

Auction No. 12

The Young Collectors Auction

Art from the Middle East

Viewing: January 9 - 16, 2012, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**Auction: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
7:00 PM**





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Head of Session & Auctioneer
Hisham Samawi



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Mohannad ORABI

Born 1977 -

Lot 001

Signed, Dated
100 X 90 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 7,000)

Mohannad Orabi's whimsical self portraits exemplify what has made Syrian art so successful over the last sixty years. Born in Damascus in 1977, Orabi graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in 2000. Noteworthy among his peers he has exhibited in venues across the region, and has participated in collective shows and festivals in North America, Europe and Asia, including Art Palm Beach, Miami International Art Fair, SCOPE Art Fair (Basel). In China, solo shows at both The International Gallery Expo (CIGE) and Art Hong Kong in 2009, wowed international spectators.

Recently his canvases were highlighted in solo exhibitions at Ayyam Damascus, Dubai and Beirut and were part of the gallery's popular exhibition "Shabab Uprising," which offered a groundbreaking showcase of Syria's new wave of contemporary painting. His work is housed in private collections across the globe.

The emerging artist 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 with 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 variations on specific human emotions and interactions. Whether adorned in traditional Syrian garb or in contemporary clothing, his protagonists reflect the continued sense of joie de vivre that has defined modern Arab culture. Despite what underlining tension might exist between his subjects and the stark background of his compositions—often executed in flat color fields that stand as glaring contradictions to his lighthearted figures, which are rendered with bold patterns and sporadic lines— the artist 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.





Elias IZOLI

Born 1976 -

Lot 002

Signed, Dated
100 X 85 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)

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, in 1993, he was given his first solo exhibition at the Russian Cultural Center in Damascus, shortly after deciding to pursue art "seriously." 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. The latest to join Ayyam Gallery's incubator program for young artists, Izoli has already ceased the attention of the Middle Eastern art scene with works that were aggressively vied for and sold above estimate at two recent Ayyam Auctions public sales.

With consummate draftsmanship, a marked command of color and an intensive approach to capturing the essence of his subjects, his cutting-edge compositions defy conventional portraiture.





Oussama BAALBAKI

Born 1978 -

Lot 003

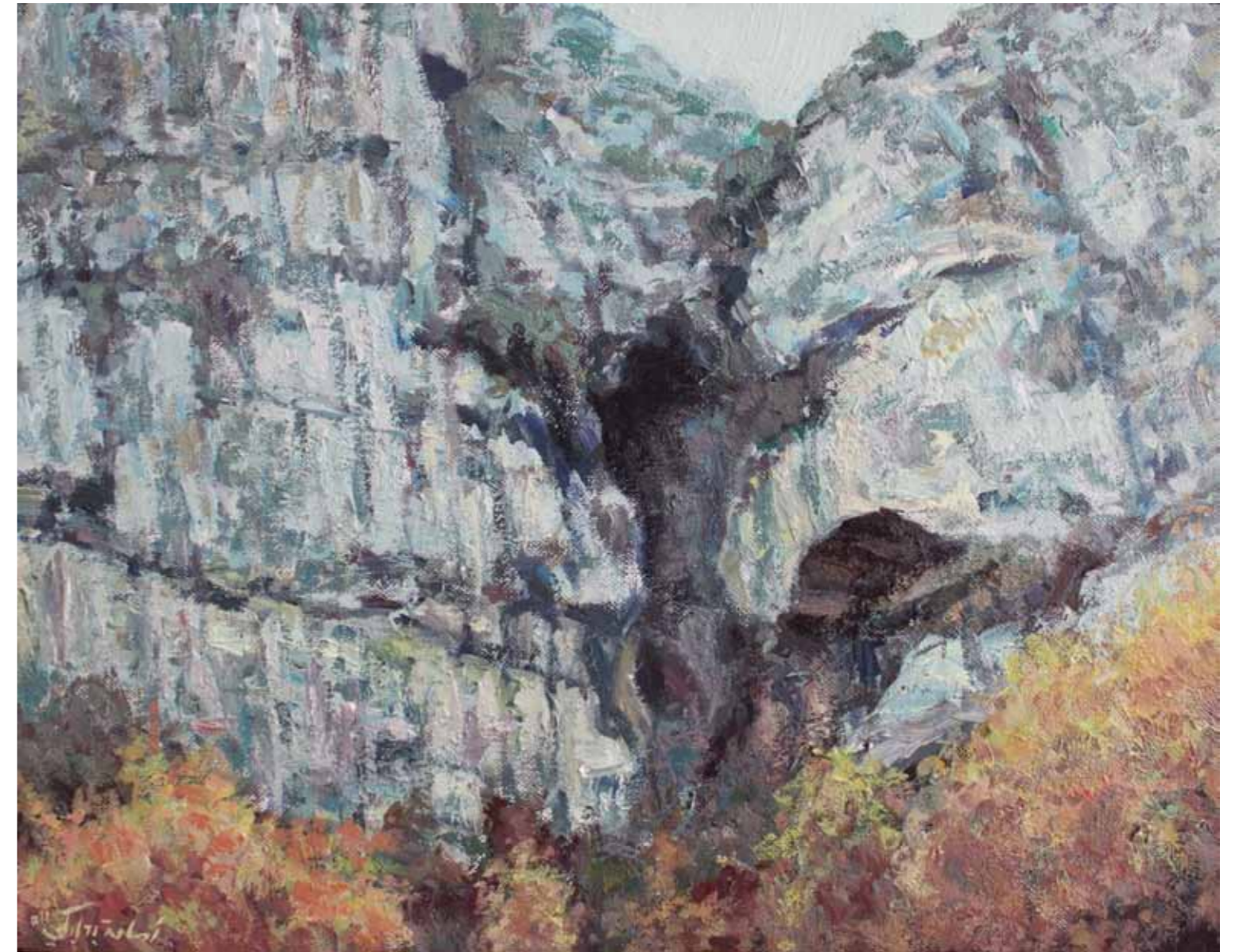
Signed, Dated
50 X 60 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)

Rising talent Oussama Baalbaki was born in Lebanon in 1978 and graduated with an honors degree from the Lebanese University's School of Fine Arts in 2002. He has participated in several collective exhibitions such as "Art Studio" under the supervision of the artist Nasser El-Soumi at Goethe Institute in Beirut in 1999, and the Lebanese Plastic Arts Exhibition in Algeria in 2007. His works were exhibited in the "Autumn Salon" of Sursock Museum in Beirut consecutively from the year 2003 till 2008. Recently he has been featured in such high profile art fairs as Art Dubai and Art Abu Dhabi and a handful of acclaimed group shows including "Convergence, New Art Lebanon," which was held at the American University's Katzen Art Museum in Washington DC.

With a growing fan base, he has recently been given solo exhibitions at some of Beirut's most prominent art spaces such as Agial Gallery. Representing Lebanon in the painting category of the 2009 international "Jeux de la Francophonie" he received a silver medal for one of his canvases.

With a labored approach to painting, Baalbaki does not shy away from difficult subject matters. And yet he is also drawn to the aesthetically beautiful or the stillness that exists amidst the quiet moments in life. His more politically slanted canvases are at once striking and introspective, while his images of the objects that makeup our daily realities seem to possess concealed narratives. In the past the artist has explained these elements of his work by stating:

The first appearance that inspired me artistically is the visual image of the world, with all the condensed material that it includes, and that hides in it condensed virtual spiritual meanings. The visual reality, with the visual memory that produces the mental images, is the domain of my artistic research. This background is my starting point when I paint, trying, as much as I can, to keep a certain distance from the influence of the additional images and thoughts. This approach requires an adequate amount of concentration and nervousness that allow the artistic operation to happen. This approach requires also a certain level of isolation that allows summing up this huge quantity of consecutive images and thoughts. This way, the new ideas become the result of interval contemplation breaks that include poetry readings and condensed flash-backs of close visual events, or older ones, from an older or an imaginary time.





Oussama
BAALBAKI

Born 1978 -

Lot 004

Signed, Dated
120 X 120 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2010
Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 7,000)





Alfred TARAZI

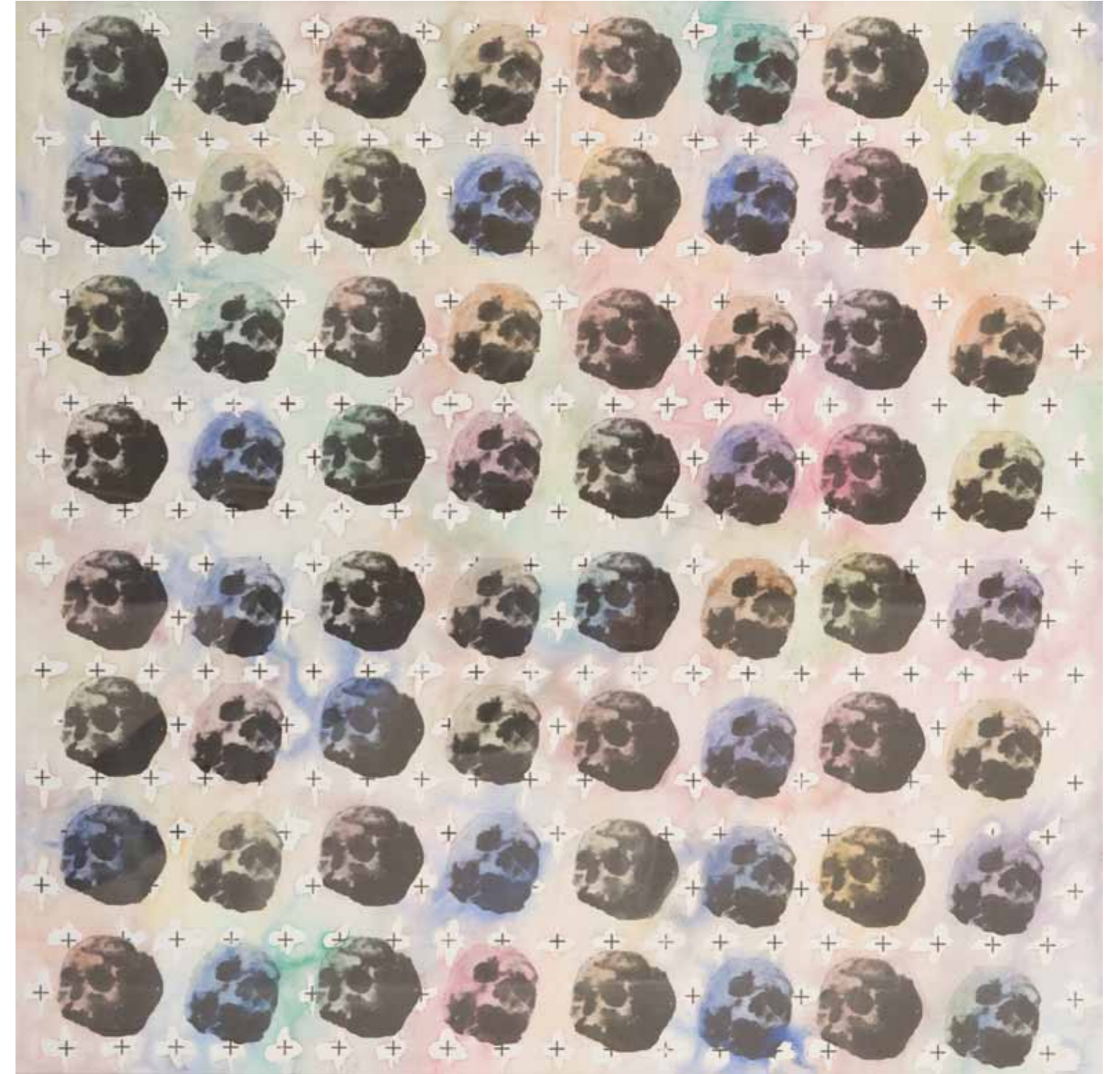
Born 1980 -

Lot 005

'Skulls' Signed, Dated
72 X 72 cm. Print and Mixed Media on Paper 2010
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)

Born in Beirut in 1980, Alfred Tarazi is a multidisciplinary artist who is a 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 (from its department of architecture and design), he has been exhibiting work in a variety of mediums 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.





Abdul-Karim MAJDAL AL-BEIK

Born 1973 -

Lot 006

'Wall' Signed, Dated
80 X 75 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)

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. Since then he has 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 are housed in public and private collections in the Middle East and Europe and have been featured in such events as Art Miami in the US.

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.





Kais
SALMAN

Born 1976 -

Lot 007

Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 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 is 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 since then. Recently, in addition to several solo exhibitions with Ayyam Gallery, he has 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 Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

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.





Fadi YAZIGI

Born 1966 -

Lot 008

Signed, Dated
30 X 20 cm. Mixed Media on Newspaper 2005
Estimate (US\$ 1,000 - 2,000)

Born in Lattakia, Syria in 1966, Fadi Yazigi studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. Since his graduating in 1988, Yazigi has built a celebrated oeuvre that consists of two strands of creativity, not solely in medium but in subject matter, direction and mood. His playful robust sculptures of smiling figures are at once whimsical and enchanting, yet his darker works on canvas suggest a more pensive, graver outlook on life and an arresting sense of foreboding.

It is with immense discipline that he creates these paintings and sculptures, as he works in his studio for hours upon end, everyday of the week. As such he has explored various techniques and mediums, from using newspapers as canvases to creating two-dimensional reliefs. In addition to participating in numerous exhibitions and art fairs in the Middle East, Europe and the US, attracting collectors from all over the world, Yazigi's paintings and sculptures have been sold in London and Dubai, in Christie's and Sotheby's auctions of Middle Eastern art.





