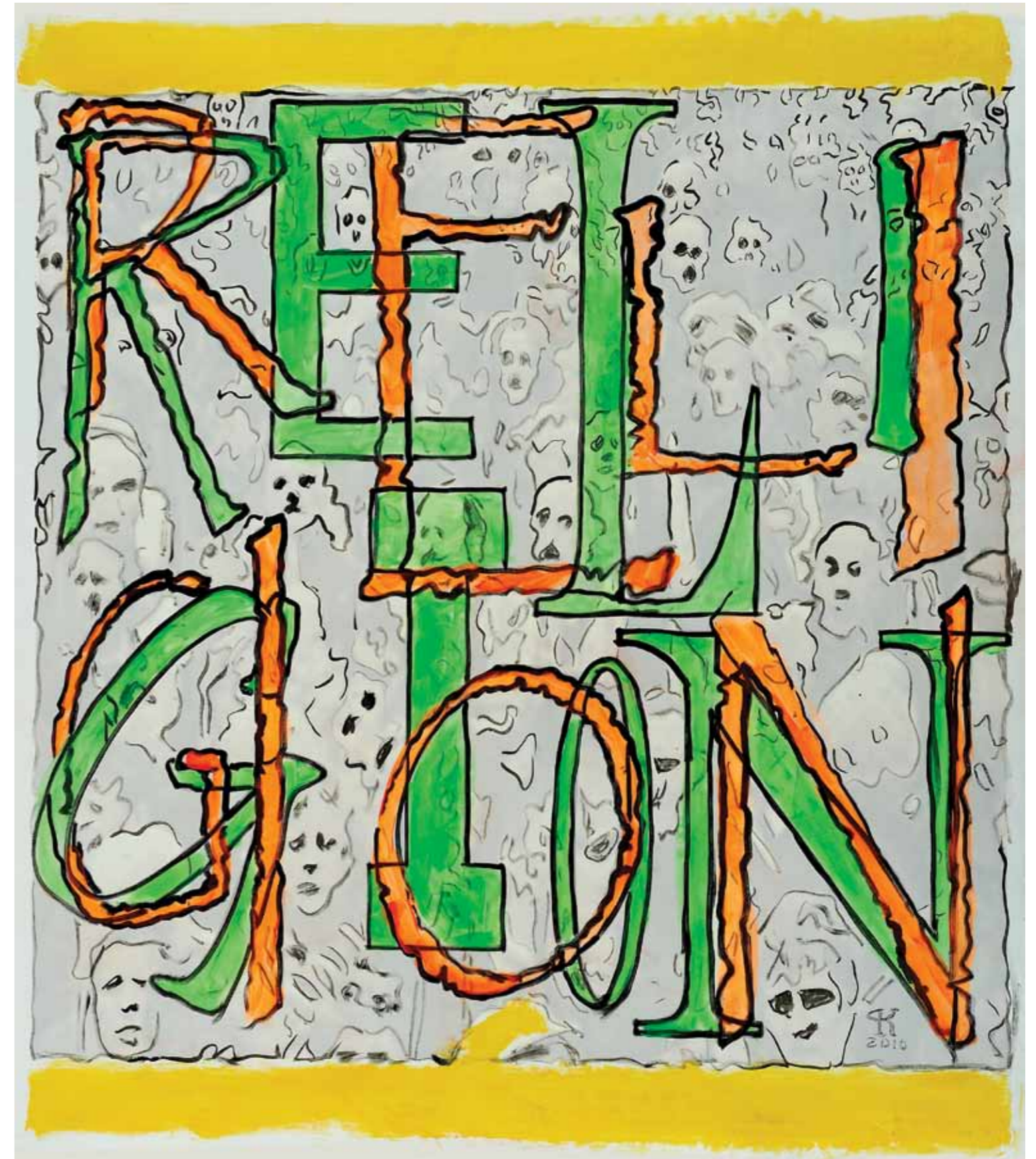
**Lot 036**

*Untitled*  
2010  
Oil on Canvas  
130 x 130 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Born in Beirut in 1962, Pierre Koukjian is an award winning designer and painter. Having fled Lebanon with the outbreak of civil war in the mid 1970s, he spent many years living as a nomad of sorts in Germany, France and later, the Far East. With little opportunity to complete a formal education, Koukjian jumped into the field of jewellery-making as a young man. As an apprentice in workshops throughout Europe, he perfected his craft and used painting in the planning stages of his designs. He worked vigorously in the medium, while also turning to sculpture as a form of creative expression. Often impressed by the aptitude of his canvases, clients, including international celebrities, would ask to keep these visual works, framing them and placing them in their homes. After long runs as a designer for some of the world's most recognized brands, he launched his deLaCour atelier in 2002, obtaining immense artistic freedom.

Although the decorative, fine and applied arts are often seen as separate entities, for Koukjian they are all interconnected, as he paints his designs and designs his paintings. This gives his work an invigorated feel with limitless creative bounds. His latest series, 'Impressive People,' is a Pop-inspired collection of oil paintings that iconifies artists, politicians and public figures into bold oil on canvas works. With a slight nod to Andy Warhol, Koukjian has sought to immortalize not only the personas of his subjects but the saturation of their images in the regional and international media. While many of the paintings make reference to Lebanese politics and music, others capture those who have made international headlines such as the Dalai Lama and Indira Gandhi. A minimalist portrait of Egyptian songstress Om Kalthoum speaks of the certain cool that once dominated Arab stardom, while a striking painting of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah extracts the physicality of what makes certain individuals have such an overwhelming presence, tapping into the makeup of celebrity status and blurring the lines between popular culture and politics.





## Omran Younes

(Syria, born 1971)

### Lot 037

*Untitled*  
2012  
Acrylic on Canvas  
117 x 148 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Al-Hasakah in 1971, Omran Younes has been active in the Arab art scene since the late 1990s. After graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus in 1998, he went on to obtain a Masters degree in Fine Arts in 2000. Having been featured in exhibitions throughout the Middle East and the United States, he has received critical acclaim at home and abroad, most notably as the first prize recipient of the 3rd Annual Youth Competition in Damascus. Prior to joining Ayyam's lineup of artists, Younes held solo exhibitions at such prominent regional art spaces as Atassi Gallery in Damascus and Zara Gallery in Amman. Recently, Younes was a standout participant of Ayyam's 'Shabab Uprising', a solo show at Ayyam Gallery Beirut, and was highlighted at the Virginia Commonwealth University Gallery in Doha alongside such prominent Arab artists as Dia Azzawi, Mona Hatoum and Youssef Nabil. Today his work is housed in collections across the Arab world.

Younes' large canvases are distinguished by detailed investigations into human subjects. His continual explorations of various styles of Expressionist painting have culminated in a noticeable pursuit of elevating his art to its highest form. He has demonstrated this versatility throughout his career and frequently works within a specific theme, with each series dedicated to particular experiments and breakthroughs in art. Belonging to a group of artists that emerged amidst the legacy of Syrian Modernism, Younes has sought to further the accomplishments of his predecessors while fashioning his own path. The result has been a brand of painting that mixes bold social commentary with an acute sense of observation and a confident command of medium and technique.







**Elias Izoli**  
(Syria, born 1976)

**Lot 038**

*Untitled*  
2012  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 85 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Born in Damascus in 1976, Elias Izoli is a self-taught artist whose creativity was harnessed at an exceptionally young age. At just seventeen years old, shortly after deciding to pursue art seriously, he was given his first solo exhibition at the Russian Cultural Center in Damascus. Virtually unheard of in an art world that is all too often obsessed with age and pedigree, Izoli has continued to raise eyebrows ever since. With consummate draftsmanship, a marked command of color and an intensive approach to capturing his subjects, his compositions defy conventional portraiture. Izoli has already seized the attention of the Middle Eastern art scene with works that were aggressively vied for and sold above estimate at two recent Ayyam Auction public sales.





# Qasura Hafez

(Saudi Arabia, born 1973)

## Lot 039

*Gas Mask (Chapter 7)*  
2011  
Black Spray Paint on Red Shomagh  
150 x 150 cm.

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1973, Qasura Hafez has been experimenting with conceptual art since 2006. Prior to embarking on an artistic career that has run parallel to his involvement in the Middle Eastern cultural scene in various capacities, Hafez studied Business at Newbury College in Boston and University of Colorado between 1991 and 1994, and later trained as an Interior Architect online at the Art Academy in San Francisco, California. As the son of the late Hisham Ali Hafez, a prominent Saudi publisher of over a dozen leading newspapers and magazines including Asharq Al- Aswat and Al Majalla, Hafez has worked in both publishing and retail for over ten years. His first exhibition, 'A Short Story' was held in April 2011 at Jeddah Atelier followed by a September exhibition of 'Blink' at Q Contemporary. In February 2012, he exhibited 'Work in Progress' at Ro'iya Gallery in Saudi Arabia. His work most recently sold in Ayyam's Young Collectors Auction 12 and was featured in 'The Samawi Collection II' exhibition at Ayyam Art Center.





## Mouteea Murad

(Syria, born 1977)

### Lot 040

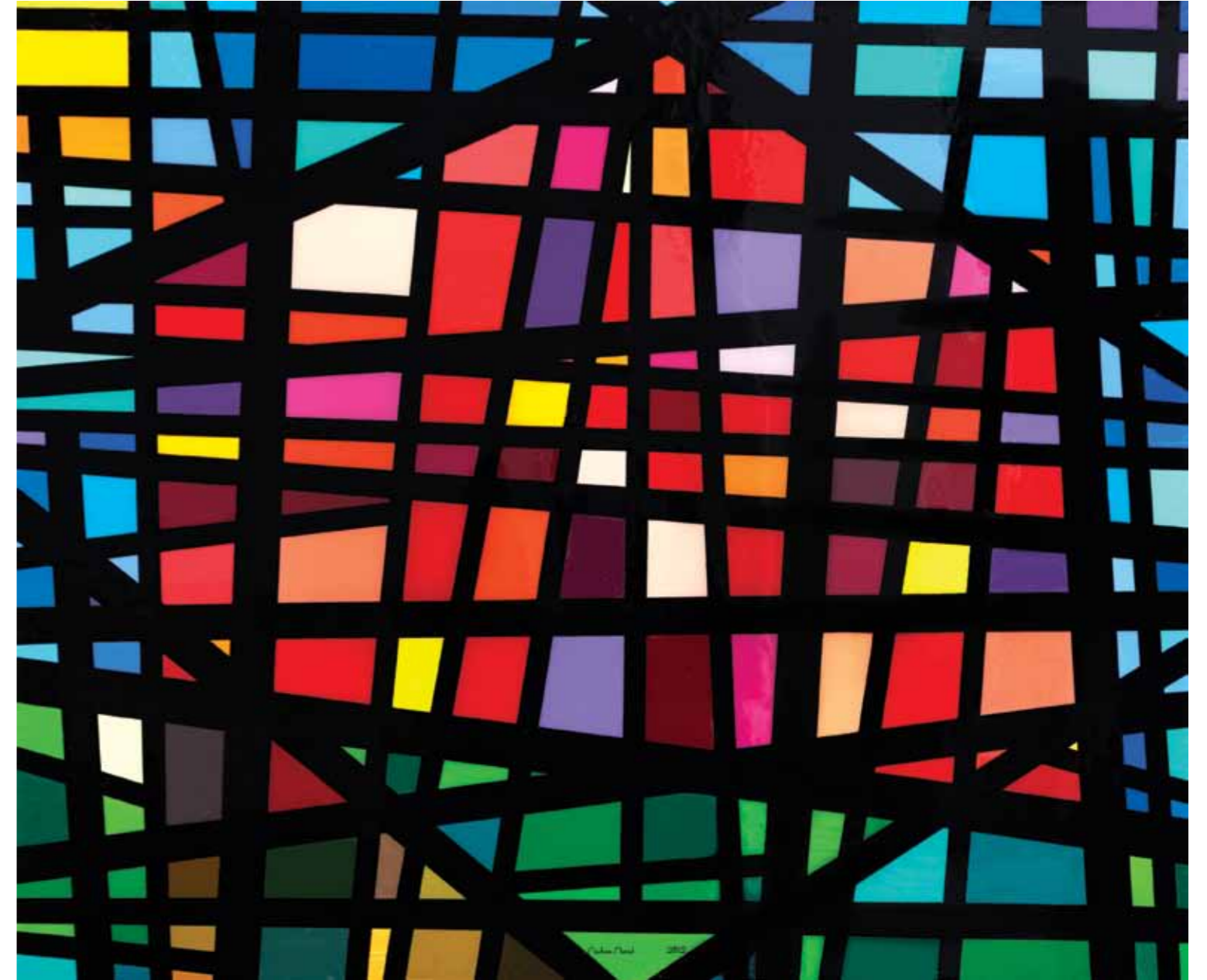
*Trial No. 62; Another House in the Countryside*  
2012  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Homs, Syria in 1977, Mouteea Murad is a young artist whose recent explorations into abstraction have set him apart within the contemporary Syrian art scene. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts, his earlier works consisted of monotone portraits that spoke of human angst. Despite successful sales and exhibitions throughout the Arab world with such compositions, he abruptly changed his artistic direction shortly before entering the Shabab Ayyam competition in 2007. Murad now approaches his work with a deep spirituality, one that reconfigures abstraction with the principles of Islamic art in mind.