Fadi
YAZIGI

Born 1966 -

Lot 009

Signed, Dated
30 X 20 cm. Mixed Media on Newspaper 2005
Estimate (US\$ 1,000 - 2,000)





Khaled TAKRETI

Born 1964 -

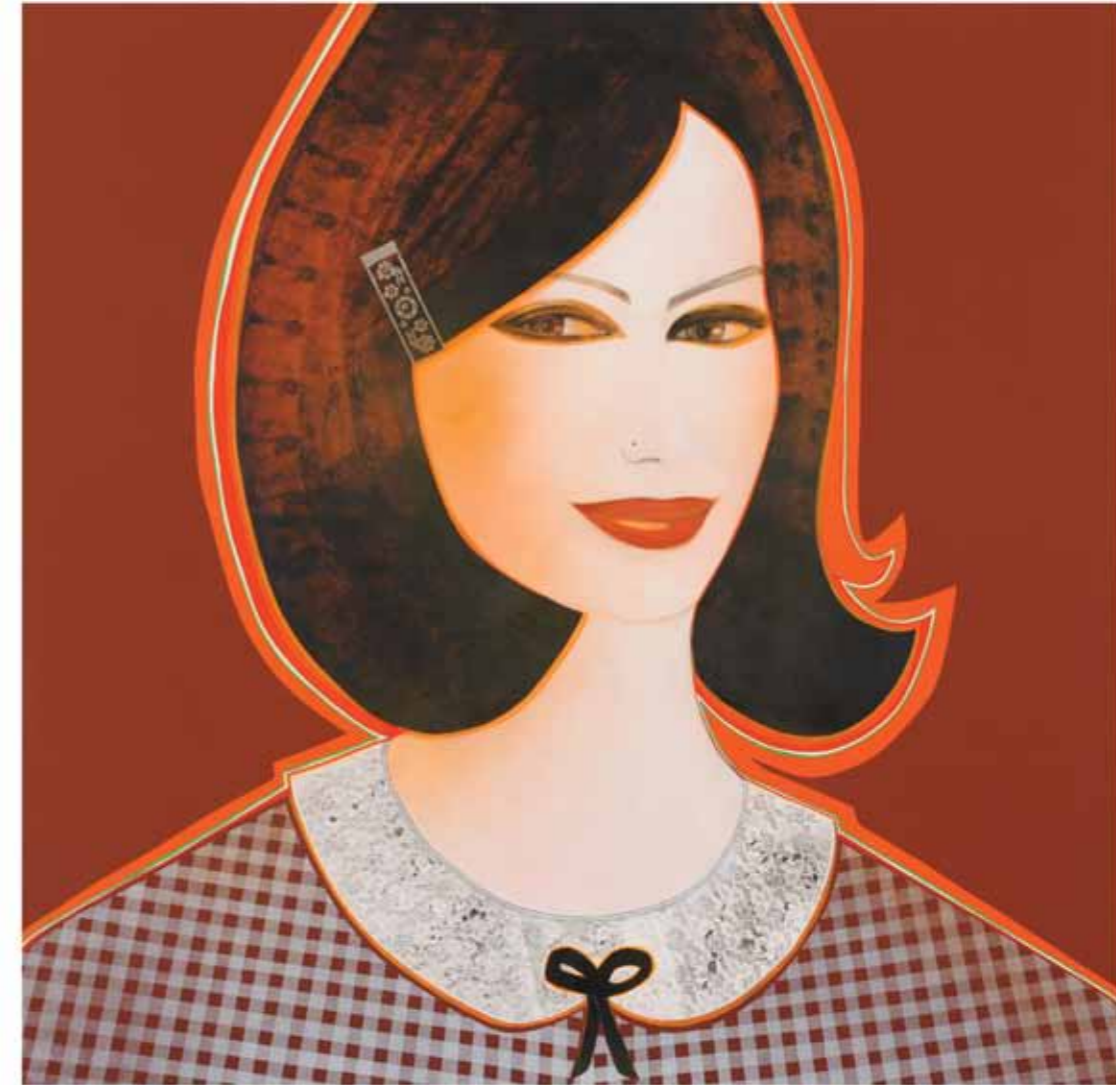
Lot 010

**'La Barrette' Signed, Dated
110 X 110 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 2/7) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)**

Born in Beirut in 1964, Syrian artist Khaled Takreti studied architecture and design in Damascus and worked for the General Directorate of Antiquity and Museums in Syria prior to launching his career as a contemporary painter. Developing a love for drawing at an early age, he later harnessed his talent through years of formal training. In 1995 he moved to New York City where he absorbed international trends and expanded his knowledge of art over the course of two years. This continued when he relocated to Paris, where he has been working as a full time artist since 2006. His paintings have been shown in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Middle East, Europe and the US and in international expositions such as the Alexandria Biennale, Art Paris, and Art Hong Kong . His works are housed in such prominent Middle Eastern institutions as the Syrian National Museum and the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Through acrylic canvases that explore the inherent psychology behind his human subjects, he has developed a painting style that incorporates contemporary portraiture with a refined sense of design. His large-scale compositions often revolve around portraits of women—a subject matter that he feels brings a sense of stability and strength while generating tranquility and balance in his work. Takreti's elegant and demure heroines are often elongated figures that although occupying only a small portion of the canvas, have a staggering presence. Positioned against a loud background of solid color, his subjects exist within a delicate setting that is executed with meticulous planning, an element that is the direct result of the artist's architectural training. Thin lines dissect the composition into horizontal and vertical planes, as his fashionable protagonists stare aloofly at the viewer. The artist's earlier works, which were often portraits of mature women of a particular social background, emanated with a subtle force. His more recent canvases have become increasingly campy and outlandish, with a refreshing sense of freedom that is rare among painters today.

In 2010 he was commissioned to create two mural-sized paintings for the inaugural exhibition of Qatar's Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, where his work is also part of its unparalleled collection.





Safwan DAHOU

Born 1961 -

Lot 011

**'Dream' Signed, Dated
110 X 127.5 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 3/7) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 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 alike.

After graduating from the Faculty of Fines Arts in Damascus at the top of his class 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 international art fairs and individual and collective exhibitions throughout the Middle East, Europe and the US.

As Dahoul's art is undeterred by national borders, his painting-style 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. 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.





Safwan
DAHOUL

Born 1961 -

Lot 012

'Dream' Signed, Dated
110 X 110 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 4/7) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 8,000)





Yaser SAFI

Born 1976 -

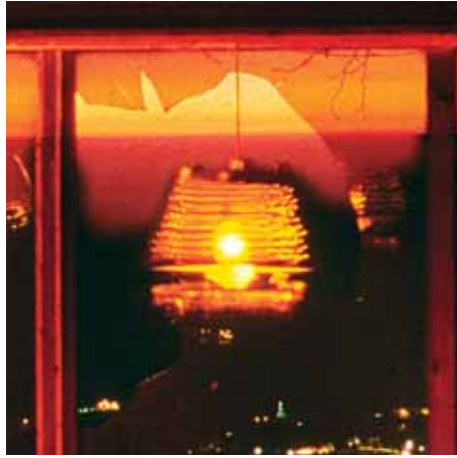
Lot 013

Signed, Dated, Numerated
35 X 50 cm. Etching (Edition 9/ 20) 2002
Estimate (US\$ 1,000 - 2,000)

Yaser 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 master's 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 in its "Shabab Uprising" exhibition in 2009 and had successful sales in Miami and Palm beach art fairs, and at Ayyam Gallery's Young Collector's Auction I & II in Dubai.

Essentially colorist compositions, Safi's animated canvases attract the viewer's eye with highly stylized portraits executed in bright hues and fluid brushwork, demonstrating 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 on 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 the man-made elements of their surroundings. They are also seemingly elemental to their environment, informing its existence. By rendering his subjects as such, the artist suggests the importance of man over the city—that no matter how drastic the changes to our urban landscape are, 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.





Ad ACHKAR

Born 1988 -

Lot 014

'God Bless Our Home - Before Abandonment' Signed, Dated
55 X 82.5 cm. C- Print Mounted on Plexi Frame (Edition 1/5) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)

Born in 1988 and raised in rural Beirut, Lebanon; Ad Achkar developed lenses where other people had eyes. During his academic life at USEK (Universite Saint Esprit de Kaslik) in the more cosmopolitan area of Beirut, Achkar found room to fine tune and bring into focus a talent that had chose him, animating his life. It is this very talent that bestowed unto him the highest academic degree given in USEK's history for his project "God Bless Our Home."

A hunter of moments, Achkar perceives, retains and then creates bringing reality inspired reality created in the imagination to life. Achkar's photographs are born as a result of improvisational accidents, experiential reminiscences and a spur of the moment ultimately breathing life into still images.

Un-captured photographs are moment lost in time, an ideology Achkar finds to be frustrating and yet eternally motivating. Time, space and reality seem to be in a constant struggle with him, but when looking through the lens of Ad Achkar it is evident to whom's will the image leans.





Lara ATALLAH

Born 1989 -

Lot 015

**'Thorne' Signed, Dated
105 X 70 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 1/5) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)**

Lara Atallah was born in Beirut in 1989, and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut. Passionate about photography and armed with both an insatiable fascination with her urban surroundings as well as a limitless curiosity, she aims to explore the dynamics of life in the city, through the depiction of objects, spaces and people.

“On an emotional level, this piece reflects a lot how I currently feel about my country. There is sadness in the color scheme, the composition is hostile and shows anger, and deception. The flag is present in the background though it's out of focus. It made think of unresolved identity issues, and the idea of having problems relating to my country. The piece of glass looks like a shark's tale, it's very sharp, and has a floral almost feminine motif on it. It describes the way I've been feeling about Lebanon for the past couple of years. Finally, the black block taking over a third of the picture gives a daunting feeling that just seemed to scream: look at me, I am here and I am angry! I just found this picture to describe my current state of mind.”





Lara ZANKOUL

Born 1987 -

Lot 016

***'Drown in dreams'* Signed, Dated
80 X 80 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 1/5) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)**

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 found herself starting an enriching and self-fulfilling journey in the creative arena. She currently divides her life between economic research and professional practice of artistic photography. She has participated in several collective exhibitions locally and internationally, such as the "Women's Art exhibition" curated by Art Lounge in Beirut 2011. Her works were exhibited in Paris and Belgium on the side of international emerging photographers. She has also given a solo exhibition at Beirut's artistic and cultural roof (Roof 68), under the supervision of VAPA association. Also in 2011, after participating in the Shabab Ayyam competition and exhibition with Ayyam gallery, she joined the Shabab Ayyam incubator's program and is now represented by the Middle East's top gallery.

The practice of fine arts photography primarily appeared as a need to escape the monotonous life of the cubicle as Lara started her first full time job. This need to evade reality was translated in her photos, characterized by a fantastic atmosphere and surreal compositions usually common in dreams. Symbols are omnipresent in her body of work; characters are anonymous and timeless, making the images more universal. Her concepts are initially expressions of her subconscious as they are visuals that appear spontaneously in her mind. Her photographic process resides in re-creating or mimicking imagined moments rather than capturing reality. This approach results in planning and creating a set to achieve the desired images. Being primarily a means of self-expression, her series is characterized by a feminine style and a unique cross processing scheme that completes her vision of a dream.







Mohamad BADR

Born 1981 -

Lot 017

**'Prayer of Light' Signed, Dated
80 X 119 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 1/5) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)**

Born July 13th, 1981, Mohamad is an Award Winning Lebanese Social Entrepreneur, artistic Photographer and Poet. Badr obtained his Lebanese Baccalaureate degree at the Ashrafieh Official Secondary School where he created the first student body being officially recognized by the school's director.

In 2000, Mohamad pursued a Bachelor degree in Business Management at the American University of Science & Technology, where he was a highly active student and created a successful multi-activity student body that won multiple awards for its role in emerging a social, artistic & cultural scene that 4000 students were much in need of; Amongst these were 'Best Club' and 'Best Student Activity' awards.

Post-graduation, Mohamad spent a few years in the market gaining experience with governmental bodies & multinationals, and even starting his own creative agency with a couple of partners. In parallel to everything, he was quietly building up his skills in Photography and scribbling down tens of poems in a small black notebook that later became the first draft sent to one of Lebanon's most renowned editors, to review it for publication in 2012.

In 2009, inspired by a day-dream, a poem he wrote, "Lakum HamraZakoum wa Li HamraZi" ("Your Hamra, My Hamra") was born, giving its spirit and its name to the first professional photography project in Lebanon. This project focused on the famous and wonderfully rich 'Hamra' street, widely considered as being the vibrant heart of Beirut city. This project ended up bringing together more than 100 photographers, 7 exhibitions and produced a best-selling photography book. In 2010, Mohamad brought his passion to photography and art back home by launching the inspiring and unique Photography project: 'Mosaic: Achrafieh International Photography Contest', which was at the time Lebanon's first and biggest truly International Photography contest. This contest fueled the passion of 300 local and International photographers, and thousands of more people who actively followed its process with their opinions, votes and encouragement through 12 Exhibitions in the Achrafieh area in Beirut and through major online social media networks.

In June 2011, he was awarded the 'Live Achrafieh Honorary Award' for his cultural and artistic contributions to the community and in October 2011, he was awarded the 5th place in the 'Shabab Ayyam Photography Contest' in Dubai for his project: "Prayer of Light".





Shadi GHADIRIAN

Born 1974 –

Lot 018

**'Be colourful' Signed, Dated, Numerated
90 X 60 cm. Colour Coupler Print (Edition 2/10) 2006
Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 8,000)**

Ghadirian's photography takes conflicting visual signifiers and drags them into ironic yet subtly unnerving relationships with the viewer. Born in 1974 in Tehran, Iran, Ghadirian emerged in 2000 among a generation of photographers prepared to tackle the confusing reality of a woman's place in contemporary Iran and to play with understandings of the region. She has exhibited widely, participating in biennales in Russia, Sharjah (UAE); solo exhibitions in the US and India, and 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.

By placing objects of war into scenes of domestic harmony, Ghadirian's Nil-Nil comments on the disparity between these two worlds. Some are haunting, such as the bloodstained boots discarded alongside an equally blood red set of high heel shoes, while others veer into absurdity, like the bullets that sit in a make up purse.

In her 'Be Colourful' series, Ghadirian juxtaposes and contrasts, thus expressing the difficulties women face in Iran today - torn between tradition and the modernity of globalization. These composed portraits depict women unsure to which era they belong and is intimately linked to her identity as a Muslim woman living in Iran. Nonetheless, her art also deals with issues relevant to women living in other parts of the world. She questions the role of women in society and explores ideas of censorship, religion, modernity, and the status of women. Nowadays, Ghadirian's profile in the western art world is increasing rapidly, she now lives and works in Tehran.





Rodin HAMIDI

Born 1983 –

Lot 019

'Nostalgia from serie Mega Cape (Tehran)' Signed, Dated, Numerated
100 X 150 cm. Print on Wood Panel (Edition 4/7) 2007
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)

Born in 1983 in Tehran, he enrolled first at the Azad University of Arts and Architecture to then obtain his Bachelors of Honors in Digital Filmmaking. Hamidi participated in several exhibitions in major art galleries in Tehran before moving to Dubai in 2006 and Performed together with Jackson Pollock at the UAE Pavilion during the Venice Biennale 2009. In 2009, Rodin was awarded the prize of the international competition 'Global Democracy Video Challenge' sponsored by the U.S Department of State.





Marwa
ADEL

Born 1984 -

Lot 020

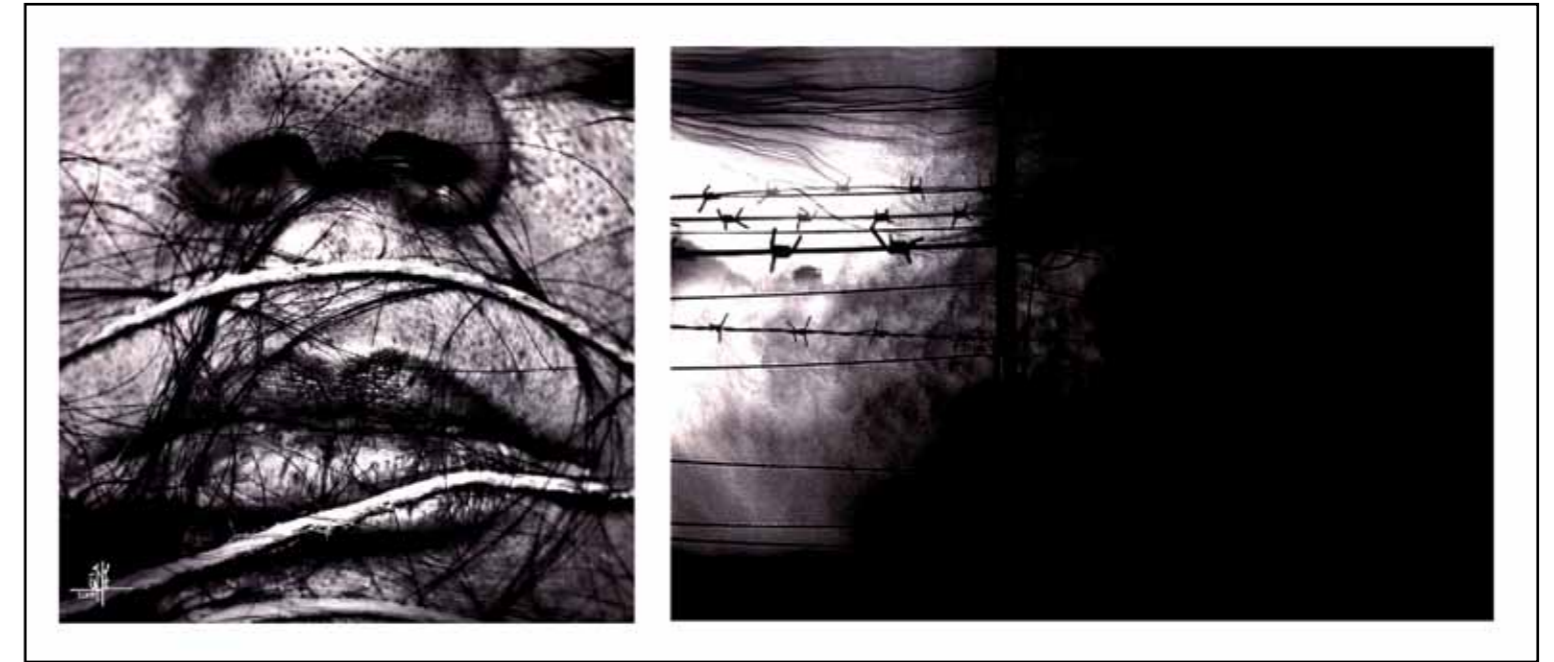
**'Silence' Signed, Dated, Numerated
80 X 184 cm. Photography and Computer Graphic (Edition 2/5) 2009
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)**

Marwa Adel was born in 1984, Cairo, Egypt where she now lives and works. Adel graduated from the Advertising Department of the Faculty of Applied Art at Helwan University in 2005 where she also obtained a Masters degree in Advertising "Visual Identity-2010". She is currently an assistant lecturer at the same department and faculty as well as a member of the Syndicate of Plastic Arts and the Syndicate of Applied Arts Designers. She was invited to participate, for two years running in 2007 and 2008, in the AAW Youth Salon at the Alexandria Atelier and the Youth Salon in Cairo. In those same two years, she was invited to participate in the annual exhibitions of the Lovers' Society of Fine Arts, winning the Photography Award on both occasions.

In 2008 she also participated in the 1st International Media Art Forum for Youth (IMAFY) exhibition and won the First Prize at the Oriental Weavers Design Contest; in 2007 her work was shown in an exhibition at the German Cultural Centre.

"My artwork is an attempt at showing the evolution and the infinite conflict between some fundamental forms of existence that live in a state of permanent contradiction and antagonism. It is the discovery and revelation of the relationship between form and essence, spirit and materiality, image and ideas. It is the metamorphosis of primitive to supreme, passing through humanity."

"I believe above all that I wanted to build the palace of my memory, because my memory is something else, my only homeland."



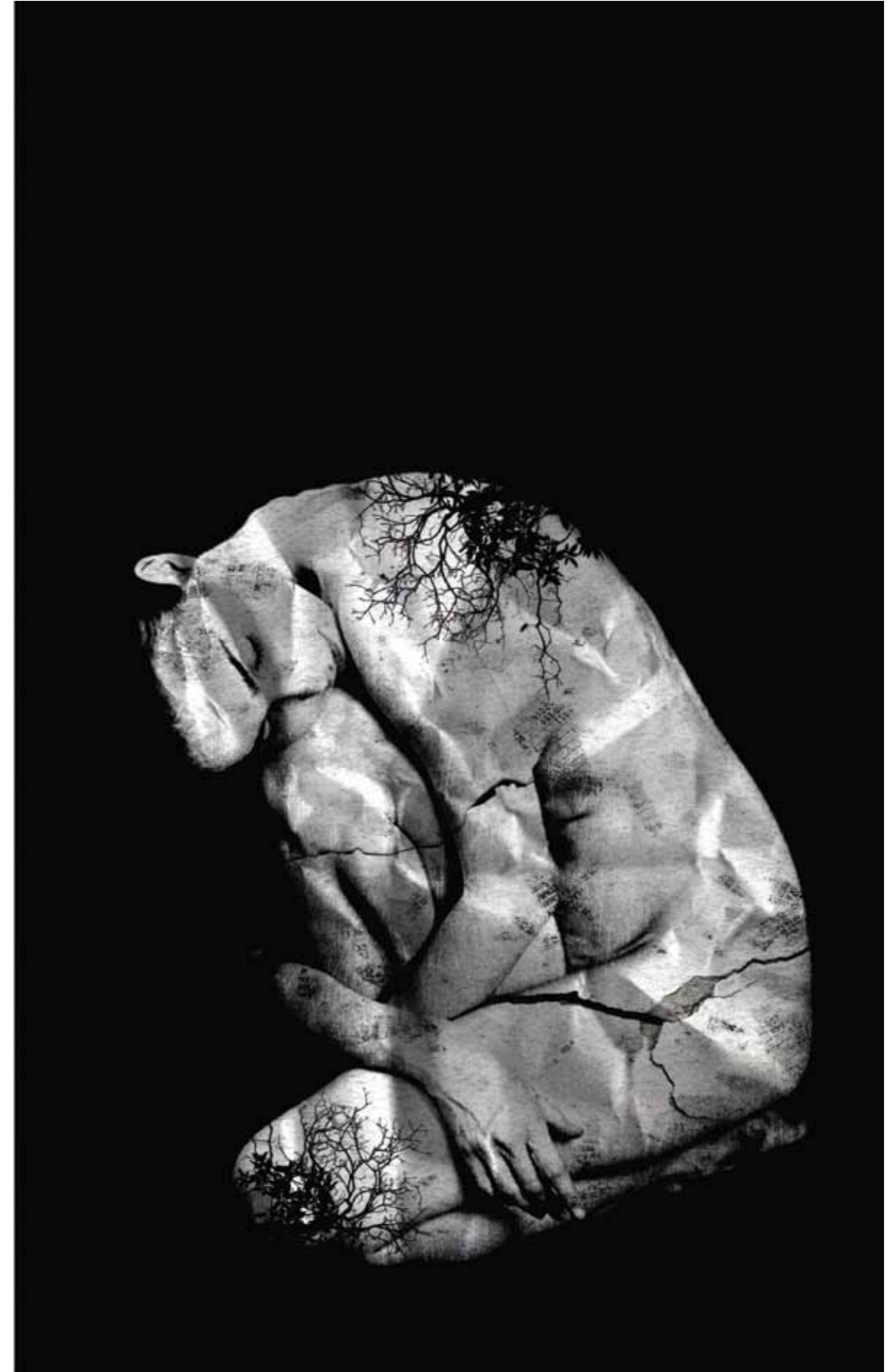


Marwa
ADEL

Born 1984 -

Lot 021

'Surrender' Signed, Dated, Numerated
150 X 100 cm. Photography and Computer Graphic (Edition 3/5) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)





Arash HANAEI

Born 1978 –

Lot 022

**'Democracy after Dictatorship' Signed, Numerated
50 X 50 cm. Colour Coupler Print (Edition 2/10) 2004
Estimate (US\$ 1,000 - 2,000)**

Born in Tehran in 1978, Arash Hanaei attended Azad University of Art, Iran's premier art school, where he was interested in documentary photography. During his academic training he also moonlighted at the groundbreaking online cultural forum, Tehran Avenue, to which he contributed as a social critic. After graduating in 2002, he began working on studio photography that explored sociopolitical issues with found objects, which resulted in a series titled "The Benefits of Vegetarianism." Inspired by the realities of violent conflict, including his childhood of growing up during the Iran-Iraq war, these catastrophic images underscore the human toll of such abject experiences, emphasizing their brutality with dolls and other inanimate points of reference that are dismembered and/or burned, as though victims of chemical weapons, bombardment or torture. In recent years, his focus has shifted as he has turned to meticulously drafted digital drawings.

Featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Middle East and abroad, he is the recipient of a number of photography awards, including first prize from the Second Humorous Photo Festival in Tehran, and has been included in several prominent group shows of Iranian art, most notably the Chelsea Museum of Art's acclaimed "Iran Inside Out" in New York and the Thrid Line Gallery's "I.U.[Heart]" in Dubai. In addition to a long exhibition history that has accumulated over nearly a decade of working as a professional artist, his photographs and drawings have been reviewed in such international publications as the Guardian and Art Press. In 2009 his photography was highlighted in the spring sale of Christie's Dubai and in 2010 he was featured in the first-ever MENASAART fair in Beirut.





Meera HURAIZ

Born 1989 -

Lot 023

**'Dances With Wolves' Signed, Dated, Numerated
100 X 150 cm. Lambda Print Mounted on Aluminum (Edition 1/3) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 4,500)**

Meera Huraiz born and raised in Dubai 1989, she received her BA in Visual Arts from the College of Arts and Design at Zayed University. Huraiz started her early career in 2008 in her first group exhibition "Beyond Conventions" at Elementa Gallery, Dubai. In 2009 she was part of a group show "Emerge" at Isola San Servolo and Ristorante La Comlumba, Italy. In 2010 she was part of a women's group exhibition "The Reflective Mirror" at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, and recently was part of "Sharjah Cultural Days" at the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art in South Korea. Huraiz also collaborated on a Solo Project "Fatto a Mano" with the Italian Fashion House FENDI in 2011.

The refashioning of the traditional garments and fabrics provides a basis for her visual vocabulary, enabling the artist to articulate her explorations.

Huraiz uses appropriation as a method to convey her understanding of a globalized History of Art, creating a fused integrated visual vocabulary that enables her work to transcend into a wider public. Although the work she creates is not geared to an international audience, it is born out of a genuine necessity to explore themes and concerns that surrounds her like the homogenization of culture and the imminent loss of identity. Huraiz's intent is to document the present evolution of Dubai's identity in the physical, cultural, and psychological realm.