Utilizing contemporary techniques, he explores the core facet of this tradition by creating compositions that suggest a divine presence in the world while also engaging international modernist movements such as the Russian Constructivists, Abstract Expressionism and Geometric Abstraction. The linear and horizontal division of spatial planes in which geometric shapes emerge from elaborate partitions thus informs his present work. Pulsating with vivid cubist forms, each line is vastly different from the next, resulting in a geometric mosaic in which squares, triangles and circles intersect, overlap and collapse upon each other.

Having exhibited in solo and group shows across the globe, Murad's paintings are housed in collections in the Middle East, notably in the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Asia, Europe and the United States.





## Walid El Masri

(Lebanon, born 1979)

### Lot 041

*Chairs*  
2007  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

The paintings of Lebanese artist Walid El Masri possess what one critic referred to as the "bravura and technique one rarely finds in the work of someone his age." Born in Beirut in 1979, he is a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus and has participated in numerous group exhibitions and art fairs at home and abroad, including in Europe, Asia and the US. Solo exhibitions at the China International Gallery Expo and Art Hong Kong in 2009 and a featuring in Art Dubai in 2010, established his popularity among international collectors.

Considered a rising young talent of his generation, he has held solo shows in Damascus, Dubai and Paris and has been featured in a number of Ayyam Gallery's high profile events such as its competition for emerging artists in 2007, in addition to several Ayyam Auctions public sales. The recipient of numerous awards, he has won prizes at various workshops and contests in Syria.

In the artist's canvases, experiments in palette and composition revolve around a relentless examination of a single material subject—a simple chair. Yet this inanimate object possesses a startling power, as it functions as a point of departure for greater investigations into the fundamental components of painting.

Like Morandi's vases or Cezanne's apples, El Masri's depictions are less about the objects themselves. What we find instead is an apparent resolve to reconfigure compositional properties, as he toys with depth and space, alluding to meditations on art and life and moments that are suspended in time— profound explorations that have attracted a large pool of art aficionados from across the region.





# Thayer Helal

(Syria, born 1967)

## Lot 042

*Untitled*  
2009

Mixed Media on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Born in Syria in 1967, Thayer Helal has been recognized as a significant member of the Arab and Gulf Art scene since moving to the United Arab Emirates in the 1990s. A senior faculty member of the University of Sharjah, Fine Arts College, he has participated in exhibitions and events throughout the region, including the Sharjah, Alexandria and Tehran Biennials and Christie's, Bonhams and Ayyam auctions.

A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, Helal has emerged as a distinguished figure of contemporary Syrian art with a unique approach to painting that remains at the forefront of Arab abstraction. This has been confirmed by the countless honors that have been bestowed upon him such as the Al Burda International Award from the Emirati Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in 2008, the Grand Gold Award at the 2005 Tehran International Biennial, the Award for Painting at the Sharjah International Biennial of 1997 and the Distinguished Works Award at the 15th General Exhibition of the UAE Fine Arts Association in 1996. Helal's long exhibition history is not limited to the Middle East. He has also been featured in international art fairs, biennials and exhibitions throughout Asia and Europe.

Helal's large mixed media canvases demonstrate the evolution of an artistic style that is amidst a perpetual state of evolution. Inspired by the world around him, including the physical and psychic aspects of society and culture, his abstract paintings utilize experiments in palette, texture, and medium to draw in the viewer while triggering the senses. Communicating movement and energy through explosions of color, the meticulous division of space and the layering of surface, Helal's compositions are marked by a profound expressionism and spontaneity that alludes to the internal and the sublime.





## Mohannad Orabi

(Syria, born 1977)

### Lot 043

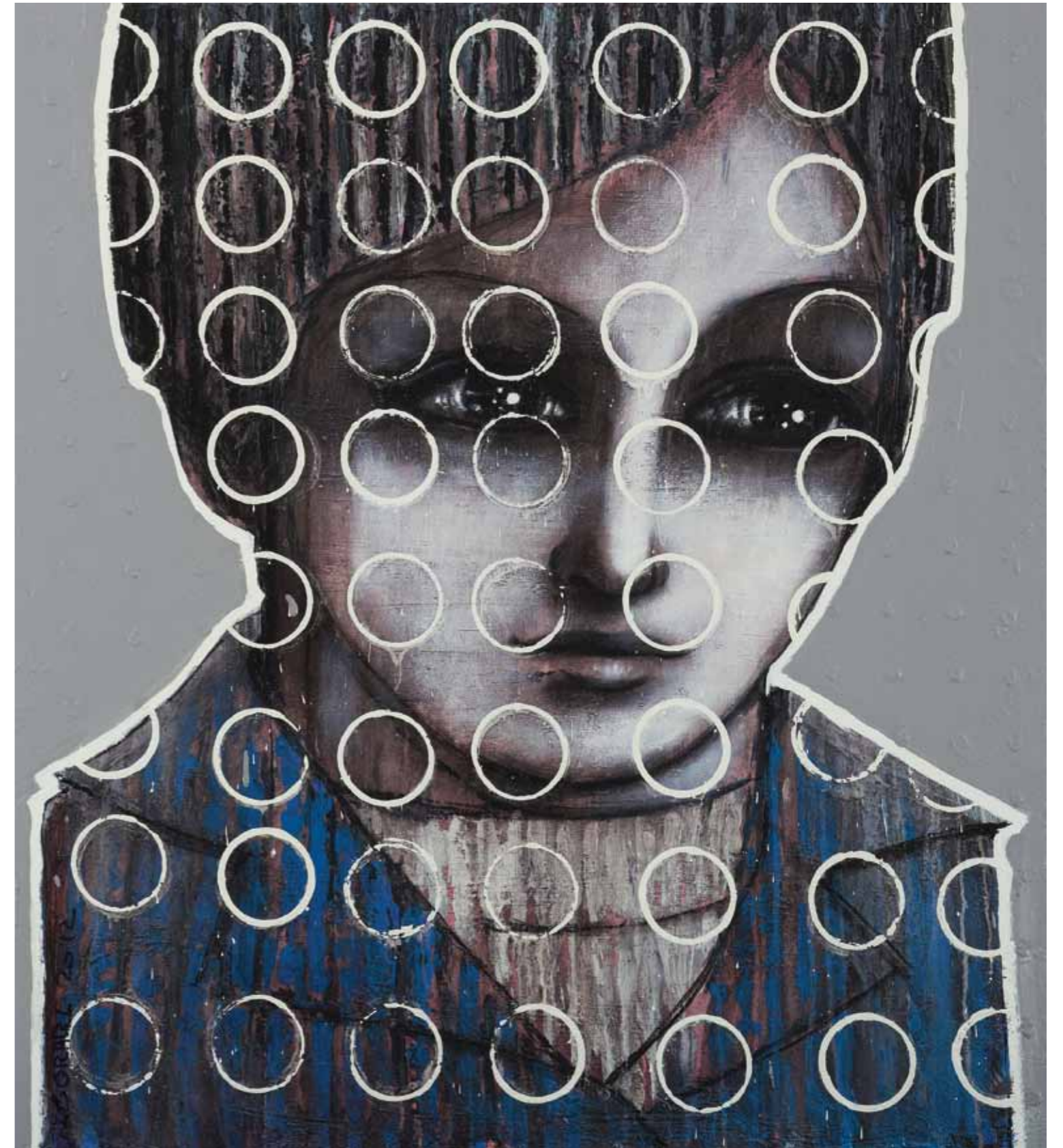
*It's No Longer About Me*  
2012  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 90 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Damascus in 1977, Mohannad Orabi graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in 2000. Having participated in solo and collective exhibitions both at home and abroad, his works have been highlighted in Art Miami, SCOPE Art Fair Basel, China's International Gallery Expo, and Art Hong Kong. Most recently he has been featured in international auctions such as Christie's Dubai.

As a contemporary painter, Orabi is as much an individual as he is a continuation of global art trends, capturing the underlining dichotomy of Arab society while striving to reach new frontiers in aesthetic representation. With highly stylized characters that emanate a particular carefree innocence, his portraits are at once reflective of his fascination with one's childhood experiences as they are investigations into the human spirit. Reproducing variations of embellished figures, Orabi's compositions present his subjects in different scenarios, each one displaying specific human emotions and interactions. Whether adorned in traditional Syrian garb or in modern dress, his protagonists reflect the continued sense of joie de vivre that has defined contemporary Arab culture. Despite an underlining tension existing between his subjects and the stark background of his compositions — often executed in flat color fields that stand as glaring contradictions to his light-hearted figures, which are rendered with bold patterns and sporadic lines — Orabi strives to create a harmonious balance between their oversized bodies and their surroundings. In essence, the exaggerated proportions of their features — bulky heads, hollowed almond-shaped eyes and full figures — accentuate their larger-than-life presence, one that seems to float above the weighty concerns of the world.

Orabi's new series of work, 'It's No Longer About Me', is primarily concerned with the awareness of the individual. When questioned as to why he had not produced work in response to the Arab Spring, Orabi replied that his series does in fact reference the present situation in Syria. His characters are now forced to open their eyes to the events unfolding around them. They are no longer able to shut themselves away from this reality. More humanized, his subjects are portrayed with developed, intentional realism, comprised of an overwhelmingly grey-scale palette with simple additions of primary colors, and heavy deliberate shading, which adds corporeality to each figure. His new body of work focuses less on his personal reflection and more on the depiction of individual personalities through a varied cast of characters.





Mohannad Orabi  
(Syria, born 1977)

Lot 044

*Untitled*  
2006

Mixed Media on Canvas  
122 x 122 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000





## Tammam Azzam

(Syria, born 1980)

### Lot 045

*Bleeding Syria*  
2012

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
60 x 60 cm.  
Edition 1/5  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Born in the Syrian capital in 1980, Tammam Azzam graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus with a concentration in oil painting and subsequently obtained a Fine Arts Certificate in 2001 from Darat al Funun's Al Kharif Academy, an esteemed artist workshop series led by Syrian master, Marwan Kassab Bashi. Since joining the Shabab Ayyam Young Artists Programme in 2008, he has been featured in several significant events including the group show, 'Stories from the Levant', SCOPE Art Fair Basel in 2009, and Art Miami 2010.

Azzam's approach to painting focuses on the tactical application of media; how a variety of components can be employed to create depth, texture and space, achieving a striking balance between the ordinary objects that he portrays and the grand terrain that he evokes. Clotheslines with actual pins are often depicted with quick brushwork resulting in compositions infused with a playful yet enigmatic narrative. In the same regard, these inanimate items work to emphasize the vigor of the space around them, as the remainder of the composition is rendered with vivacious strokes and bold markings that imply a sense of movement and energy.