Ammar ABD RABBO

Born 1966 -

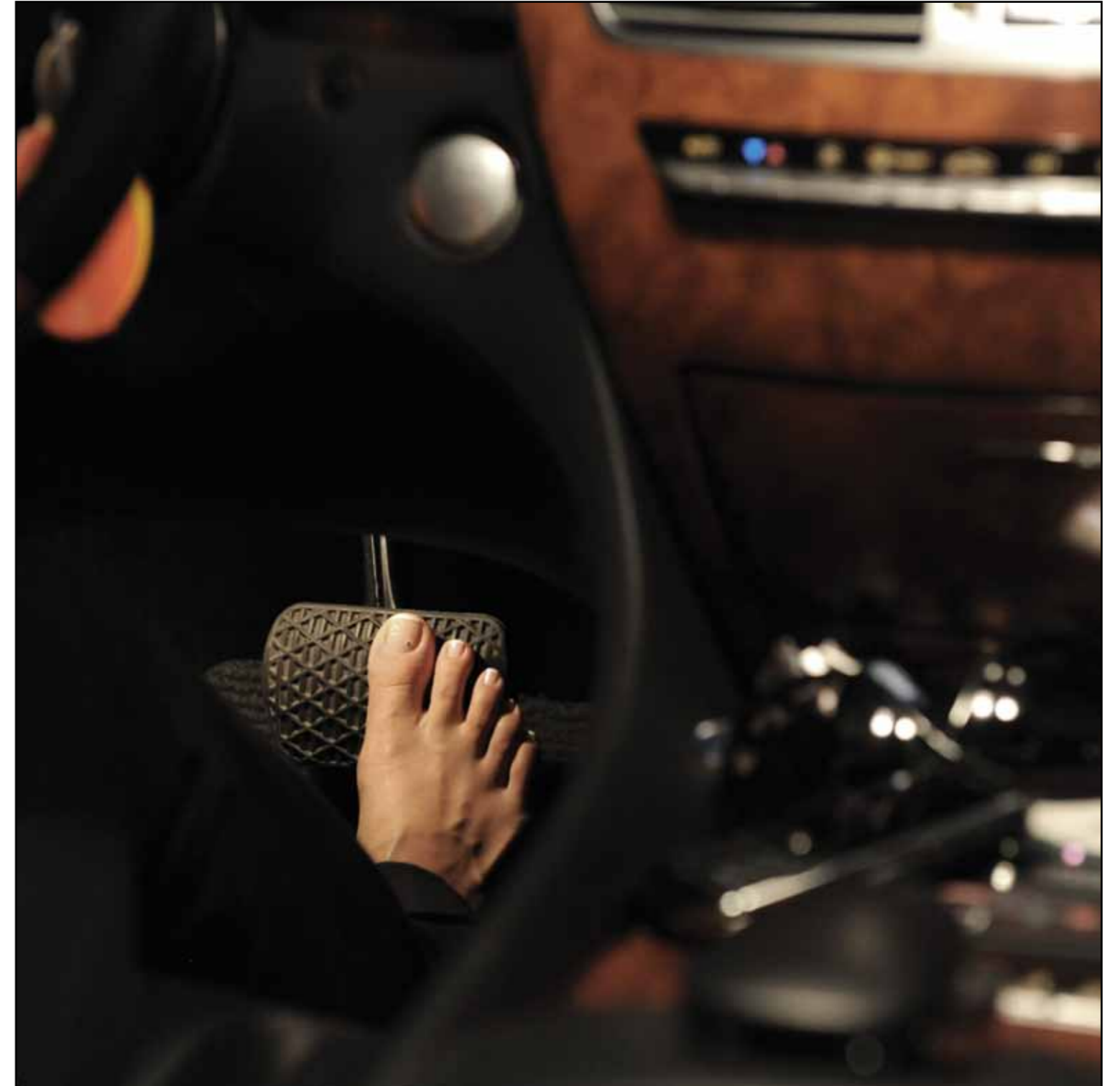
Lot 024

***'Driving her Mercedes'* Signed, Dated
110 X 110 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (Edition 1/5) 2011
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)**

Ammar Abd Rabbo was born in Damascus in 1966 and lived in Libya and Lebanon before moving in 1978 to France, where he has resided ever since.

As a photojournalist, his work has been published in the world's most widely-circulated publications, from the 'Time Magazine', to 'Paris Match', and from 'Der Spiegel' to 'Le Monde', including 'Asharq Al Awsat', he signed more than 60 magazine covers. His works include intimate portraits of head of states, war coverage in Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, as well as photographs of glitz and glam events. Abd Rabbo covered events such as the 'Cannes Film Festival' and 'Paris's Fashion Week' as well as world wide celebrities like the late King of Pop 'Michael Jackson'.

After more than 20 years of experience in the press field, Abd Rabbo is showing today a different side of his work; more personal. He humbly shares his former experience by exposing what he has witnessed of our world.





Nijad ABDUL MASSIH

Born 1968 -

Lot 025

**'Shooting Gas' Signed, Dated
120 X 200 cm. Photographic Print on Light Box 2011
Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 8,000)**

Nijad Abdul Massih was born in Akkar, Beino, the northern part of Lebanon on August 29th, 1968. In his early years, he lived in Beirut through out the entire civil war that split the country into many sects. The inception of this conflict leads him on a journey and into constant travel all over the world. From South into North America, Europe and the entire Arab world; his vision documents moments of truth and reality.

In 1993, he obtained a degree in Fine Arts & Creative Advertising from the Lebanese American University of Beirut (LAU), to later on pursue the career of a graphic designer and an animator on a children's program teaching drawing for children on a local Lebanese television. In the midst of his travels, he took on a position in 1994 in Italy residing and working for 13 years with a multinational television network as a senior producer, as later on becoming a creative head for seven leading channels.

Nijad returns to his native land and begins a special journey in the world of contemporary arts creating what he calls (My picture painting). Photography with Nijad today, moves into a higher level to create real paintings of today's moments. Motions of people in action; fading architecture that passes by unnoticed are all mixed together into layers of photographed images to finally create one illusion of surrealism with a special technique. In the instance of each creation, every picture painting has a story to tell and captures a moment in time. Nijad currently lives and works in between his two favorite cities; Beirut & Rome.





Rania MATAR

Born 1964 -

Lot 026

**'Rocio 17, Dorchester MA' Signed, Dated, Numerated
112 X 168 cm. Archival Pigment on Museo Silver Paper (Edition 1/3) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**

Award winning photographer Rania Matar was born and raised in Lebanon and 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 in New York. After attending the New England School of Photography and studying in Oaxaca, Mexico under Magnum photographer Constantine Manos, she began a successful career as a fulltime artist.

Having exhibited throughout the US and abroad, she is the recipient of several honors including first prize in the Women in Photography International 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 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. Galleries in Beirut, Dubai, Boston, Chicago and Houston currently represent her photography.

Often focusing on the lives of women and the issues that surround them, in the past 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.” Recently she has expanded this theme to include the realities faced by teenage girls, both in the US and the Arab world and is currently working on a project titled “A Girl and Her Room,” which has already garnered critical praise.





Bahman JALALI

1944 – 2010

Lot 027

**'Image of Imagination' Signed, Dated, Numerated
43 X 43 cm. Colour Coupler Print (Edition 4/5) 2004
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)**

Bahman Jalali (b. 1944 – 15 January 2010) was an Iranian photographer who taught photography at different universities in Iran for 20 years. He graduated in Economics from Melli University in Tehran, then started his career as a photographer with Tamasha Magazine in 1972.

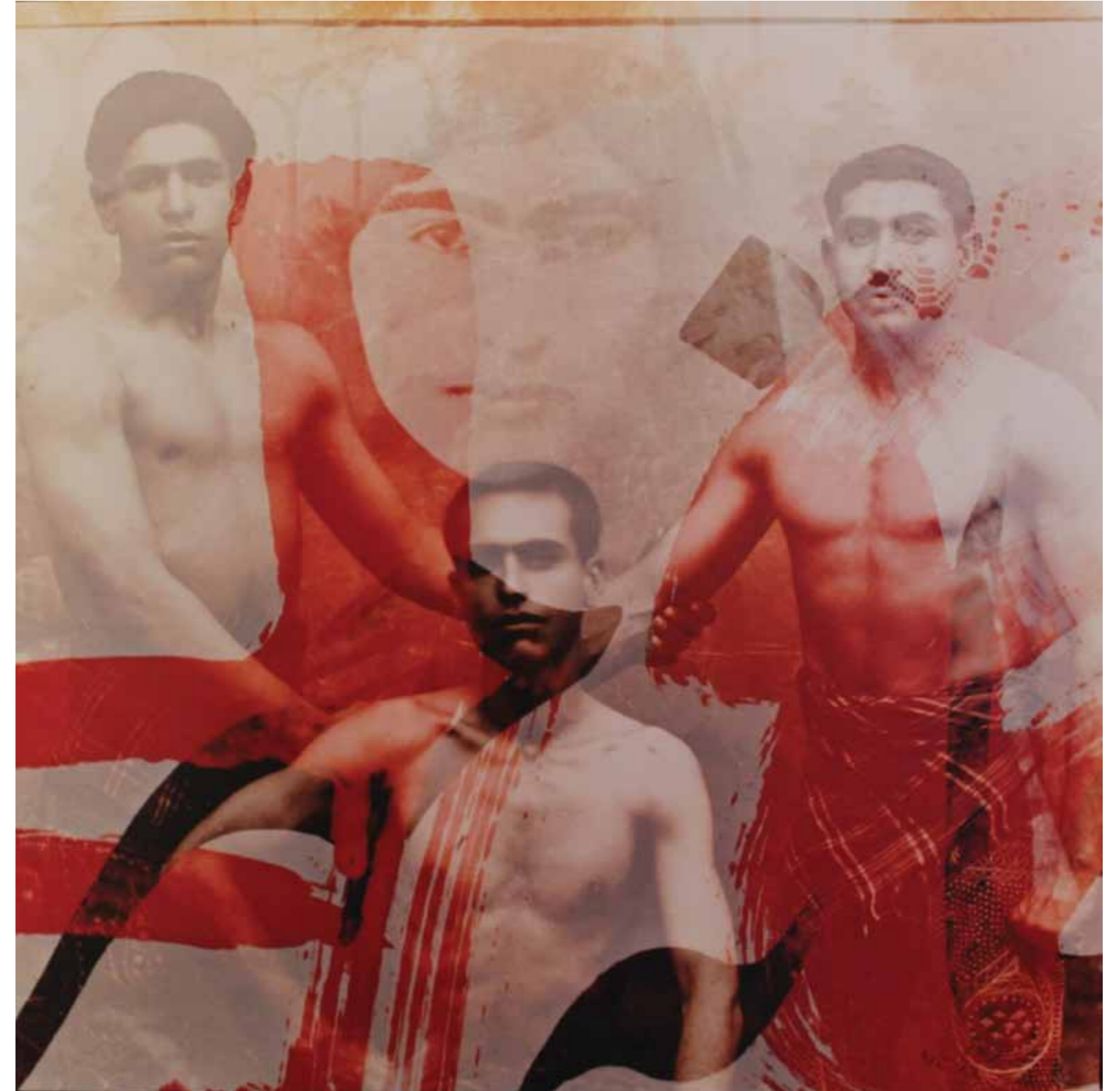
He is best known for his documentary photographs from Iranian Revolution in 1979 and from the Iran-Iraq war, but after the revolution he focused more on teaching photography at Iranian Universities than practicing it. He was the curator of Iran's first museum of photography and inspired a generation of emerging Iranian photographers.

His latest work was a photo series called "Image of Imaginations", which took three years (2003–2006) for him to complete. It was a mixture of flowers or Iranian calligraphy with old photographs from throughout Iranian photographic history. He explained later: "I have been exposed to many images by little known photographers around the country. Those that I could keep, I have held as mementos, and others have left their marks on my imagination.". The Museum of Fine Arts in Nantes has bought this photo series for their collection.

He was given a very special homage for his forty years of career in photography by the Fundacio Antoni Tapies in Barcelona with a special solo exhibition curated by Catherine David from September to December 2007, with the publication of a book. He contributed to the prestigious exhibition in the British Museum of London, Word into Art : Artists of the Modern Middle East in 2006.

Until the end of his life, Bahman Jalali was a member of the editorial board for Aksnameh, a bi-monthly journal of photography in Tehran.

The veteran photographer was being treated for pancreatic cancer in Germany. He returned to his home in Tehran on 14 January 2010 and died the next morning at the age of 65.



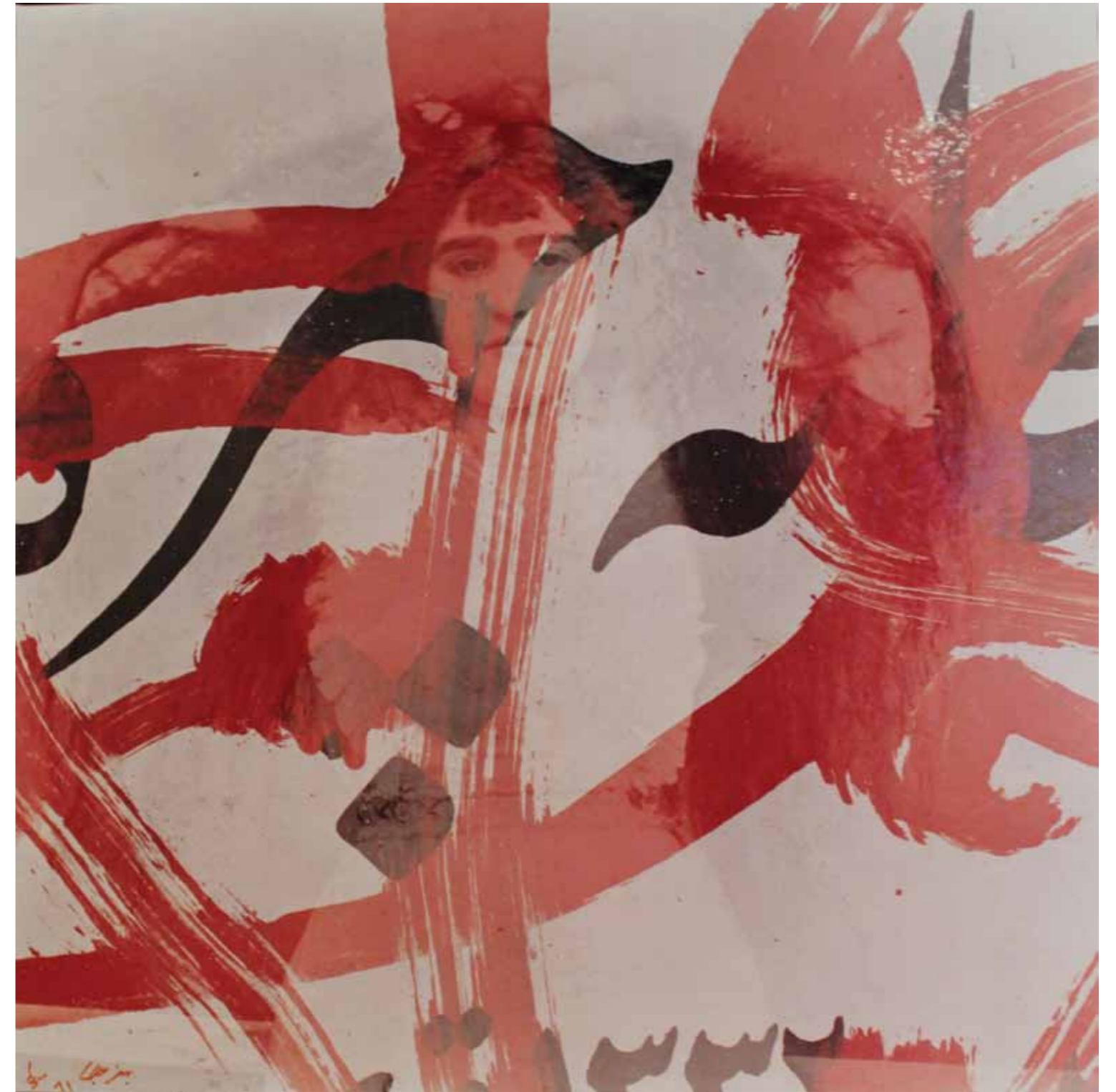


Bahman
JALALI

1944 – 2010

Lot 028

'Image of Imagination' Signed, Dated, Numerated
43 X 43 cm. Colour Coupler Print (Edition 1/5) 2004
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)