Tammam Azzam  
(Syria, born 1980)

Lot 046

*Stop*  
2012  
Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
60 x 60 cm.  
Edition 1/5  
Signed, dated and numerated  
Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000





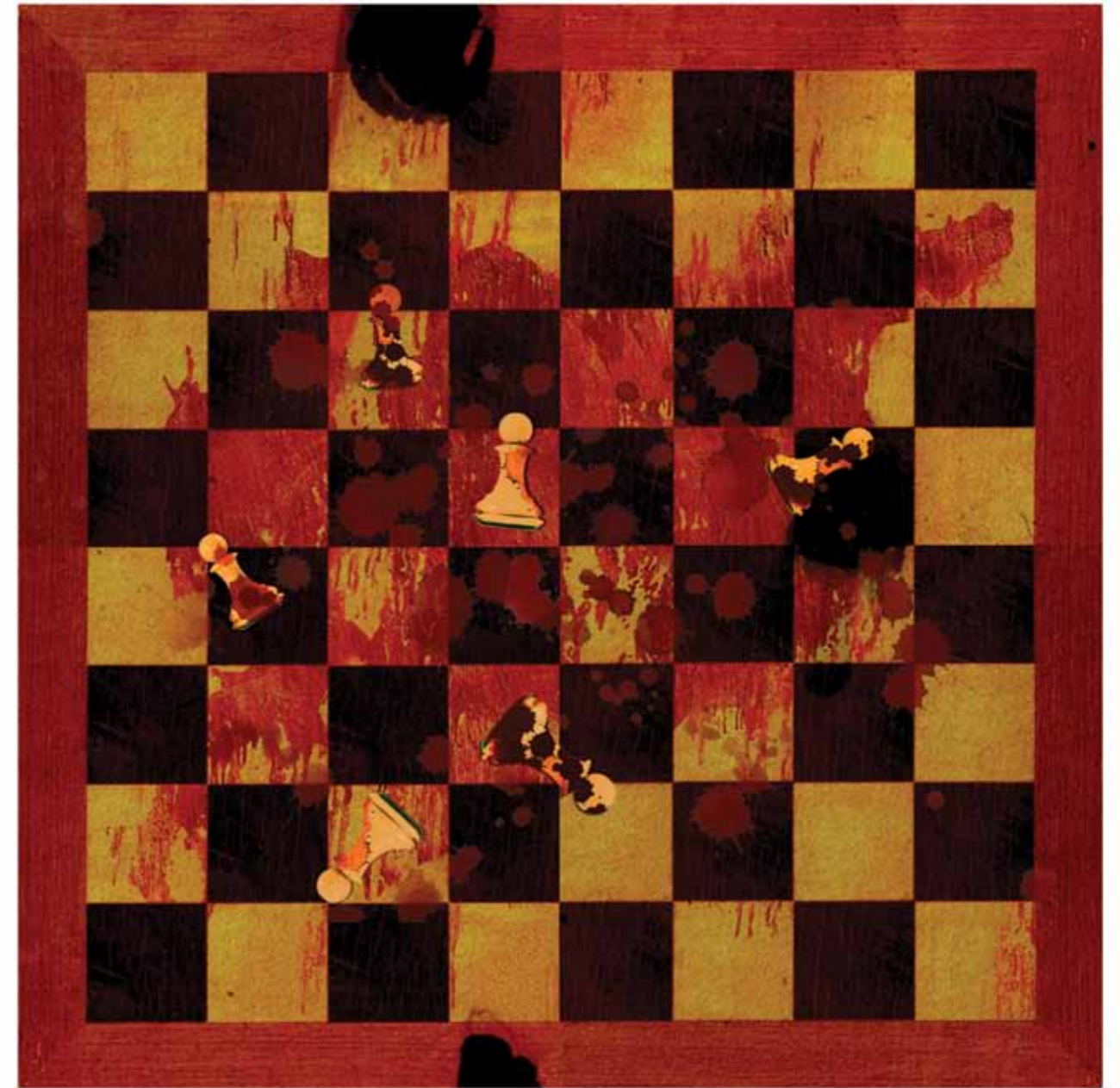
**Tammam Azzam**  
(Syria, born 1980)

**Lot 047**

*Syrian Pawns*  
2012

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
60 x 60 cm.  
Edition 1/5  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000





# Ammar Al Beik

(Syria, born 1972)

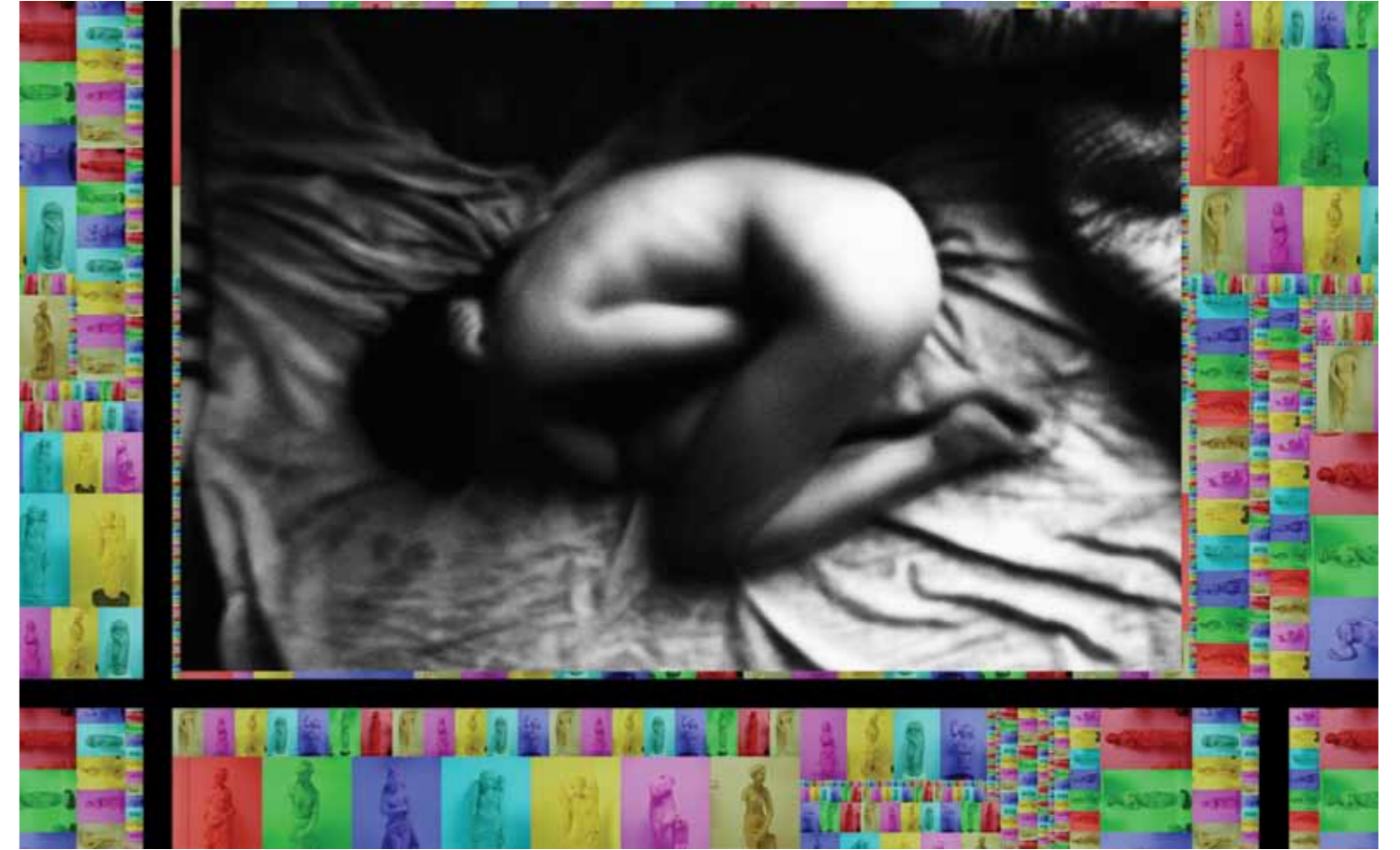
## Lot 048

*Abu Ghreib*  
2008

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
50 x 80 cm.  
Edition 10/25  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$2,500 - \$3,500

Born in Damascus, Syria in 1972, Ammar Al Beik's artistic career stems from unconventional roots. After leaving the University of Damascus where he was pursuing a degree in Business Administration, his love for photography intensified while working at a camera repair shop. Al Beik has exhibited his photographs since the mid 1990s, at a time when he simultaneously began an impressive career in filmmaking, which has earned critical acclaim from audiences and juries across the globe and has received a number of distinctions. Having participated in screenings worldwide since 1999, his films have been featured at such events as the Venice and San Paulo International Film Festivals. His invitation to the 63rd Annual Venice Film Festival in 2006, where he received the award for best documentary, was a first in the history of Syrian cinema. Equally accomplished in both genres, his photographs have been shown in venues throughout the Middle East, Europe and the US. Since joining Ayyam gallery in 2007, Al Beik has participated in solo and group exhibitions. In 2011, he returned to the Venice Film Festival with the short film *The Sun's Incubator*, a work that explores the domestic effects of the 'Arab Spring'.





**Ammar Al Beik**  
(Syria, born 1972)

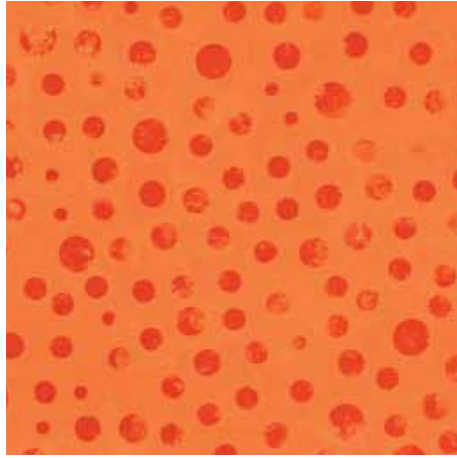
**Lot 049**

*Museum Warden*  
2008

Archival Print on Cotton Paper  
50 x 80 cm.  
Edition 16/25  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$2,500 - \$3,500





**Ayşegül Sağbaş**  
(Turkey, born 1976)

**Lot 050**

*Fadu Jumping Rope*  
2009

Acrylic on Canvas  
140 x 116 cm.  
Signed and dated on reverse

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Ayşegül Sağbaş was born in 1976 in Rize, Turkey. She graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Samsun Ondokuz Mayıs University in 2004. Her paintings have been exhibited throughout Turkey and Moldova including at the 16th Tugay Art Fair in 2006, the Summart Painters Campus in Moldova, in collective exhibitions and solo exhibitions with CDA-Projects Gallery, at Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair and Art Stage Singapore with Galeri Zilberman, and have won several awards. Ayşegül Sağbaş presently works and resides in Istanbul.





# Farzad Kohan

(Iran, born 1967)

## Lot 051

*Sky is Mine*  
2012

Mixed Media on Wood Panel  
90 x 90 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Iranian artist Farzad Kohan's vast body of thought-provoking works range from drawings and paintings to sculpture, installation and photography. His artwork has been featured in several movies and on American television networks and have enjoyed exposure in numerous publications. Kohan is widely known for his experimental work using unconventional methods and mediums, such as his coffee and motor oil drawings. Four of his drawings were part of the United States traveling Human Rights Art Tour, and he has a series of conceptual sculptures made of discarded materials from construction sites. Farzad's recent collage works are made entirely of layered newspaper advertisement mounted on canvas and painted, and address the issues of migration and identity.

Farzad comments that his work is merely a reflection of how he sees the world around him. "Many find that life is a struggle of both the emotional and the physical...My art reflects what is often a simultaneous experience of both the struggle and beauty that comprises life. With my art, I communicate across cultural divides, language barriers, religion and gender. I'm a citizen of this world."





## Dariush Ghrahzad

(Iran, born 1976)

### Lot 052

*Iranian Venus*  
2011

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas  
130 x 160 cm.  
Signed and dated in Farsi

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Tehran in 1976, Dariush Ghrahzad received formal training in painting and drawing. His paintings display such an acute realism that they are often mistaken for photographs. Ghrahzad's works concentrate on the social and urban life of modern-day Tehran, particularly on the booming youth culture and the ways in which it quietly contravenes the rules of Islamic society. Color and atmosphere are paramount and women are depicted wearing headscarves and set against colored walls, while graffiti, a new form of expression among the youth of Tehran, is reinvented as something beautiful.

Dariush Ghrahzad's works have been exhibited in several shows in Iran, London, and New York and featured in numerous Sotheby's and Christie's auctions.





## Shurooq Amin

(Kuwait, born 1967)

### Lot 053

*My Harem in Heaven*  
2011

Mixed Media on Wood  
120 x 170 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Kuwaiti conceptual interdisciplinary artist and Anglophone poet, Shurooq Amin is renowned for her controversial subject matter and taboo images. Amin creates thought-provoking art, employing photographic elements within her acrylic painting and incorporating collage to emphasize the gravity of the issues she represents.

Amin's work has been sold at auction, commissioned privately and publicly, awarded various prizes locally and internationally, and shown at biennales and art fairs. A retrospective of her work was recently featured in the biannual art journal, *Contemporary Practices: Visual Arts from the Middle East*.

Her paintings can be found in the Bayan Palace and the Museum of Modern Art in Kuwait, OPEC headquarters in Vienna, the Shiseido company in Paris, and in private collections around the world.

Recently, her work *Hala Feb Baby* from the series, 'Society Girls: Bullet' sold for \$12,500 at Christie's Dubai in support of the United Nations World Food Programme.







## Bassim Al Sharqi

(Saudi Arabia, born 1976)

### Lot 054

*Alandleeb Alasmar*  
2010  
Silkscreen on Canvas  
146 x 160 cm.

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Considered the pioneer of Saudi Pop Art, Bassim Al Sharqi's works feel deliberately vintage. Utilizing a variety of media such as collage, spray paint and silk screening, Al Sharqi's works are vividly stylized, capturing the spirit of graphic arts and the lithograph in a manner reminiscent of Andy Warhol. Portraying iconic images of the Western world such as the Mona Lisa and a classic VW Bug, Al Sharqi illustrates that these images are no longer the visual property of the West, they are universal and relevant to a new generation of Arabs. Al Sharqi also features celebrated Arab personalities with the hope to create a more modern and comprehensive visual language, incorporating both Western and Eastern symbolism within his works.





# Abdul Karim Majdal Al-Beik

(Syria, born 1973)

## Lot 055

*Traces on Wall*  
2012

Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Born in a small village on the outskirts of Al-Hasakah, Syria in 1973, Abdul Karim Majdal Al-Beik received a graduate degree with honors from the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus in 2001. He has since participated in numerous exhibitions in cultural centers and galleries throughout the Middle East and has received several awards, including second prize at the Lattakia Biennale and second place in the Shabab Ayyam competition for emerging artists. His paintings have been featured in Art Miami and are housed in public and private collections throughout the Middle East and Europe.

Although his earlier works were inspired by recollections of his rural upbringing, summoning the scenes and sensations of his childhood, Al-Beik's recent series has turned to the solemn walls of Damascus' Old City. Searching with astute investigation, he seeks to excavate their untold stories through the markings and cracks that have appeared on the city's exteriors over time. Recognizing this patina as the key to understanding its history, Al Beik carefully replicates the textures, colors, and shapes that emerge, employing the exact materials that are used in the construction of these ancient Damascene edifices. With a limited palette of white, black and grey, he reconfigures these two dimensional surfaces with a meticulous attention to detail using charcoal, plaster, starch and ash. Fissures in texture appear when these materials collide, suggesting a weighty exploration into the bearing of witness and the unearthing of memories.





# Abdullah Murad

(Syria, born 1944)

## Lot 056

*Abstract*  
2006  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Homs, Syria in 1944, Abdullah Murad has developed an exceptional painting style that some have described as arabesque abstraction. Considered a pioneer in the abstract school of Arab art, Murad has been captivating audiences with his spontaneous compositions for over thirty years. Having exhibited throughout the region, his works are housed in public and private collections all over the world. The artist's partnership with Ayyam resulted in a 2007 solo exhibition in Damascus that drew viewers from all over the region and was accompanied by a monograph spanning two decades of his oeuvre. Subsequent sales of his paintings in recent Christie's auctions in Dubai have proven highly successful, surpassing estimates and confirming his importance as a continued trendsetter and favorite among collectors.

Relying mostly on intuition, Murad is a consummate colorist whose compositions emanate with liberated forms. With a glowing palette that is used to suggest light and dark contrasts, he creates an overwhelming sense of harmony, one that reflects the organic nature of his artistic vision. Shapes are created with brushstrokes that range from conservative markings to vigorous lines that have been unleashed with an explosive force.

Demonstrating a masterful command, he often employs other techniques, including collage, as there are no limits to his creative expression. Textures are built up so that the surface of the canvas seemingly leaps out at the viewer, while earthen hues meet warm and cool colors effortlessly. For the artist, the inspiration for his paintings cannot be located in a single moment or thing. Forever evolving, his melodic compositions are extracted from the depths of the subconscious.





**Ghassan Sebai**  
(Syria, born 1939)

**Lot 057**

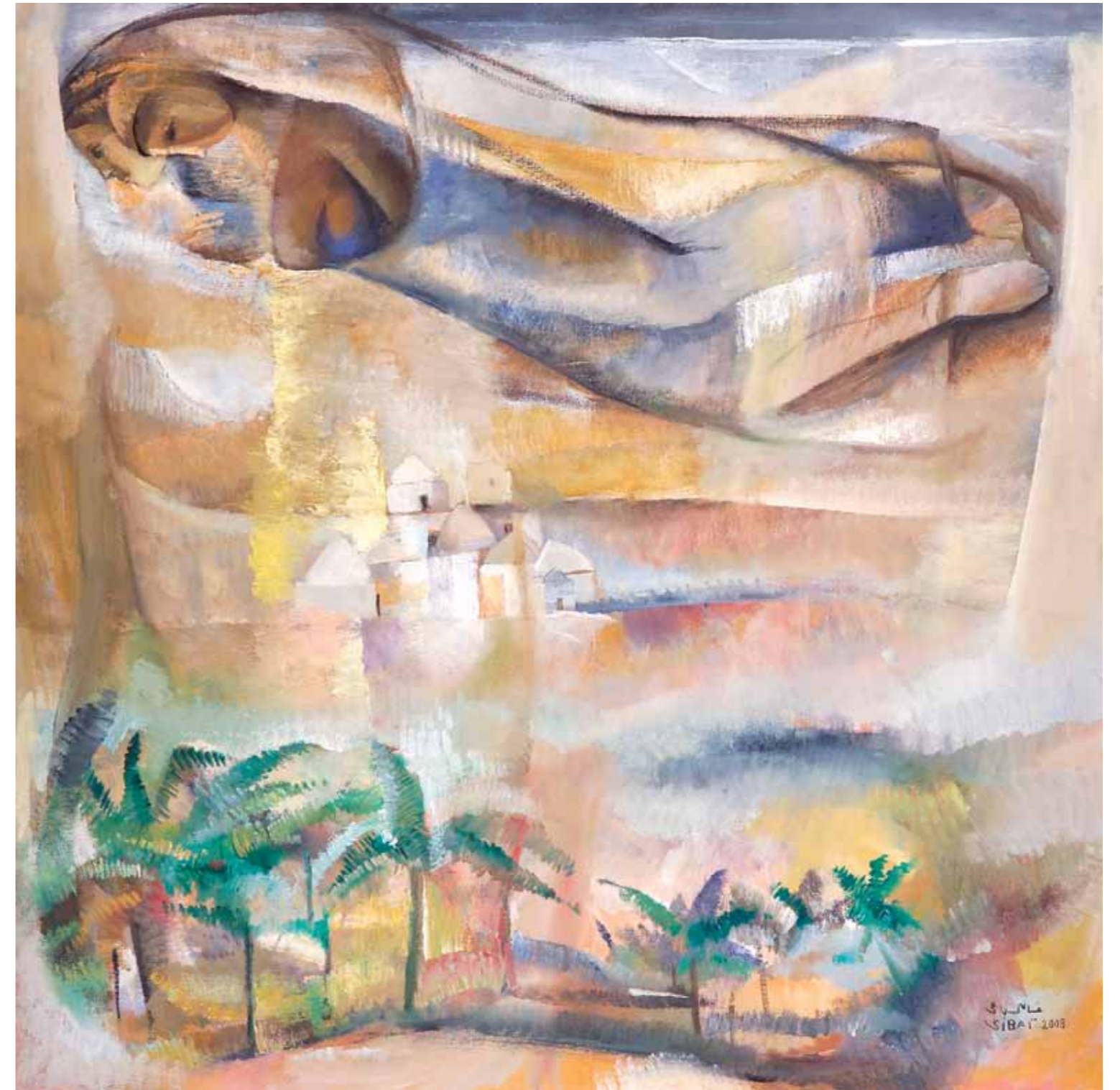
*Untitled*  
2008  
Oil on Canvas  
150 x 150 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Born in Homs, Syria in 1939, Ghassan Sebai studied oil painting at the University of Alexandria, Egypt and continued to train in the visual arts with a specialization in Engraving at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Paris, from which he graduated in 1970. In 1974, Sebai returned to Syria where he taught engraving in at the University of Damascus until 2002 and was an active member of the art scene.

A seminal Modernist, his early works depict nature and the Al-Assi River that lay near his childhood home in Homs. His artistic style was heavily influenced by metaphysical interpretations in art, which lead to further experiments and developed into an Impressionist language that contained elements of symbolism. As such Sebai's paintings treated his frequently political and social subjects with a modern approach that was influenced by both local and international schools of art. Hints of Cubism grace his figures, as he belongs to a movement in Arab art that sought to depict the struggles of man in a universal language, one that was widely understood and admired thanks to the breakthroughs of Picasso and Braque and later the Mexican Muralists.

He participated in countless exhibitions inside and outside Syria, and his works are preserved in the National Museum of Damascus, the Beiteddine Museum in Lebanon, and The Royal Museum in Jordan, in addition to a number of other local and international private collections.





# Asma Fayoumi

(Syria, born 1943)

## Lot 058

*Nawar I*  
2008  
Acrylic on Canvas  
122 x 122 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

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. 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. Since then, Fayoumi 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.





# Youssef Dweik

(Palestine, born 1963)

Lot 059

*Untitled*  
2008

Mixed Media on Canvas  
150 x 160 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Youssef Dweik was born in Jerusalem in 1963 and presently resides in the UAE. Since his graduation from Jordan's Al-Yarmouk University in 1985, he has been passionately portraying the progression of his country's forefathers and his personal feelings of the world around him in his paintings. Utilizing symbols that represent the spirit of ancient Arabic history to tell his story, his paintings possess hidden depths to be unveiled by the viewer.

To achieve a balance between his commitment to telling his country's story and his desire to create beautiful artworks, Dweik uses delicate combinations of soft, textural colors to create a quiet harmony within his works, a technique he developed as a result of years of experimentation with different methods and raw materials.





**Asaad Arabi**  
(Syria, born 1941)

**Lot 060**

*The Door*  
2006  
Acrylic on Canvas  
65 x 85 cm.  
Signed

Estimate: \$7,000 - \$9,000

Born in Damascus in 1941, Asaad Arabi has been recognized as a prominent contemporary Arab artist since the 1980s. Featured in exhibitions throughout the region and abroad, his works are housed in several prestigious collections, notably the Arab World Institute in Paris, the Barcelona Contemporary Museum of Art, and South Korea's Museum in Seoul.

His most recent exhibitions include a handful of well-received solo and group shows with Ayyam Gallery to which he has contributed a variety of canvases and has demonstrated an expansive range of painting. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, Arabi received a diploma in Painting from the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Paris in 1983 and earned a PhD in Aesthetics from the distinguished Sorbonne University in 1987. Based in France since 1975, Arabi has undertaken extensive art research and has penned a significant collection of art writings in both French and Arabic. As such, he is widely revered as a prominent aesthetic theorist.

Beginning his career at the end of Syria's Modernist period, his paintings span decades of art and include numerous styles. Although he began depicting the old streets of Damascus with an acute sense of realism, this quickly gave way to figurative portrayals that relied heavily on elements of Cubism and Abstraction. From a method of painting that delved into the realm of Geometric Abstraction to the vibrant form of Expressionism that characterizes his canvases today, Arabi's work has traversed multiple international art developments.