Ala EBTEKAR

Born 1978 -

Lot 029

**'The Absent Arrival 22' Signed, Dated
42 X 29.7 cm. Graphite and Acrylic on Paper 2006
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)**

Ala Ebtekar describes his work as "a visual glimpse of a crossroad where present day events meet history and mythology". As a young teenager he joined the seminal group K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), working with artist Tim Rollins on collaborative artworks involving groups of urban youth. He received his BA from the San Francisco Art Institute and his MFA degree from Stanford University.

Ebtekar's work has been exhibited internationally and was recently featured in the following exhibitions; The Global Contemporary Art Worlds After 1989 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany (2011), Day Month at Aun Gallery, Tehran, Iran (2011) and Nothing to Say at Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, USA (2011). In 2010 he received the Visions from New California Award as Artist in Residence. He is also visiting lecturer at UC Berkeley and Stanford University. Ebtekar will exhibit new works at his solo show at The Third Line in January 2012, which revisit the 14th century Persian manuscript, 'Divan-e-Hafez'. He currently lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.



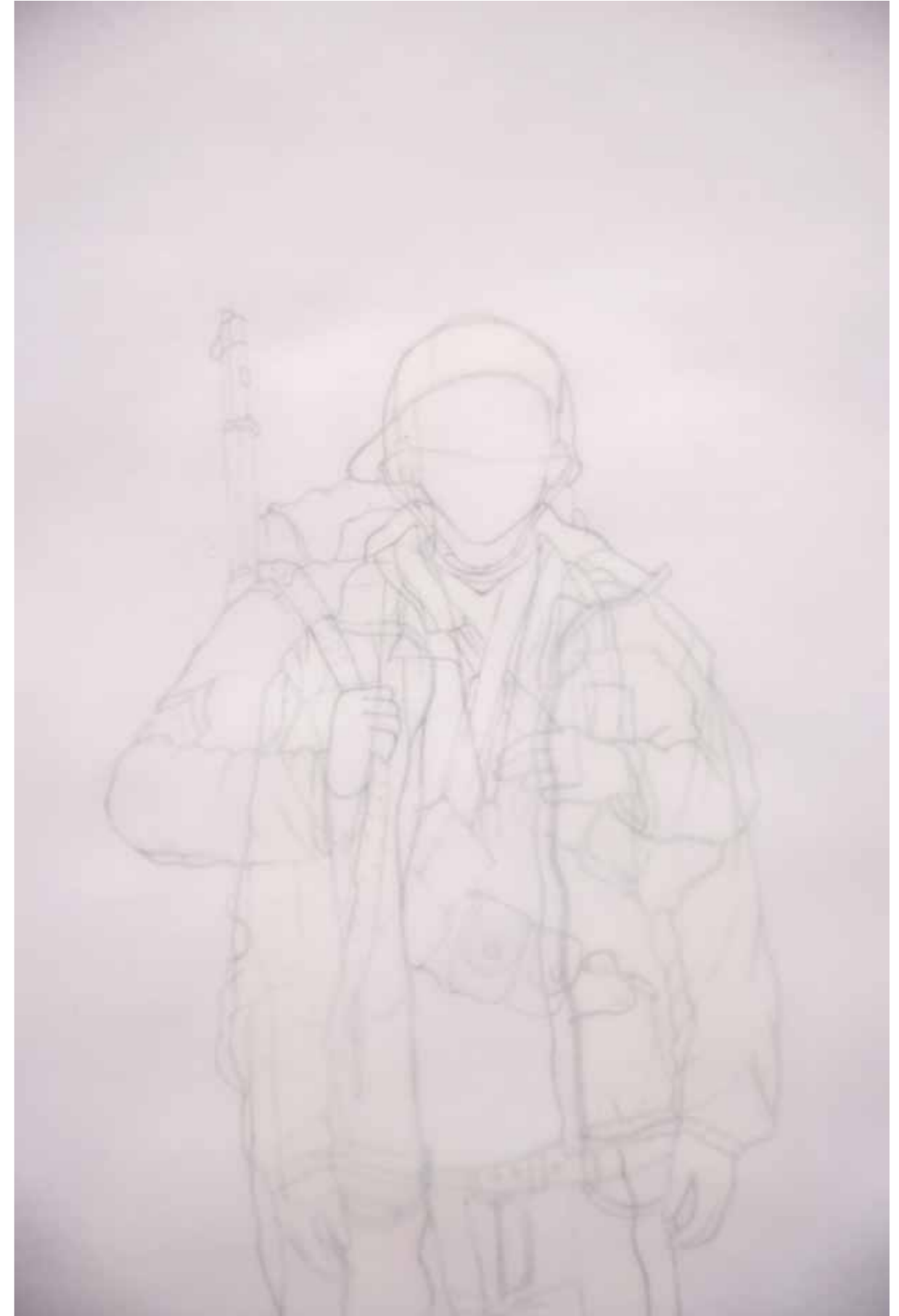


Ala
EBTEKAR

Born 1978 -

Lot 030

'The Absent Arrival 27' Signed, Dated
42 X 29.7 cm. Graphite and Acrylic on Paper 2006
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)





Ala
EBTEKAR

Born 1978 -

Lot 031

'Sneakers'
30 X 10 X 13 cm. Rubber and Leather 2007
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)





Nadim KARAM

Born 1957 -

Lot 032

***'Rabbit Carrying the Big Bang'* Signed, Dated
H25 X W15 X D5 cm. Wood Treated Lead Parchment 2006
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**

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) and recently held a solo show at the MENASAART fair in Beirut in 2011. With a collector-base across 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 such places as the UAE, Kuwait, 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.





Mustafa ALI

Born 1956 -

Lot 033

**'Head in a Tunnel' Signed, Dated
H215 X W46 X D46 cm. Wood & Bronze 2008
Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 12,000)**

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 Latakia Sculpture Biennial (where he was awarded the Golden Prize) (1997), the Biennial of Alexandria, Egypt (1994), the Sharjah Biennial (1995), the International Symposium for Sculptors in Valencia, Spain (2001), and Art Dubai (2011).

Ali's work is housed in private and public collections, including a number of official institutions in Syria such as the National Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Damascus, in addition to 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 for years, 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, Ali has inspired and supported generations of Syrian artists.





Ahmad AL ASKALANY

Born 1987 -

Lot 034

**'Thinker' Signed, Dated, Numerated
33 X 22 X 21 cm. Bronze Sculpture (Edition 2/8) 2010
Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 12,000)**

Ahmed Al Askalany was born in 1978, Nag Hammadi, Egypt. He now lives and works in Cairo. Critics and art connoisseurs alike have already described Ahmed Askalany as one of the most unique and inimitable sculptors of his generation. Making already his Dubai debut at Art Sawa, Askalany will be exhibiting his latest collection of emotive sculptures entitled 'Self Stories: Birds & I'.

Askalany's subjects are simple human figures and animals inspired and representative of his native town, Nag Hammadi, in Upper Egypt. His work mostly retains an explicit connection with traditional materials and craft methods associated with the ancient cultures of Egypt. Traditional aesthetic forms that place an emphasis on both structure and volume characterize Askalany's works, but the volumes are distorted with a minimal head on a giant body. Askalany's works possesses a sense of innocence alongside a state of isolation reflecting both frankness and candour.

Nonetheless, the works retains a profound nature and sense of innocence. There is no specific formula that Askalany uses when creating his works of art, the final work often represents this by becoming humorous or naïve but always with a poetic sensitivity. This connection allows his work to become unique and unmistakable, yet, at the same time, does not stop him being thoroughly up to date. Speaking about his next exhibition Askalany commented, "My philosophy is simplicity, to convey the idea directly to the viewer without overcomplicating the message with too much detail".

Askalany's short career has thus far been blessed with success and his latest body of works is sure to be a favorite amongst the region's art enthusiasts.





Asem AL BASHA

Born 1948 -

Lot 035

**'Mask' Signed, Dated
H40 X W34 X D35 cm. Bronze Sculpture 1995
Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 8,000)**

Born in Buenos Aires to a Syrian father and an Argentinean mother in 1948, Assem al Bacha graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1968 and later received a graduate degree from the Surikov Art Institute in Moscow in 1977 after winning a scholarship to study abroad from the Syrian Ministry of Higher Education. Eventually settling in Spain in 1987, Al Basha is currently based in Granada, where he has worked as a sculptor, writer and translator for years.

Since first exhibiting in Syria in the mid 1960s, he has gone on to participate in solo and group shows around the world, in galleries and cultural centers from Cuba to South Korea. His recent solo exhibition at Tajalliyat Gallery in Damascus received rave reviews, confirming the local following that he has amassed over the past forty years. Al Basha's work is housed in several private and public collections both in the Middle East and in Europe.

Often experimenting with different forms and techniques, Al Basha is known for his expressionist sculpture that explores a range of subjects and themes, most of which address the human experience.





Sahand HESAMIYAN

Born 1977 -

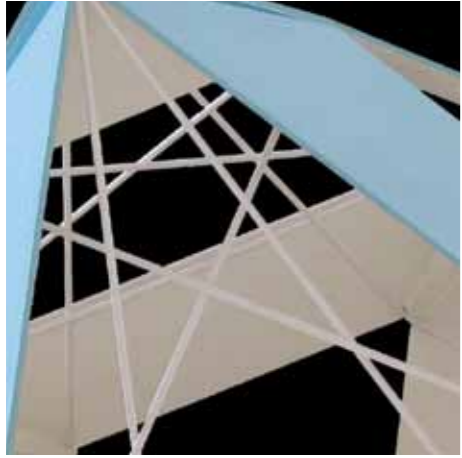
Lot 036

**'Untitled 02' Signed, Numerated
145 X 145 X 145 cm. Aluminium and Paint (Edition 1/3) 2009
Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 12,000)**

Sahand Hesamiyan was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1977 and received his Bachelor of 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 sculptures are large welded dynamic abstract forms of steel that playfully challenge the viewer's perception of Islamic art eradicating the ornament quality often associated with that.

A current member of the managing board for the 6th Tehran Contemporary Sculpture Biennial, he participated in the 1st Sculptural Biennial for Urban Space (2008). He recently exhibited at Mohsen Gallery, Aaran Art Gallery and Haftsamir Gallery in Tehran and has received national recognition for his work in contemporary Iranian sculpture.