**Nadim Karam**  
(Lebanon, born 1957)

**Lot 061**

*The Thinker on a Raining Cloud*  
2008  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
205 x 75 cm.  
Signed and dated in Arabic

Estimate: \$10,000 - \$15,000







**Sadik Alfraji**  
(Iraq, born 1960)

**Lot 062**

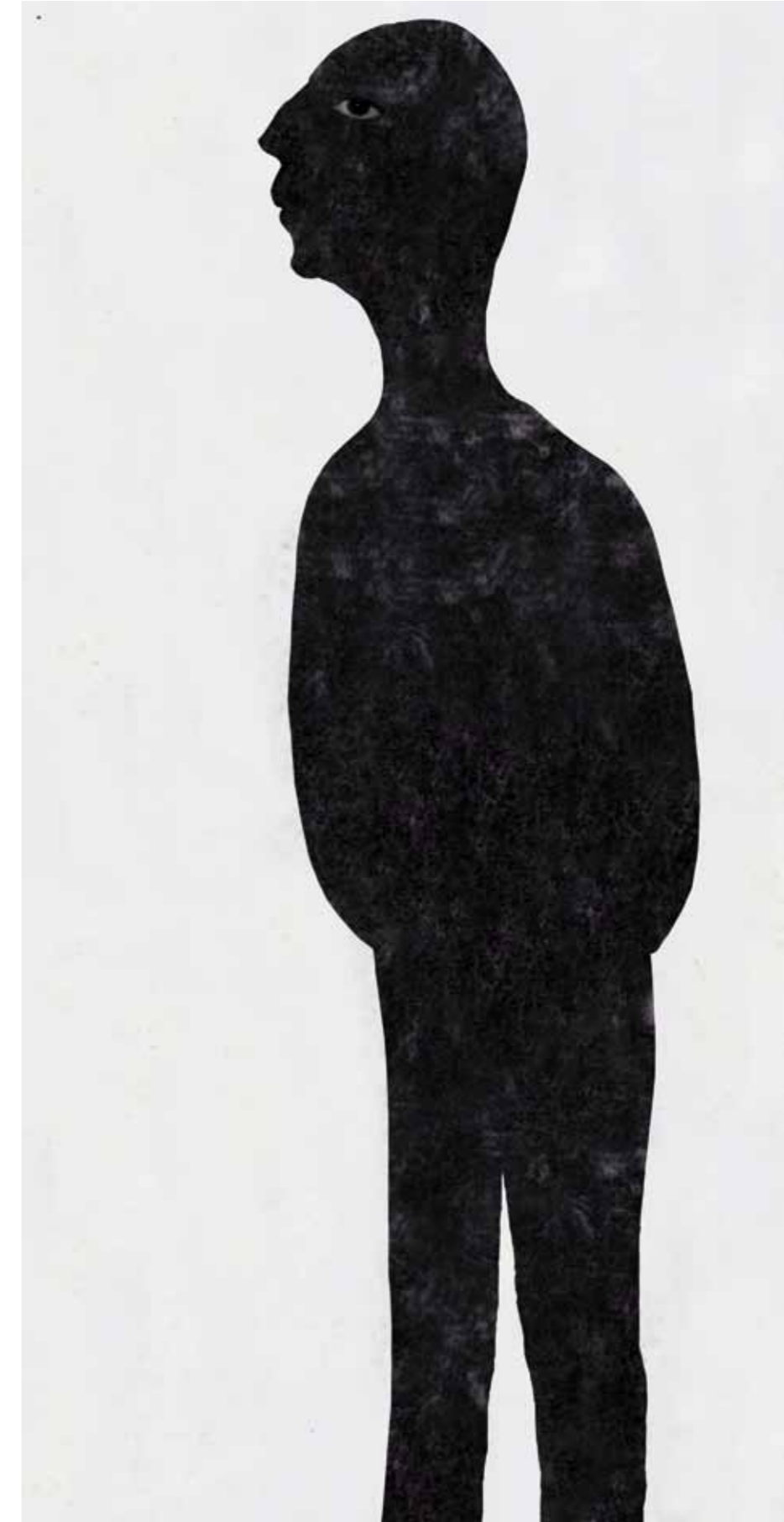
*Waiting for Godot Series*  
2011  
Lambda Print  
200 x 100 cm.  
Edition 1/5  
Signed

Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Born in Baghdad in 1960, Sadik Alfraji studied at the Institute of Fine Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Iraq, from which he graduated with a diploma and degree in Plastic Arts, respectively. In 2000, he pursued a High Diploma in Graphic Design from the CHK Constantijn Huygens in the Netherlands, where he presently resides.

A visual artist, print maker and designer, Alfraji has often blended art and philosophy as a means of expanding the formal and conceptual boundaries of his aesthetic. His mixed media compositions explore a variety of themes, from the universal human condition to experiences of exile and fragmentation.

Having participated in exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the US since the 1980s, his work is housed in the collections of the National Museum of Modern Art in Iraq, The National Gallery and the Khalid Shoman Foundation in Jordan, the Novosibirsk State Art Museum in Russia, and the Cluj-Napoca Art Museum in Romania. Alfraji was invited to produce new work for 'Told/ Untold/Retold', one of the inaugural exhibitions of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Qatar.





## Oussama Diab

(Palestine, born 1977)

### Lot 063

*The King and the Crown*  
2010  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$7,000

Born in 1977, Palestinian artist Oussama Diab has quickly gained rank within the Middle Eastern art scene. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2002, he has been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout the region and has been honored for his work with several awards from the distinguished Young Artists exhibition in Syria. Since his debut show with Ayyam Gallery Damascus in 2009, his work has continued to impress critics, while several successful sales at Ayyam Auctions have garnered the artist great recognition among regional art lovers.

Known for large colorful canvases that employ symbolist interpretations of current events, his recent series of paintings reflects a profound investigation into global political concerns while hinting at the artist's passion for international art. Inspired by a wide spectrum of influences that span the length of art history, Diab's work has frequently presented a new take on graffiti-inspired Neo-Expressionism. Updating this painting style, his markings appear rapid and spontaneous with an overwhelming urgency, as his subjects exist in a nondescript setting. At once Pop-infused and marked with a childlike innocence, his canvases are equally known for their serious subject matter, a juxtaposition that reflects the duality of his work.





**Oussama Diab**  
(Palestine, born 1977)

**Lot 064**

*The Last Supper*  
2012

Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000





Rima Salamoun  
(Syria, born 1963)

Lot 065

*Untitled*  
2010

Mixed Media on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Damascus, Syria in 1963, Rima Salamoun graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University in 1987. A member of the Syrian Syndicate of Fine Arts, she has participated in several collective exhibitions in the Arab world and Europe, such as the acclaimed show, 'Syrian Contemporary Art' at the Waqif Art Center in Qatar, and has held a number of solo shows at home and abroad, most notably at Gallery Espace Europa in France. In 2010, her work received an overwhelming response from Lebanese viewers when it was featured in 'Syrian Fine Art Painters', a group exhibition held at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut as part of the city's World Book Capital proceedings.

Salamoun's acrylic and mixed media canvases are intentionally stark as sorrow-filled subjects console each other amidst a dim world. Frequently featuring female protagonists, her works belong to a profound strand of Syrian art that has utilized women as powerful representations of the plight of humanity. Maintaining the anonymity of her subjects, she creates universal narratives from which viewers grasp the weight of global concerns. She does so with an accomplished command of medium and an exquisite talent for drawing.





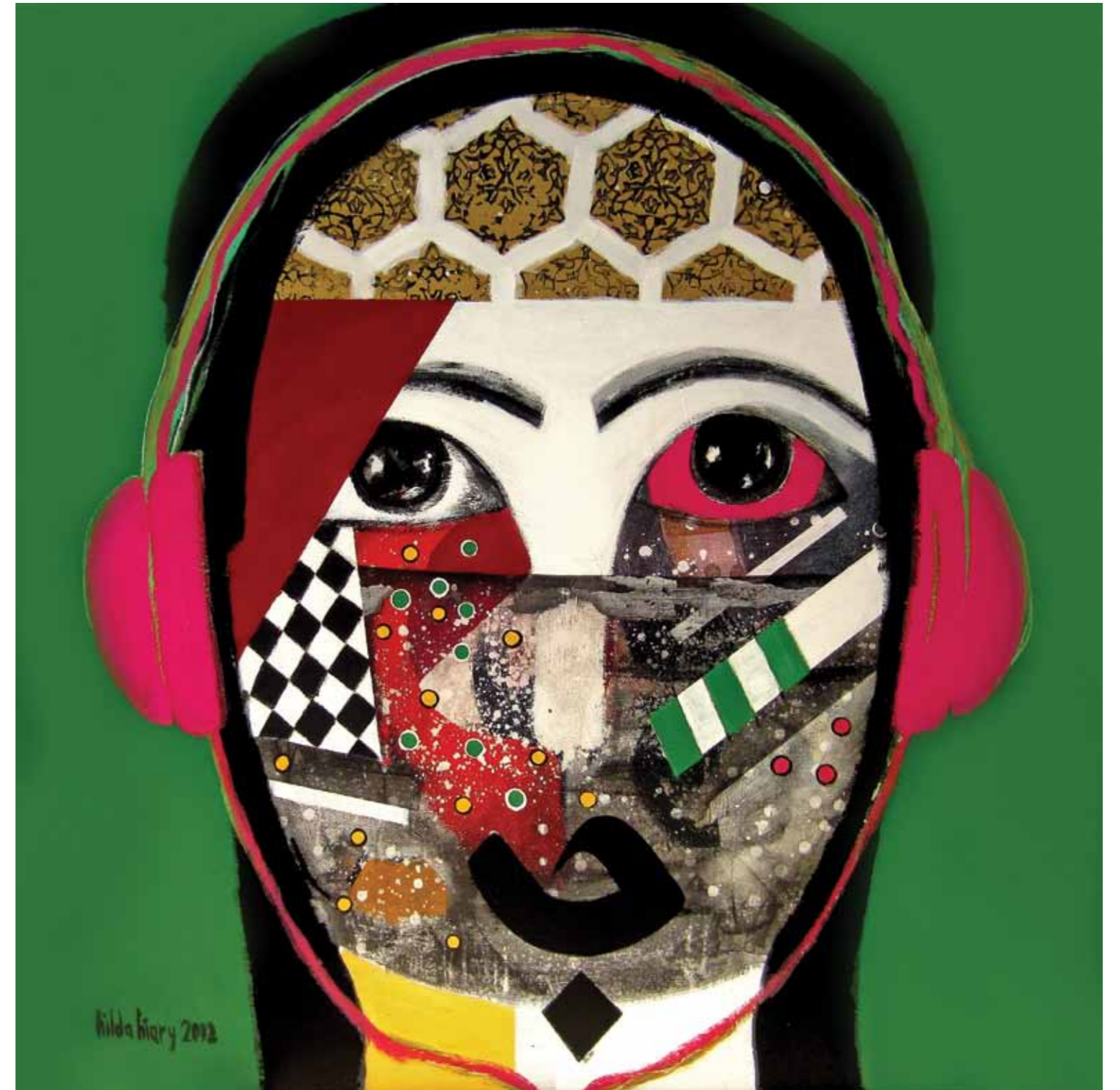
**Hilda Hiary**  
(Jordan, born 1969)

**Lot 066**

*Spring Music*  
2012  
Acrylic on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$6,000 - \$8,000

Born in Jordan in 1969, Hilda Hiary graduated from Amman's Al Zaytoonah University in 2004 with a BA in Fine Arts. Prior to receiving her academic training, she exhibited as a self-taught artist for nearly a decade. Since the mid 1990s, she has been featured in solo and group shows in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States, while simultaneously contributing to symposiums, festivals, workshops and biennales. Although primarily a painter, she has produced a number of video works and installations, several of which have been exhibited internationally. Hiary is the recipient of many awards, most notably an honorable mention from the Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh and first prize for Installation Art from the Cairo International Biennale.





## Yasser Safi

(Syria, born 1976)

Lot 067

*Untitled*  
2008

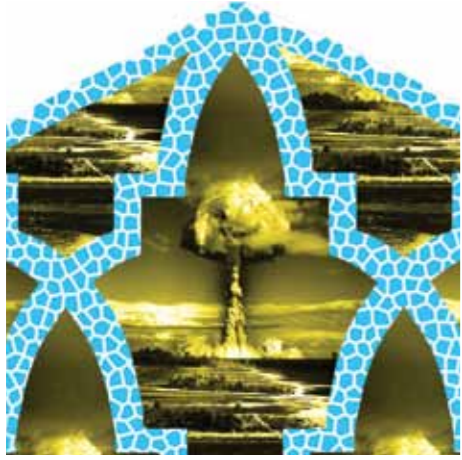
Mixed Media on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$6,000

Yasser Safi's paintings exemplify an unconventional yet remarkable approach to depicting the human form. Born in Kamishli, Syria in 1976, he studied Sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus and later pursued a Masters degree in Graphic Arts. Since graduating in 1999, he has participated in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Arab world. An award winning artist, he has received such prestigious honors as the first prize for Engraving in the Damascus Youth Salon and second place in Print Making at the Lattakia Biennale. Safi made his first appearance with Ayyam Gallery in its 2009 'Shabab Uprising' exhibition and had successful sales in Miami and Palm Beach art fairs and at several of Ayyam Gallery's Young Collector's Auctions in Dubai.

Essentially colorist compositions, Safi's animated canvases attract the viewer's eye with highly stylized portraits executed with brightly hued fluid brushwork, which demonstrates an impressive command of medium. His latest paintings possess a distinct psychology as he captures the fundamental nature of social interaction and the predicament of man in the modern world. Large childlike figures are often shown walking city streets. Street signs, roads, small cars and other markers of urban life suggest a bustling metropolis. Yet despite being surrounded by this chaotic setting, the figures are monumental in size, towering over and seemingly elemental to these man-made environments, informing their existence. By rendering his subjects in this manner, the artist suggests the importance of man over the city; no matter how drastic the changes to our urban landscape may be, the essence of man shall survive. His figures thus become immortal beings. Safi's creative insights are far-reaching in their scope and highly relevant to today's global society.





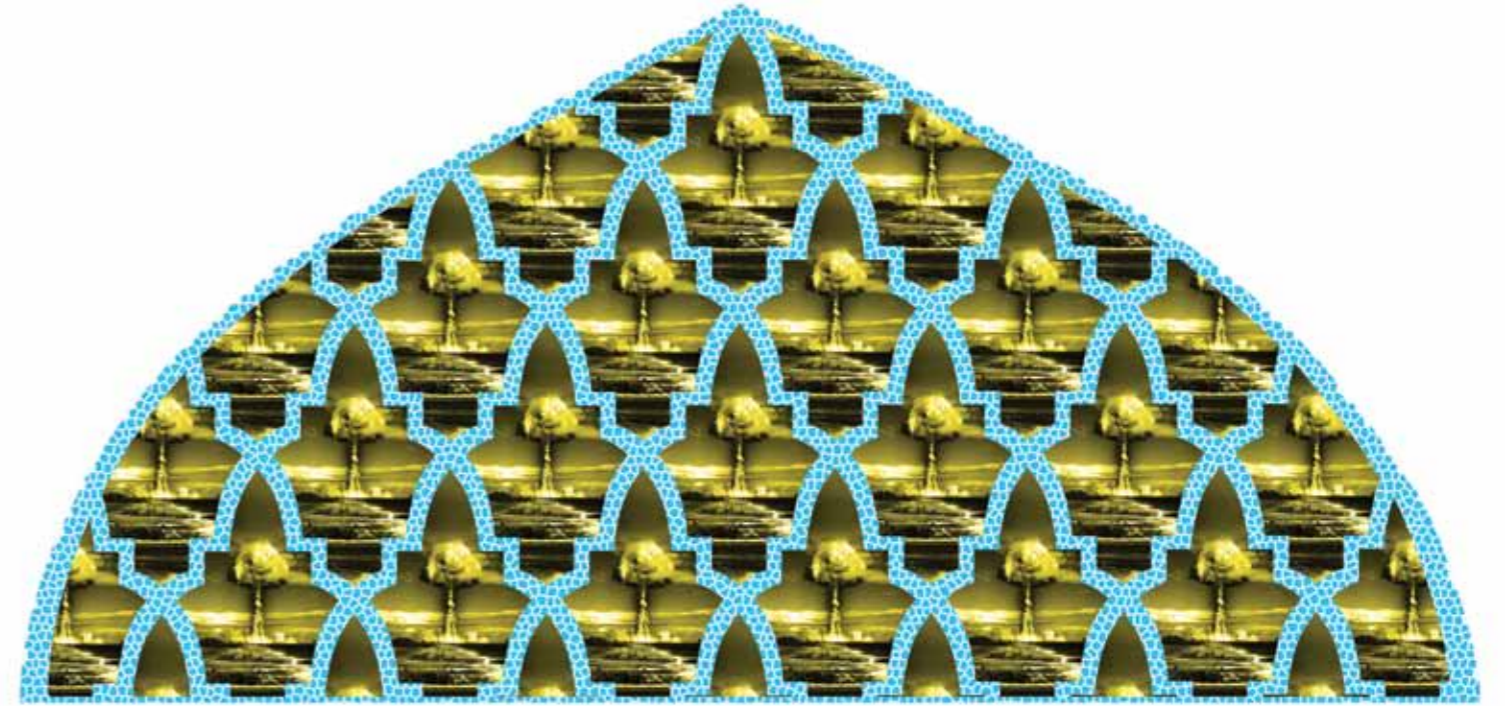
Navid Azimi Sajadi  
(Iran, born 1982)

Lot 068

*Untitled*  
2010  
C-Print  
62 x 120 cm.  
Edition 2/5

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000

Iranian artist Navid Azimi Sajadi defines himself as an iconoclast. Working in a variety of media including painting, photography, installation, and sculpture, Sajadi recontextualizes and questions symbols from his Iranian heritage as well as Middle Eastern stereotypes held and perpetuated by Western media. Combining esotericism and politics, ancient divinities and contemporary issues, calligraphy, mushroom clouds and flags, Sajadi not only critiques but also energizes the artistic and philosophical potential of the Persian language and culture.





**Fouad Elkoury**  
(Lebanon, born 1952)

**Lot 069**

*Went to Mozambique*  
2009

Inkjet Print Mounted on Aluminum  
62.5 x 50 cm.  
Edition 1/5

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Born in Paris, France in 1952, Lebanese photographer and filmmaker Fouad Elkoury has long been at the forefront of photographic practices in Lebanon and the wider Middle East. He began his career documenting the Lebanese Civil War and in 1982, he covered the Israeli invasion of Beirut. Elkoury published 'Beyrouth Aller-Retour', a book documenting the shelled city in 1982, which served as a prelude to his sophomore project Beirut City Centre in 1991 and ignited a distinguished bibliography which continues to this day.

In 1997, Elkoury co-founded the Beirut-based Arab Image Foundation, a nonprofit organization which collects, preserves, and studies photographs from the Middle East, North Africa and the Arab diaspora. In 2001, he introduced video into his repertoire with the film, *Lettres à Francine*, which accompanied his chiaroscuro-esque photographic series.

Elkoury's long roster of international solo exhibitions spans two decades and includes France, Germany, the US, Lebanon, Egypt, the UAE, and Switzerland. His 'On Love and War', a series of journal entries spanning the duration of Israel's onslaught onto Lebanon in August 2006 was shown in Lebanon's first National Pavilion in the Venice Biennale of 2007.



**Went to Mozambique... felt like a tourist**





# Rhea Karam

(Lebanon, born 1982)

## Lot 070

*Rock Heads*  
2008

Archival Pigment Print  
76.2 x 101.6 cm.  
Edition 1/6

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500

Rhea Karam is a New York based photographer who was born in Beirut and grew up in France. She graduated from the International Center of Photography in New York where she received a director's scholarship. Karam has exhibited extensively both internationally and in the Middle East in both solo and group shows and has won awards including the Best of Show at the Colorado Photographic Arts Centre juried exhibition in 2011.





## Samia Halaby

(Palestine, born 1936)

### Lot 071

*Landscape*  
2009  
Acrylic on Canvas  
45 x 45 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Born in Jerusalem in 1936, Samia Halaby is a leading Palestinian painter and scholar. After immigrating to the United States via Lebanon in 1951, she obtained a BS in Design from the University of Cincinnati in 1959 and a Master of Fine Arts from Indiana University in 1963. Shortly after, she began an extensive career teaching art at the university level, which culminated in a decade long position as the first full-time female associate professor at the world-renowned Yale School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut. Although based in New York, Halaby has also worked in the Arab world, teaching at institutions such as Birzeit University in the West Bank and Darat al-Funun in Amman, Jordan.

Since 1970, she has held countless solo exhibitions, both in the United States and abroad and has been featured in a number of groundbreaking group exhibitions of Arab art throughout the US and Europe. With recent blockbuster sales of her paintings at auction, her works have become increasingly sought-after by collectors.

Although her exceptional painting style has changed dramatically over the years—from large canvases exploring the color planes of geometric and helix formations to colorist assemblages that speak of movement and nature—she has continued to push the boundaries of art for over fifty years. As such, she is recognized as a major innovator of the school of abstraction in contemporary Arab art. Halaby's vivid canvases have been hailed by a number of international publications including *The New York Times* and *Art in America*. Forever on the cutting edge of art, in 1983 she created a computer program for kinetic paintings, resulting in several audio-visual presentations including a tour of Syria, Palestine, and Jordan and a performance accompanied by live musicians at New York's Lincoln Center in 1998.

Halaby's work is housed in several museum collections worldwide, most notably the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, The British Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, and The Detroit Institute of Art. As an art historian, she has been instrumental in curating several exhibitions in the US. In 2002, her many years of scholarship led to the publishing of 'Liberation Art of Palestine', one of the few English language books on contemporary Palestinian art available today.





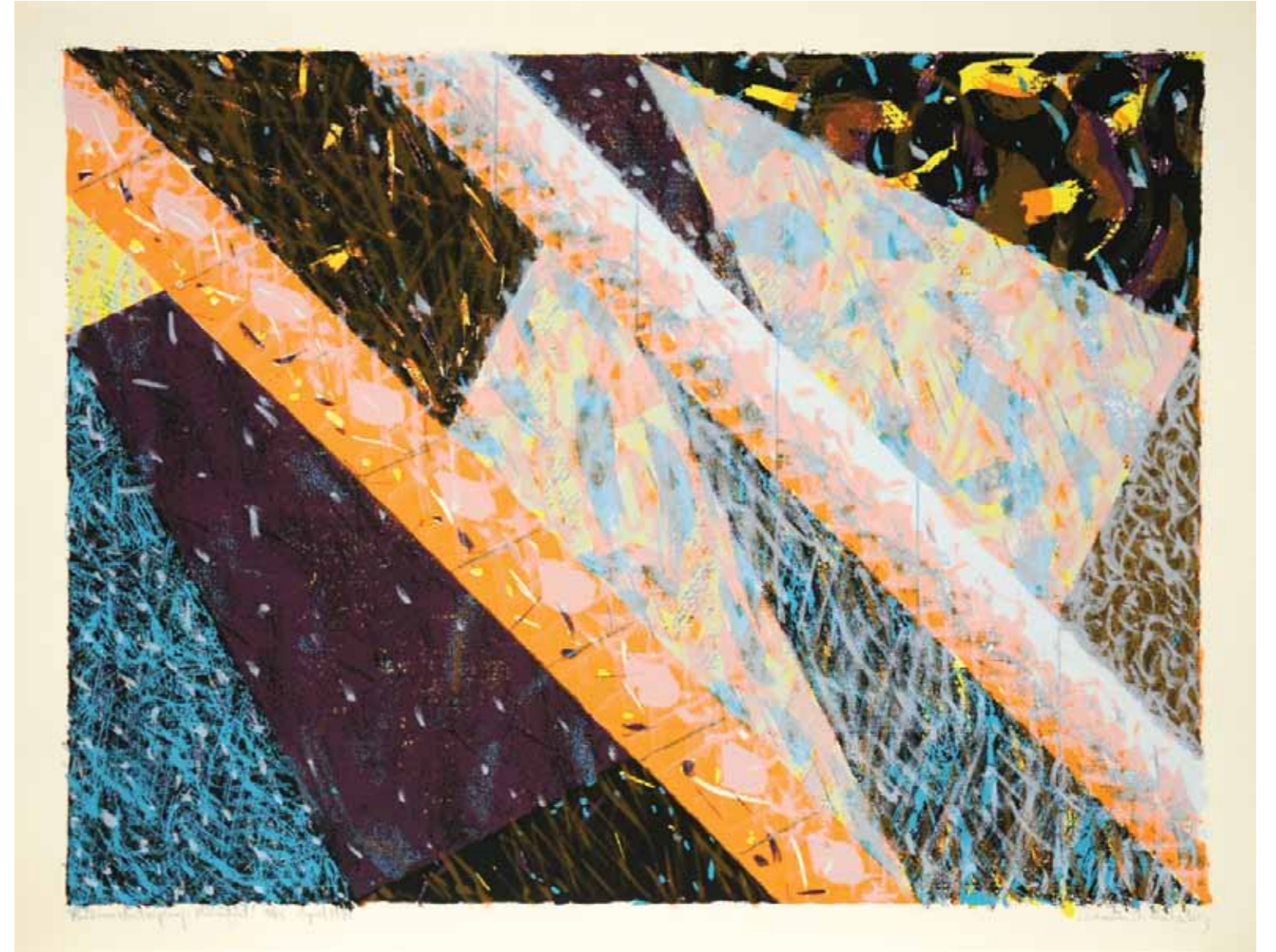
**Samia Halaby**  
(Palestine, born 1936)

**Lot 072**

*Position Interplay; Midnight*  
1983

Silkscreen  
53 x 68 cm.  
Edition 35/45  
Signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000





Lina Ogaily Sami  
(Iraq, born 1973)

Lot 073

*Untitled*  
2011  
Gouache on Paper  
42 x 32 cm.  
Signed and dated

Estimate: \$1,000 - \$2,000

Born in 1973 to Iraqi parents, Lina Ogaily grew up in Kuwait and later moved to England to pursue a degree in Interior Design from Kingston University. She presently resides in Dubai and has focused on painting for the last decade. Ogaily's painting has become a statement and a voice to express her thoughts, fears and dreams inspired by the political turmoil in Iraq. Her subject matter focuses on Middle Eastern women's plight in withstanding social pressures in their day-to-day life. Ogaily has stated that, "through my voyage into abstract art I have re-discovered the power of color, texture and form...and the human form has become my tool of communication." She has always been fascinated with different techniques, working mainly with acrylics, but also using inks, oils and mixed media.