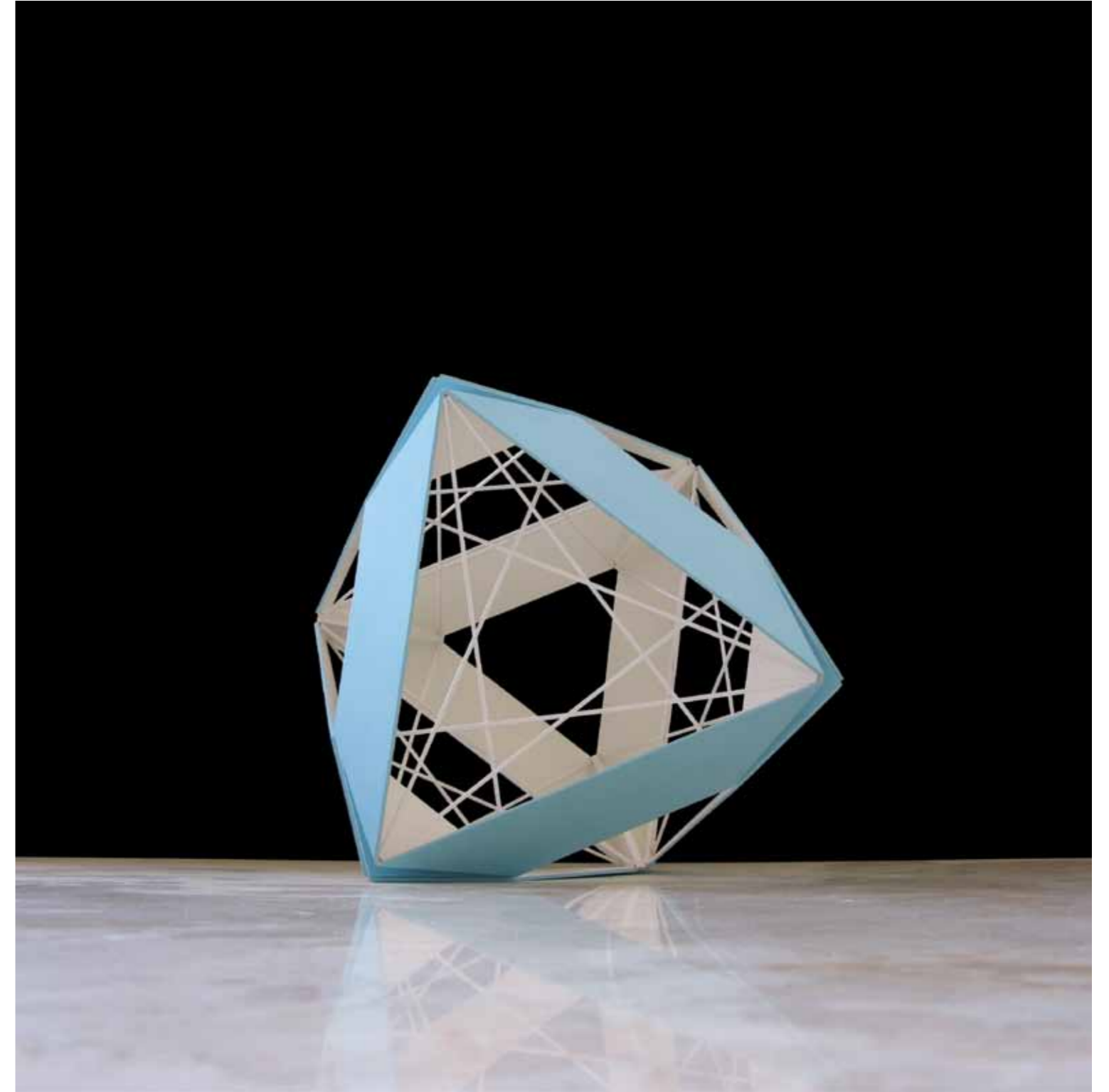


Sahand
HESAMIYAN

Born 1977 -

Lot 037

'Untitled 03' Signed, Numerated
33 X 33 X 32 cm. Steel and Paint (Edition 1/3) 2007
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)





Tammam AZZAM

1980 -

Lot 038

**'Laundry Series' Signed, Dated
2 X (60 X 60 cm.) Mixed Media & Cloth Pegs on Canvas 2008
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**



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 from Darat al Funun's Al Kharif Academy, an esteemed artist workshop series, under Syrian master Marwan Kassab Bashi in 2001. Since joining the Shabab Ayyam young artists program in 2008, he has been featured in several significant events including the group show "Stories from the Levant," Scope Art Fair (Basel) 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. Clothes line with actual pins are often depicted with quick brushwork so that his compositions are 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.



Ammar AL BEIK

Born 1972 -

Lot 039

Signed, Dated
120 X 180 cm. Inflatable Balloons on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 12,000)

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. It is there that he received his formal training in the medium over the course of ten years, exploring various methods and approaches while becoming an expert in photographic equipment. As such, he has exhibited his photographs since the mid 1990s, at a time when he simultaneously began an impressive career in filmmaking. Taking his cinematic works to the international stage, he 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 in 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. In just a little over a decade he has become one of country's leading filmmakers.

Never abandoning his original interest, he has continued to work in photography despite the success that he has found in 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 throughout the Middle East and the US.

As a result of his artistic range and background, Al Beik's photographs possess a cinematic quality that can only be found amidst the portfolio of a seasoned image-maker. Forever embracing experimentation, he works with an assortment of techniques. Often materializing in the form of large ultra chrome prints on canvas, his photographs toy with the manipulation of light and contrast and delve into the art of visual storytelling, holding the narrative of his subjects up with careful scrutiny and heightened sensitivity. Recently he has begun utilizing conceptual art and installation in overtly political works that incorporate elements of video, sculpture and animation. 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."





Mouteea MURAD

Born 1977 -

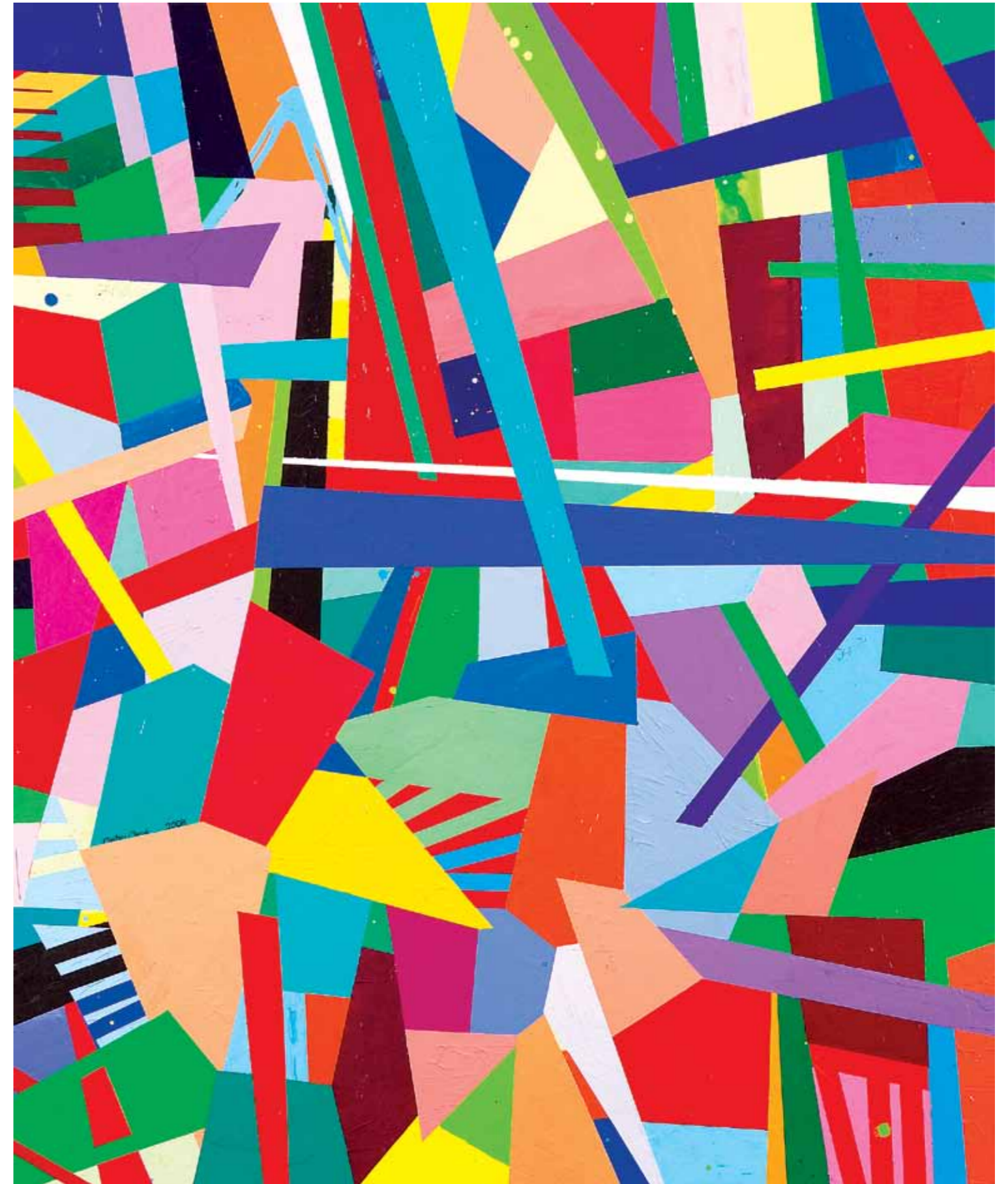
Lot 040

**'City of Butterflies 1' Signed, Dated
120 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2008
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**

Born in Homs, Syria in 1977, Mouteea Murad is a rising 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 were monotone portraits that spoke of human angst. Despite exhibitions throughout the Arab world and successful sales from such compositions, Murad dramatically changed his artistic direction shortly before entering the "Shabab Ayyam" competition in 2007. Since then he has been building upon a foundation that engages influential modernist movements such as the Russian Constructivists, Abstract Expressionism and Geometric Abstraction. He has also sought to interact with aesthetics that have held immense significance to Arab art, as he is an admirer of the late Syrian painter Mustapha Fathi.

Carving out a significant place for himself amongst these regional greats, Murad is becoming a favorite among international art lovers with his paintings housed in collections in Lebanon, Jordan, France, Switzerland, the US, China and "the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts".

The artist's vibrant canvases are informed by the linear and horizontal division of spatial planes, as various geometric shapes emerge from elaborate partitions. Pulsating with vivid cubist forms, each line is vastly different from the next. Yet Murad is confident in his bold sense of design and clever manipulation of color. The result is a geometric mosaic in which squares, triangles and circles intersect, overlap and collapse upon each other, recalling the abstract ingenuity of American painter Stuart Davis with the youthful spirit and vitality of Swiss painter Paul Klee.





Nizar F.OTHMAN

Born 1974 -

Lot 041

Signed, Dated
150 X 120 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1974, Nizar F. Othman is a self – taught artist that has been recognized over the last years as talented cartoon caricaturist, for which he has won several international awards such as the 'Bronze medal - Competition of Guangxi International Comics in 2007' - (University City Guangxi), China ; the 'Excellence Award - Competition of Guangxi International Comics in 2007' - (University City Guangxi), China; a Special honorary prize - Competition of the International Journal of Rhino - (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 2008 and a 'Special honorary award for cartoon Syria - Syria Fifth International Competition for the Cardboard' - Syria 2009 .

Othman has also published numerous articles on political art, social art and caricatures in various Arab and international magazines; notably the German magazine 'Stern', the 'Don Quixote' German magazine, the magazine 'Kiks' in Serbia, 'Al Akhbar' in Lebanon and 'Al Nur' in Syria amongst others.

In 2010, Othman held his first successful solo exhibition "fathmos Disorientation" in Beirut.





Nihad AL TURK

Born 1972 -

Lot 042

'Tree' Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1972 amidst abject poverty, Nihad Al Turk has developed a mature painting style against all odds. With no academic training but several years of practice and experimentation behind him, he has established himself within the contemporary Syrian art scene as one of the most sought after painters. With participation in a number of group exhibitions at venues such as Ayyam Gallery Beirut and Dubai, Beirut's UNESCO palace, and the Park Avenue Armory in New York, his profile has quickly risen over the last decade. Accordingly, he has held solo exhibitions in leading art spaces in Syria and Turkey and has been featured in a number of events abroad such as Art Palm beach and Miami International Art Fair.

Al Turk's haunting mixed media canvases are highly influenced by his outlook on life and 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 world around us. 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 profound philosophical conclusions. This is not unlike the religious works created during the High Renaissance in Flanders, in which images of Christ and the Virgin Mary were surrounded by objects that expanded the narrative of a painting by implying greater meaning.

In his latest canvases, the artist's monster-like, unidentifiable subjects reemerge, this time with a more menacing appearance. Yet these recent works revolve around a different image—that of a robust tree. Perhaps it is the tree of life, presenting a more optimistic view of man, although in some instances its shape is reminiscent of a nuclear mushroom cloud, its top-heavy outline mirroring his distorted figures. While manifested in reoccurring anthropomorphic figures such as a mouse or devil-like figure, this reference might possess greater meaning than just the artist's number of siblings, as the seven deadly sins seem appropriate in Al Turk's tragic yet highly spiritual universe.





Omran YOUNES

Born 1971 -

Lot 043

Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

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 in the US, 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.





Walid EL MASRI

Born 1979 -

Lot 044

**'Chairs' Signed, Dated
90 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2007
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)**

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.





Inaya FANIS HODEIB

Born 1983 -

Lot 045

**'The War Drum' Signed, Dated
90 X 120 cm. Oil and Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)**

Born in 1983, Beirut, Lebanon and currently residing in The Netherlands, the artist Inaya Fanis Hodeib is utterly devoted to capturing details during the painting process (which can take hundreds of days), she will look at the subject from a distance examining the colors and forms of the texture being handled. For the greatest joy and challenge come in imitating reality to the extent that the painting becomes the object itself not just like it.

She has shown her work (as part of collectives) in Sweden "Mirca Tour for Human Rights", New York, Dubai, Beirut and Berlin.

Her work has been acquired by several private collections around the world. Graduating in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in fine arts from The Lebanese University, the artist worked with several teachers and absorbed the acute attention to form associated with her work and subsequently refining her own visual and conceptual vocabulary that emerged through her focus on the points of intersection between architecture, and making a solid visual statement.

Hodeib has also gained experience from working as an illustrator for several gaming companies, and a personal assistant at Safana Art Gallery previously located in Beirut, where she organized several exhibitions like 'The Helen Khal Retrospective'.

"Sometimes when searching for hidden meanings one must look very closely at the obvious. Rage, fear, uncertainty and a need for rebellion are all present in my work, and I see them come alive in the manic frustrations of a wild canine that refuses to be daunted or held back. The arching of the back, the snaring and deep growling hum possess an electrifying anxiety as the entire figure transforms from a friend, to a warning, then to an inevitable release of one of the purest forms of instinctual defense. Cruelty can be tolerated but not forever, as long as people possess a will to push back and claw their way out they give birth to a collective need for independence while sinking their teeth in everything that gets in their way. A dog's cordial defense of self and friend is not only bewildering but it is in all its viscous faces of anger an inspiring show of motivation and courage. "





Thayer HELAL

Born 1967 -

Lot 046

Signed, Dated
90 X 90 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

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 (2008), the Grand Gold Award at the Tehran International Biennial (2005), the Award for Painting at the Sharjah International Biennial (1997) and the Distinguished Works Award at the 15th General Exhibition of the UAE Fine Arts Association (1996). Yet Helal's long exhibition history is not limited to the Middle East, as 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, his compositions are marked by a profound expressionism and spontaneity that alludes to the internal and the sublime.