Her work has been recently featured in a Christie's Dubai auction to benefit the United Nations World Food Programme.





## Boushra Yahya Almutawakel

(Yemen, born 1969)

### Lot 074

*Fulla*  
2010  
C-Print  
40 x 60 cm. (x 2)  
Edition 1/8

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500

Born in Sana'a Yemen, in 1969, Boushra Yahya Almutawakel studied in the United States and Yemen, obtaining a BS in International Business at the American University in Washington, D.C. Boushra expanded her interest in photography while working as a photojournalist on the university newspaper, yearbook, and as a photo lab assistant at the School of Communications. On her return to Yemen in 1994, she worked mainly as an educational adviser but continued developing her photographic work, participating in many group exhibitions.

In 1996, she became a founding member of Al-Halaqa in Sana'a, a group that created a space for discourse and exhibitions and forged links with international artists. In 1998, Boushra became a full-time photographer and was honoured as the first Yemeni woman photographer by the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Centre at Sana'a University. In 2001, Boushra won a World Studio Foundation Scholarship towards her study for a Diploma in Advertising Photography at the Portfolio Centre in Atlanta, where she won several distinctions. She has been featured in Yemen Times, Yemen Observer, Yemen Today, Artasiapacific Almanac 2011, El Pais, Muse, as well as the web magazine, Nafas Art Magazine, and photo blogs such as 500 Photographers, Greater Middle East Photo, and the New Yorker's Photo Booth.





**Eman Mohammed**  
(Palestine, born 1989)

**Lot 075**

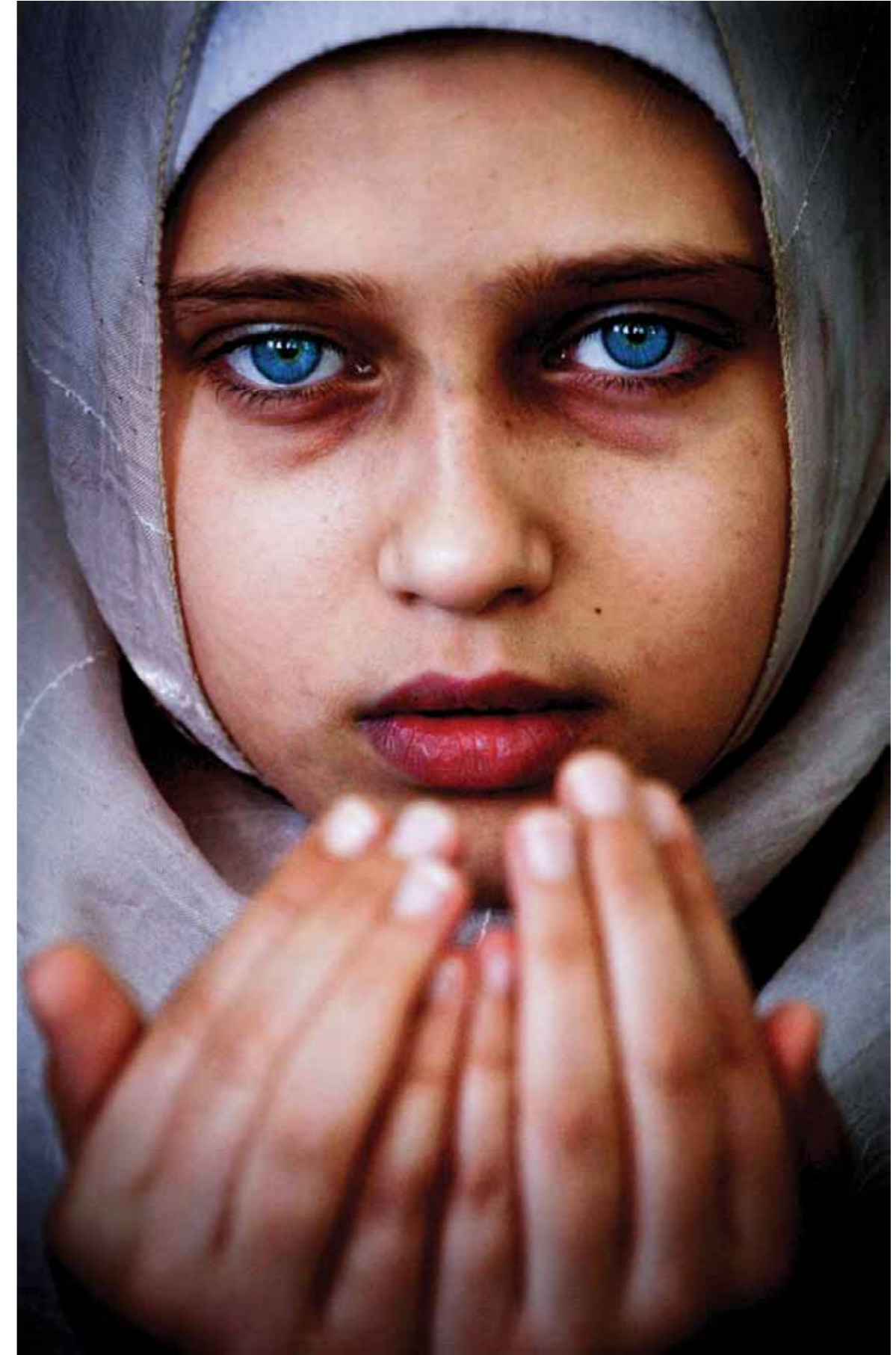
*Palestinian Girl Recites Qur'an Verses in a Mosque*  
2009  
C-Print  
38 x 25 cm.  
Edition 2/8

Estimate: \$1,000 - \$2,000

Eman Mohammed is a Palestinian self-taught photojournalist based in the Gaza Strip. She has been covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict since 2006. The only female in her field, she has garnered international recognition for her poignant photographs, while simultaneously battling her society's prejudices about her career ambitions.

Capturing through her lens a variety of scenes from deadly air strikes to fervid militant funerals and Gaza's deep-sea fishermen with the utmost sensitivity, her work has won several awards including the Carmignac Gestion Judges' Special Prize of 2009 and received an honorable mention in UNICEF's 2009 Photo of the Year contest.

Eman has exhibited her compelling photographs in collective exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada, Israel, Ireland and the Netherlands and her images have been featured in several notable publications including the Guardian, the Washington Post, and Le Monde.



## BUYING AT AUCTION & GENERAL AUCTION INFORMATION

### Before the Auction

**The Catalog** A catalog prepared by Ayyam Auctions is published for every schedule live auction and is available prior to the sale date. The catalog will help familiarize you with property being offered at the designated auction. For more information, please visit [www.ayyamgallery.com](http://www.ayyamgallery.com). Prospective bidders should also consult [www.ayyamgallery.com](http://www.ayyamgallery.com) for the most up to date cataloging of the property in this catalog.

**Reserve** All lots in this catalog are offered subject to a reserve, which is the confidential minimum hammer price at which a lot will be sold. All reserves are equal or lower than the low estimate.

**Estimates** Each lot in the catalog is given a low and high estimate, indicating to a prospective buyer a range in which the lot might sell at auction. When possible, the estimate is based on previous auction records of comparable pieces. The estimates are determined several months before a sale and are therefore subject to change upon further research of the property, or to reflect market conditions or currency fluctuations. Estimates should not be relied upon as a representation or prediction of actual selling prices.

**Provenance** In certain circumstances, Ayyam Auctions may print in the catalog the history of ownership of a work of art if such information contributes to scholarship or is otherwise well known and assists in distinguishing the work of art. However, the identity of the seller or previous owners may not be disclosed for a variety of reasons. For example, such information may be excluded to accommodate a seller's request for confidentiality or because the identity of prior owners is unknown given the age of the work of art.

**Specialist Advice** Prospective bidders may be interested in specific information not included in the catalog description of a lot. For additional information, please contact one of Ayyam Auctions Specialists (all of whom are listed in the front of the catalog). You may also request a condition report from the specialist in charge.

**The Exhibition** An exhibition of the auction property will be held the week prior to the auction on the days listed in the front of the catalog. There you will have the opportunity to view, inspect and evaluate the property yourself, or with the help of one of Ayyam Auctions Specialists (all of whom are listed in the front of the catalog).

**Salesroom Notices** Salesroom notices amend the catalog description of a lot after our catalog has gone to press. They are posted in the viewing galleries and salesroom or are announced by the auctioneer.

### During the Auction

**The Auction** Auctions are open to the public without any admission fee or obligation to bid. The auctioneer introduces the objects for sale- known as "lots" – in numerical order as listed in the catalog. Unless otherwise noted in the catalog or by an announcement at the auction, Ayyam Auctions acts like agent on behalf of the seller and does not permit the seller to bid on his or her own property. It is important for all bidders to know that the auctioneer may open the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. The auctioneer may further bid on behalf of the seller, up to the amount of the reserve, by placing responsive or consecutive bids for a lot. The auctioneer will not place consecutive bids on behalf of the seller above the reserve.

Bidding in Person : If you would like to bid, you must register for a paddle upon entering the salesroom. The paddle is numbered so as to identify you to the auctioneer.

To register, you will need a form of identification such as a driver's license, a passport or some other type of government issued identification. If you are a first time bidder, you will also be asked for your address, phone number and signature in order to create your account. If you are bidding for someone else, you will need to provide a letter from that person authorizing you to bid on that person's behalf. Issuance of a bid paddle is in Ayyam Auctions' sole discretion.

Once the first bid has been placed, the auctioneer asks for higher bids, in increments determined by the auctioneer. To place your bid, simply raise your paddle until the auctioneer acknowledges you. You will know when your bid has been acknowledged; the auctioneer will not mistake a random gesture for a bid.

### Bidding Increments

The bids generally start below the minimum appraised value. Paddles shall be raised in accordance with the following chart. The auctioneer shall be entitled to change the bidding intervals.

Between	100	2,000 USD	100 USD
Between	2,000	5,000 USD	200 500 800 USD
Between	5,000	10,000 USD	500 USD
Between	10,000	20,000 USD	1,000 USD
Between	20,000	50,000 USD	2000 5000 8000 USD
Between	50,000	100,000 USD	5000 USD
Above	100,000		10,000 USD

### Absentee Bidding

If it is not possible for you to attend the auction in person, you may place your bid ahead of time. In the back of every catalog there is an absentee bid form, which you can use to indicate the item you wish to bid on and the maximum bid you are willing to make. Return the completed absentee bid form to Ayyam Auctions' either by mail or fax. When the lot that you are interested in comes up for sale, an Ayyam Specialist will execute the bid on your behalf, making every effort to purchase the item for as little as possible and never exceeding your limit. This service is free and confidential. For detailed instructions and information, please see the Absentee Bid Form and Guide for Absentee Bidders instructions at the back of this catalog.

**Results** Successful absentee bidders will be notified after the sale. Printed lists of auction prices are available at our galleries approximately one week following each auction and are sent on request to catalog purchasers and subscribers. Results may also be obtained online at [www.ayyamgallery.com](http://www.ayyamgallery.com).