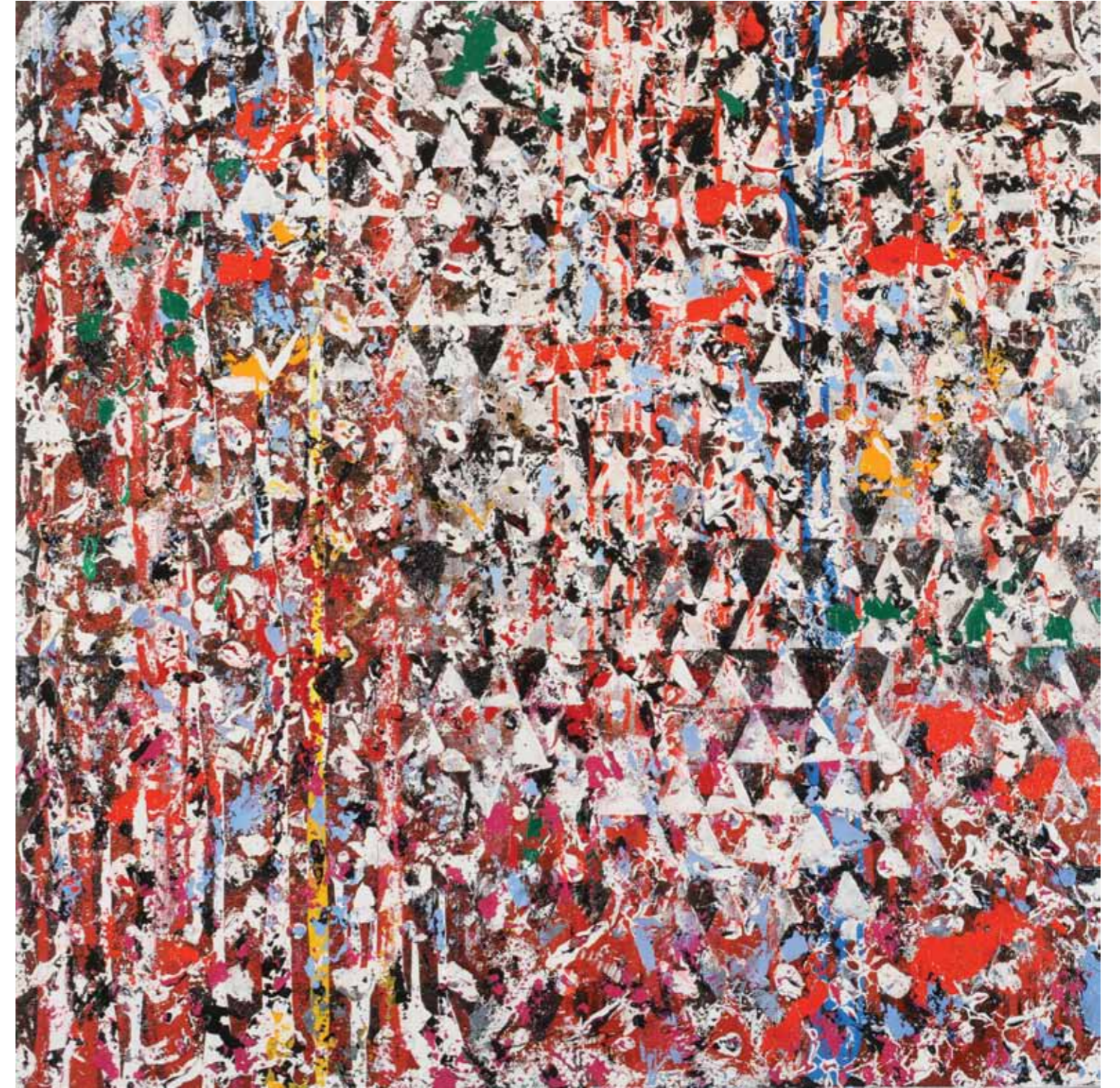


Thaier
HELAL

Born 1967 -

Lot 047

Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2009
Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 7,000)



Nazir ISMAIL Collection

The collection of Syrian painter Nazir Ismail presents an exceptional view of the Damascus art scene over the past seventy years. Ranging from early twentieth century pioneers of Levantine art to masters of modern day calligraphy, the works that have been selected from this esteemed collection represent a unique point of entry into the development of Syrian art through the eyes of an artist who is seminal in his own right. Ismail's privileged position has been the driving force behind his acquiring of several masterworks, as he has gathered exceptional examples by some of the Arab world's most influential painters.

Born in Damascus in 1948, Ismail is a long-established painter, one whose prolific career has granted him rare access to the inner workings of the Syrian art scene—a vantage point that is rarely afforded to private collectors. As a child he lived next door to a well-known artist, drawing inspiration early on as he began a love of art at a young age. Having trained privately, he began exhibiting in the Damascus in 1966 and was given his first solo exhibition in 1971 at the city's Arabic Cultural Centre, a popular hub for the arts at the time. Over the course of his extensive career, he has participated in over 120 group shows across the world.

A full-time professor of art since 1987, Ismail has had an immediate impact on a generation of Syrian painters with his technique, philosophy on art, and vast knowledge of aesthetics. In other capacities, namely through his membership and role in several local art associations such as the Syrian Artists Union, he has been active in the country's art scene as part of a close-knit circle of artists and intellectuals that have propagated Syrian art while working to encourage further experiments. From his studio in the Old City of Damascus, he has been a central figure of the nation's cultural sphere.

Included in this highlighted selection are paintings by modernists Naim Ismail, Adham Ismail, and Nazir Nabaa, artists who he counted among his colleagues in the 1960s. Also of interest are early works by Fateh Moudarres, who was active with Nazir Ismail from the collector's start of his artistic career well into the 1990s. Through the works of these artists, the viewer is brought into the exact era during which Nazir Ismail developed his recognizable approach to painting, often drawing from Syria's vast contributions to Arab visual culture through its traditional forms—a trend that he and his contemporaries sustained over decades while establishing Syria as a leader in regional art.

The work of Naim Ismail demonstrates the ways in which artists were also preoccupied with the everyday, often depicting the architecture and people of a country that was transitioning from a traditional society into a thoroughly modern state. Although differing in palette, medium and technique, his untitled works were painted only a year apart, a fact that not only provides great insight into how his approach rapidly evolved in a short period of time but how the collective psyche of Syria was also impacted by the changing world.

Other works, such as Nazir Nabaa's 1967 untitled mixed media on canvas painting possesses a startling apprehension, as they were executed against the backdrop of the Arab-Israeli war. Representing the many instances in which artists were drawn into the realm of political commentary, Nabaa's painting exemplifies the use of symbolism, color and complex formalism that was used when artists sought to create high art that simultaneously spoke to concerns of the masses.

Moudarres' ethereal landscapes, works that stand in great contrast to that for which he is known, reflect the artist's initial explorations into Syrian landscape and its inherent bearing on its inhabitants. These airy scenes are painted in whites, blues, yellows and grays with light washes—an approach that allowed him to explore the visual poetics of the barren countryside. As his artistic style emerged, he would later turn to the rich palette of the land, depicting his figures in the same burnt earth tones as the rugged terrain that dominated his compositions.

A stunning section of nineteenth and twentieth century calligraphy reveals Nazir Ismail's deep interest in Islamic art, especially as it pertains to the development of Arab aesthetics. These works, some of which were painted as far back as the late 1800s, were executed by distinguished artists, many of whom worked for royal courts such as that of Sultan Abdul Hamid of the Ottoman Empire and Kings Fouad and Farouk of Egypt. Their inclusion speaks of Ismail's core belief behind both art and the art of collecting, as he so astutely observed in a 2003 interview with Lebanon's Daily Star, "Art is the soul of society. Throughout history, art wrote down events. Everything goes but art remains" (10/09/2003).



Fateh MOUDARRES

1922 - 1999

Lot 048

Signed, Dated
48 X 35 cm. Oil on Carton circa 1970
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 5,000)

Born in Aleppo, Fateh Moudarres (1922-1999) was a prolific modernist pioneer. With an extensive career and an admired, often imitated, approach to art, his influence was felt across the Arab world for decades. Respected among countless art circles and a long time favorite among collectors, his oeuvre continues to be recognized for its vast contributions.

After a brief period of utilizing realist and surrealist techniques in the 1950s, he traveled to Italy to attend the Accademia di belle Arti in Rome. Returning to Damascus in 1960, he reemerged on the Syrian art scene with a personal style that he described as “surrealistic and figurative with a strong element of abstraction.” Becoming deeply committed during this time, especially after 1967, Moudarres took up highly political subject matter, often depicting the difficult daily realities that were faced by those living in rural areas or on the margins of society. In 1969 he left Syria to pursue advanced training at the Ecole des beaux Arts in Paris. Upon resettling in his native country in 1972, he began a long tenure as a professor in the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Damascus and later served as the dean of the department until he retired in 1993. Through this position he trained generations of young Syrian artists. Although his compositions often drew from a variety of sources, including mythology, ancient traditions, icon painting and symbolism, he focused much of his work on portraying the formidable climate around him, as the Middle East (and the world in general) became increasingly tumultuous. Moudarres was one of the first artists to tackle such issues and did so with bold brushstrokes, a rich palette and introspective portrayals of ordinary life, a combination that had wide appeal and was mastered with great experimentation.





Fateh
MOUDARRES

1922 - 1999

Lot 049

Signed, Dated
35 X 48 cm. Oil on Carton circa 1970
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 5,000)





Naim ISMAIL

1930 - 1979

Lot 050

Signed, Dated
42 X 31 cm. Watercolor on Paper 1962
Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 3,500)

Although the younger brother of Syrian artist Adham Ismail, Naim was a prominent painter in his own right, reconfiguring the traditional aesthetic of Arab decorative arts with a modernist sensibility, a painting style that became highly influential. His incorporation of the patterns, geometry and visual rhythms of local textiles, for example, are joined in harmonious colorist compositions that suggest depth and space with sharp lines and multiple planes, giving an illusionist feel in which everyday visual culture is highlighted for its complexity and brought into the realm of fine art. This approach pays homage to the region's rich heritage while seeking to expand its borders.

Born in Antioch, Syria in 1930, Ismail studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Istanbul, graduating in 1953. After pursuing research in the art of medals and frescoes at private institutions in Rome, he eventually returned to Damascus in the late 1950s, where he held a number of significant positions, including the artistic supervisor of the national Army Magazine and the director of Fine Arts in the Ministry of Culture, a post he held from 1970-79. Ismail's work is housed in a number of notable collections, including the National Museum of Damascus and the Syrian Ministry of Culture.



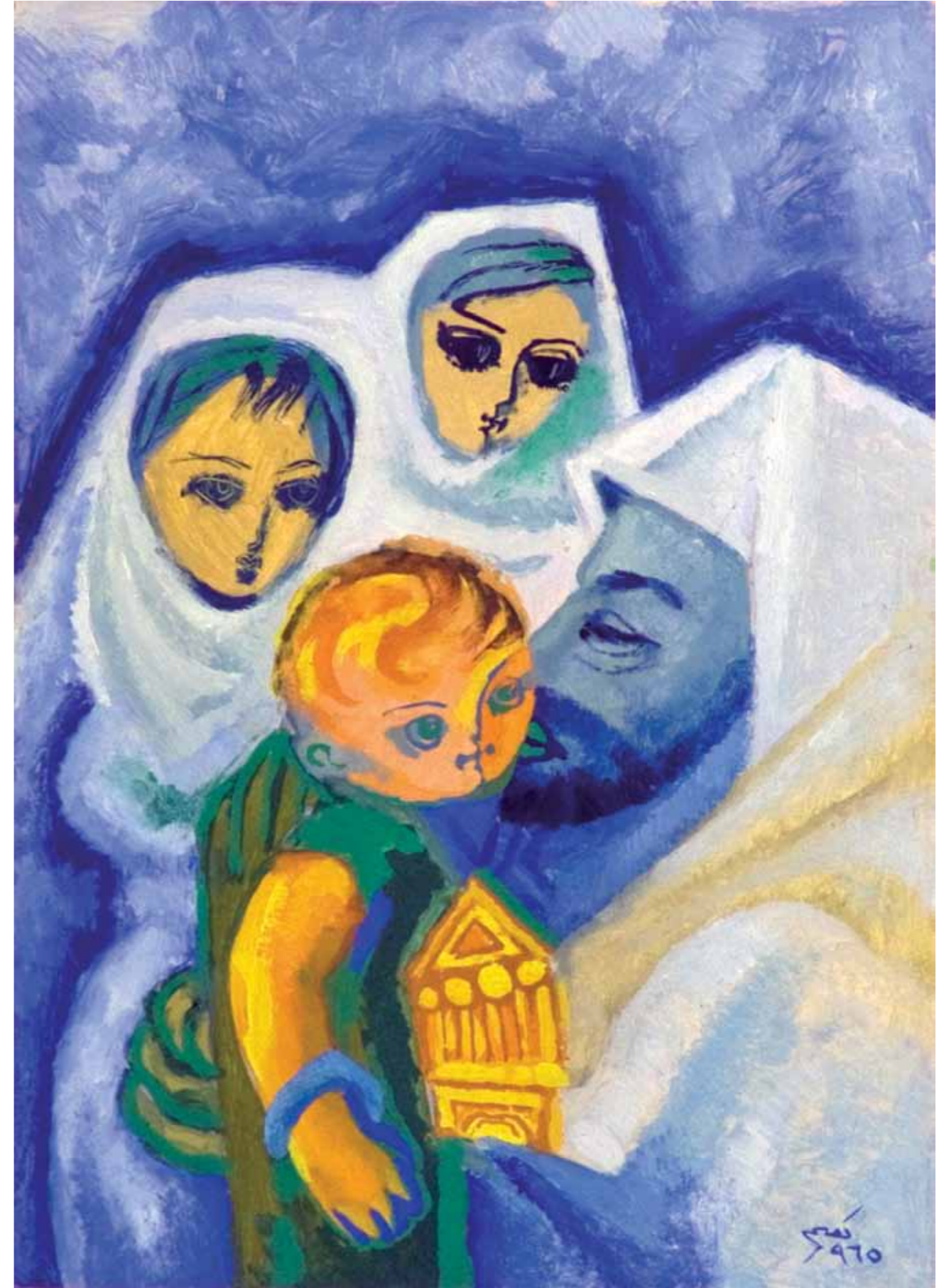


Naim
ISMAIL

1930 - 1979

Lot 051

'The Father's Kiss' Signed, Dated
36 X 26 cm. Oil on Paper 1965
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)