**Telephone Bidding** In some circumstances, we offer the ability to place bids by telephone live to an Ayyam Auctions' representative on the auction floor. Please contact the Bid Department prior to the sale to make arrangements or to answer any questions you may have. Telephone bids are accepted only at Ayyam Auctions' discretion and at the caller's risk. Calls may also be recorded at Ayyam Auctions' discretion. By bidding on the telephone, prospective buyers consent thereto.

**Hammer Price and the Buyer's Premium** For lots which are sold, the last price for a lot as announced by the auctioneer is the hammer price. A buyer's premium will be added to the hammer price and is payable by the purchaser as part of the total purchase price. The buyer's premium will be the amount stated in the Conditions of Sale.

### After the Auction

**Payment** If your bid is successful, you can go directly to Client Accounting to make payment arrangements. Otherwise, your invoice will be mailed to you. The final price is determined by adding the buyer's premium to the hammer price on a per-lot basis. Sales tax, where applicable, will be charged on the entire amount. Payment is due in full immediately after the sale. However, under certain circumstances, Ayyam Auctions may, in its sole discretion, offer bidders an extended payment plan. Such a payment plan may provide an economic benefit to the bidder. Credit terms should be requested at least one business day before the sale. However, there is no assurance that an extended payment plan will be offered. Please contact Client Accounting or the specialist in charge of the sale for information on credit arrangements for a particular lot. You may pay by cash, wire transfer, check, or credit card.

## AUCTION SALES CONDITIONS

### CONDITIONS OF SALE

The following Conditions of Sale and Terms of Guarantee are Ayyam Auctions, Inc. and the Consignor's entire agreement with the purchaser relative to the property listed in this catalog.

The Conditions of Sale, Terms of Guarantee, the glossary, if any, and all other contents of this catalog are subject to amendment by us by the posting of notices or by oral announcements made during the sale. The property will be offered by us as agent for the Consignor, unless the catalog indicates otherwise.

By participating in any sale, you acknowledge that you are bound by these terms and conditions.

**1. As Is** Goods auctioned are often of some age. The authenticity of the Authorship of property listed in the catalog is guaranteed as stated in the Terms of Guarantee and except for the Limited Warranty contained therein, all property is sold "AS IS" without any representations or warranties by us or the Consignor as to merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, the correctness of the catalog or other description of the physical condition, size, quality, rarity, importance, medium, provenance, exhibitions, literature or historical relevance of any property and no statement anywhere, whether oral or written, whether made in the catalog, an advertisement, a bill of sale, a salesroom posting or announcement, or elsewhere, shall be deemed such a warranty, representation or assumption of liability. We and the Consignor make no representations and warranties, express or implied, as to whether the purchaser acquires any copyrights, including but not limited to, any reproduction rights in any property. We and the Consignor are not responsible for errors and omissions in the catalog, glossary, or any supplemental material.

**2. Inspection** Prospective bidders should inspect the property before bidding to determine its condition, size, and whether or not it has been repaired or restored.

**3. Buyer's Premium** A buyer's premium will be added to the hammer price and is payable by the purchaser as part of the total purchase price. The buyer's premium is 20%.

**4. Withdrawal** We reserve the right to withdraw any property before the sale and shall have no liability whatsoever for such withdrawal.

**5. Per Lot** Unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer, all bids are per lot as numbered in the catalog.

**6. Bidding** We reserve the right to reject any bid. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer will be the purchaser. In the event of any dispute between bidders, or in the event of doubt on our part as to the validity of any bid, the auctioneer will have the final discretion to determine the successful bidder, cancel the sale, or to reoffer and resell the article in dispute. If any dispute arises after the sale, our sale record is conclusive. Although in our discretion we will execute order or absentee bids or accept telephone bids as a convenience to clients who are not present at auctions, we are not responsible for any errors or omissions in connection therewith.

**7. Purchaser's Responsibility** On the fall of the auctioneer's hammer, title to the offered lot will pass to the highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer, and such bidder thereupon (a) assumes full risk and responsibility therefore (including, without limitation, liability for or damage to frames or glass covering prints, paintings or other works), and (b) will immediately pay the full purchase price or such part as we may require. All property must be removed from our premises by the purchaser at his expense not later than 10 business days following its sale and, if it is not so removed, (i) a handling charge of 1% of the total purchase price per month from the tenth day after the sale until its removal will be payable to us by the purchaser, with a minimum of 5% of the total purchase price for any property not so removed within 60 days after the sale, and (ii) we may send the purchased property to a public warehouse for the account, at the risk and expense of the purchaser.

**8. Reserve** All lots in this catalog are offered subject to a reserve, which is the confidential minimum hammer price at which a lot will be sold. All reserves are equal or lower than the low estimate.

**9. Tax** Unless exempted by law, the purchaser will be required to pay any applicable taxes or customs.

Auction No. 13

# The Young Collectors Auction

Art from the Middle East

Viewing: May 8 - 14, 2012, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**Auction: Tuesday, May 15, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**Head of Session & Auctioneer  
Hisham Samawi**



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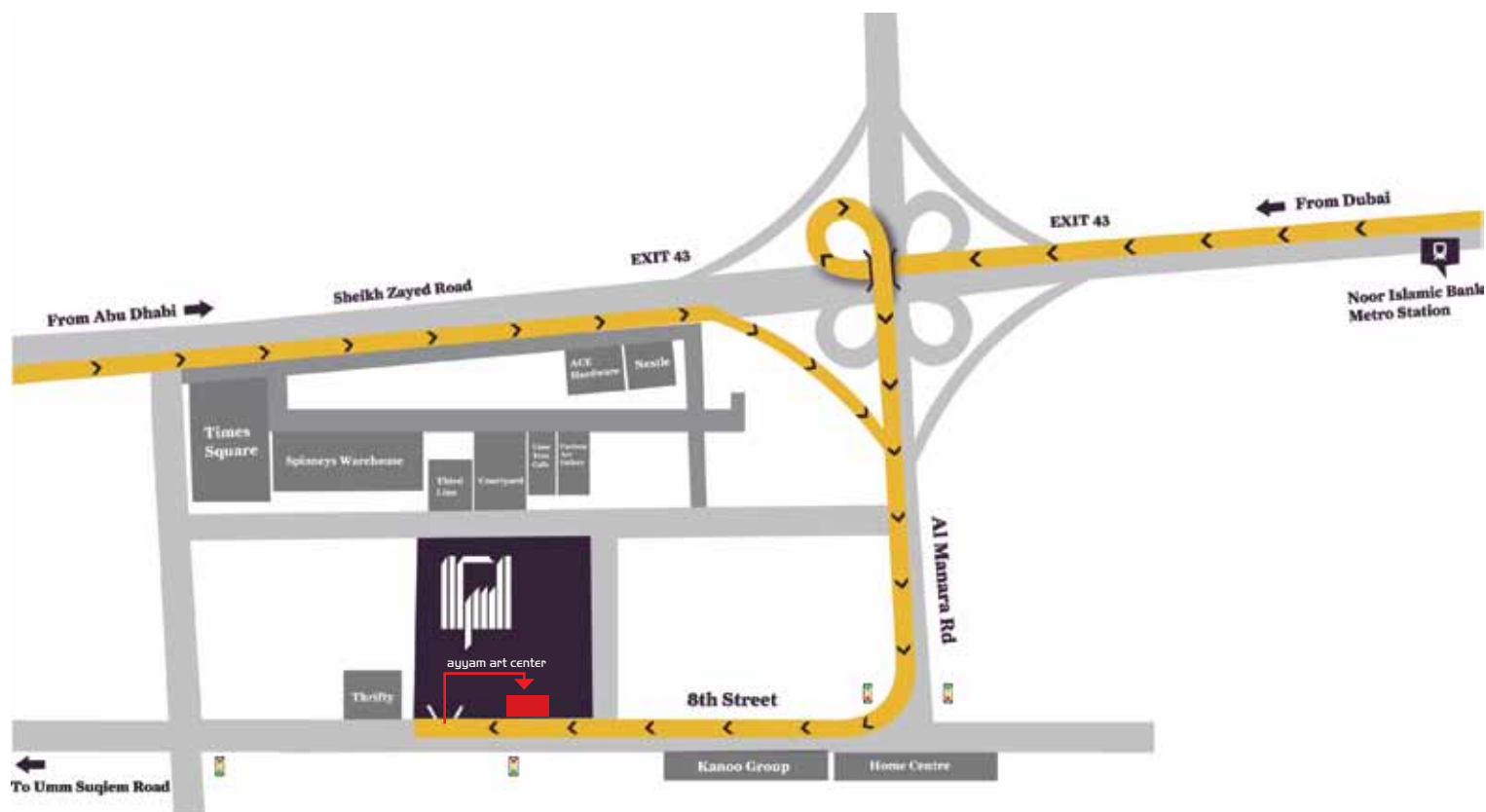
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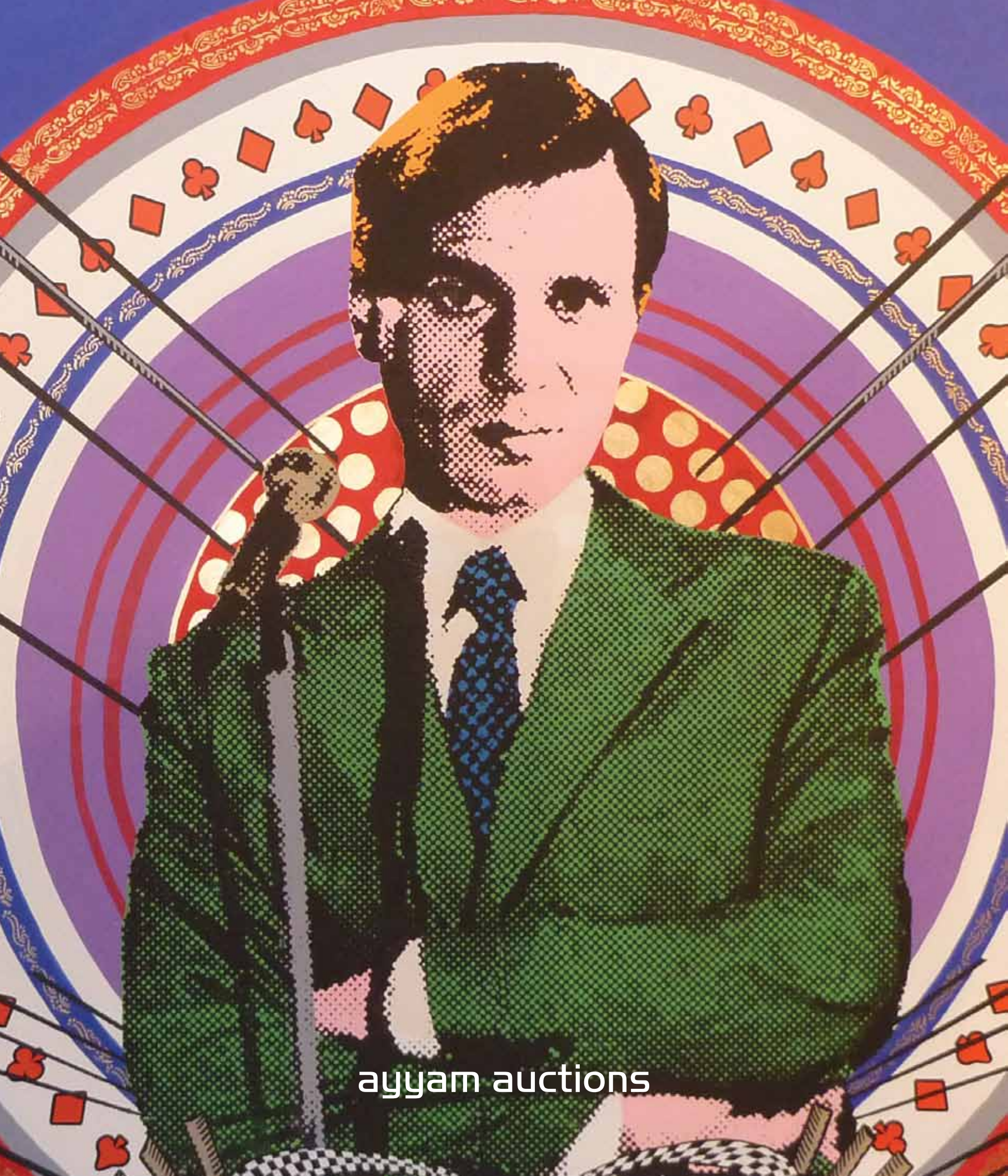
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## ayyam art center

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