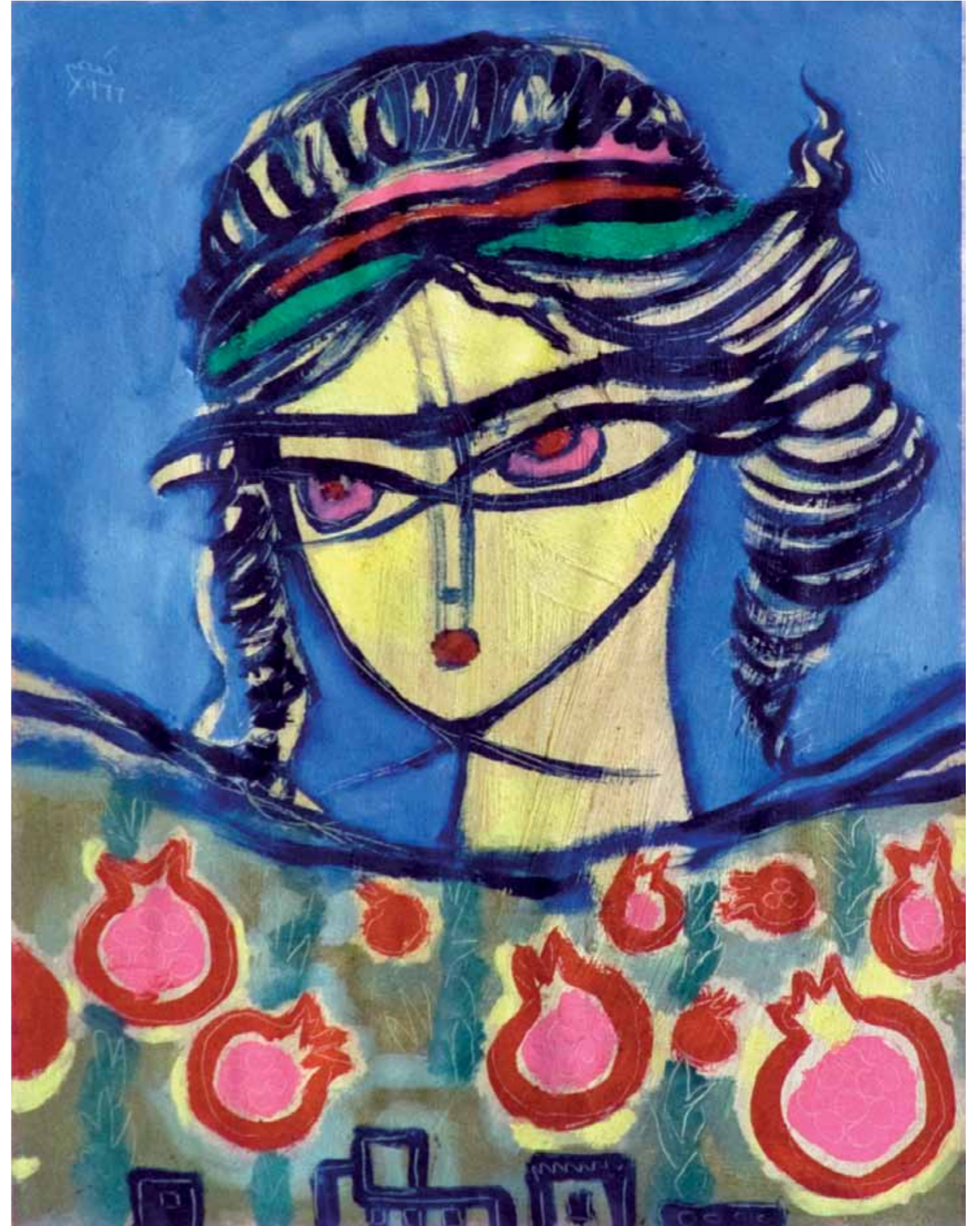


Naim
ISMAIL

1930 - 1979

Lot 052

Signed, Dated
36 X 28 cm. *Oil on Paper* 1966
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)



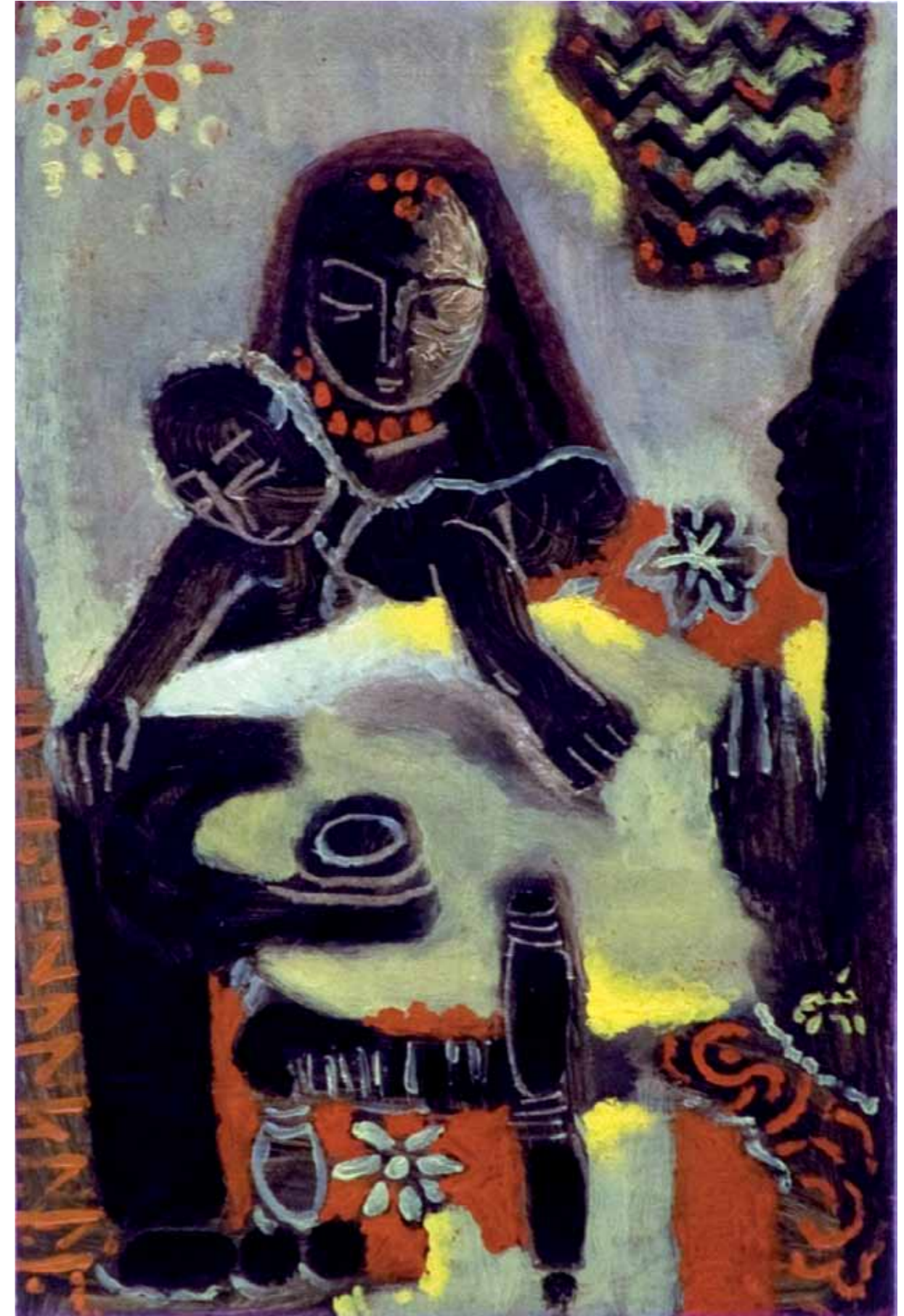


Naim
ISMAIL

1930 - 1979

Lot 053

Signed, Dated
35 X 23 cm. *Oil on Paper* 1961
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)





Nazem AL - JAAFARI

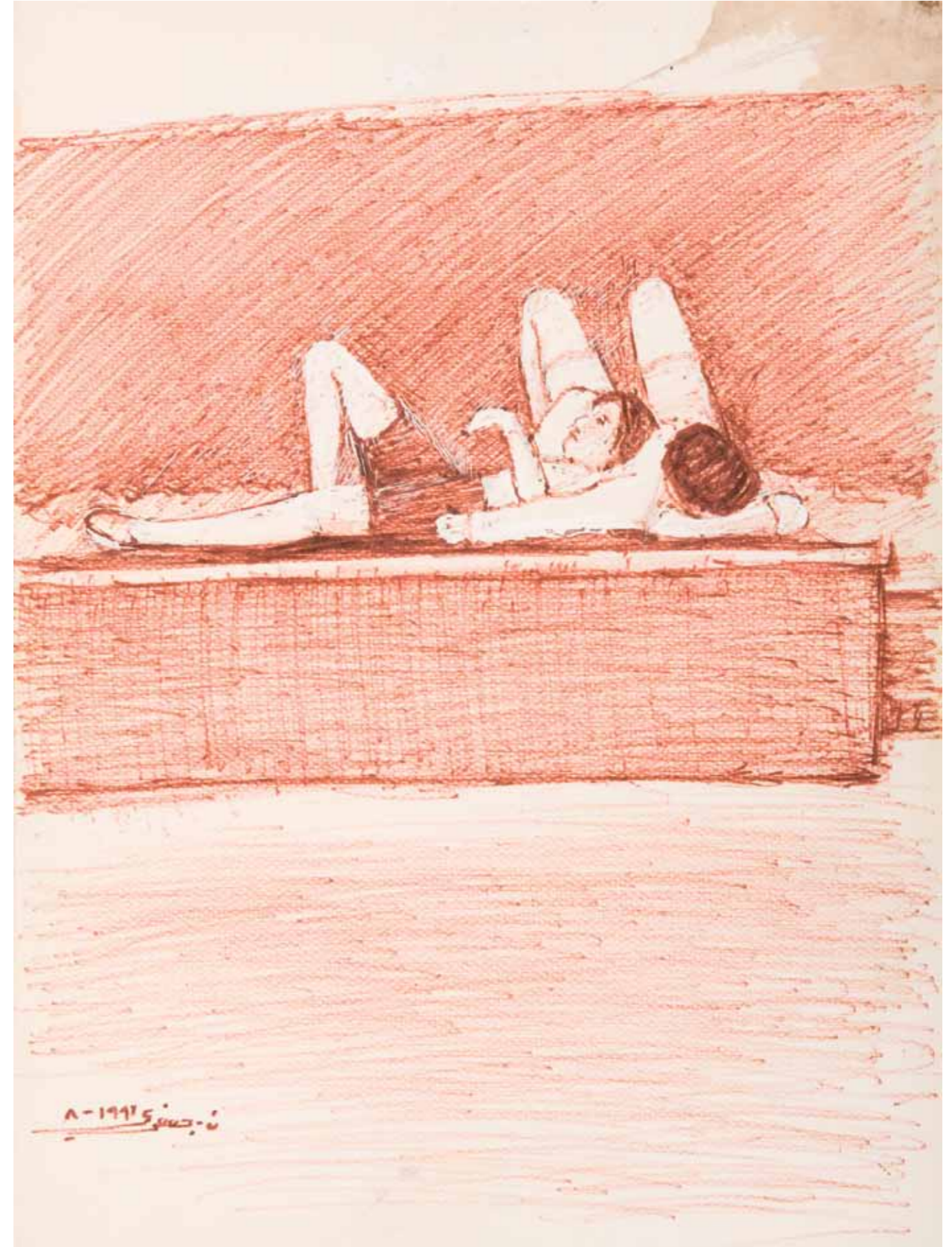
Born 1918 -

Lot 054

Signed, Dated
38 X 27 cm. Mixed Media on Paper 1991
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)

Born in 1918 in Damascus, Syria, Nazem al Jaafari is the last surviving modernist pioneer of his generation and is considered an innovator of the use of Impressionism in Syrian painting, which reached its height in the 1950s. In the early 1940s he was part of a group of young Syrian artists who were sent to study in Egypt under the French Mandate. After graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo in 1947, he returned to Syria to work as an art teacher in secondary schools and taught at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus. Despite withdrawing from the mainstream Syrian art scene for decades and seeking other opportunities abroad, (exhibiting frequently in South America and Europe) he is recognized for his important contributions to regional art. Through his early techniques and extensive documentation of Damascus' Old City, al Jaafari influenced generations of Syrian artists.

Although he has created an extensive portfolio that is estimated to include up to 7,000 paintings and drawings, his estate has largely stayed in tact, as he has been reluctant to sell his work. Nevertheless some examples of his paintings are found in the National Museum of Damascus and in private collections throughout the Middle East. Recently his work was featured in public sales at Bohnams Dubai and Ayyam Auctions.



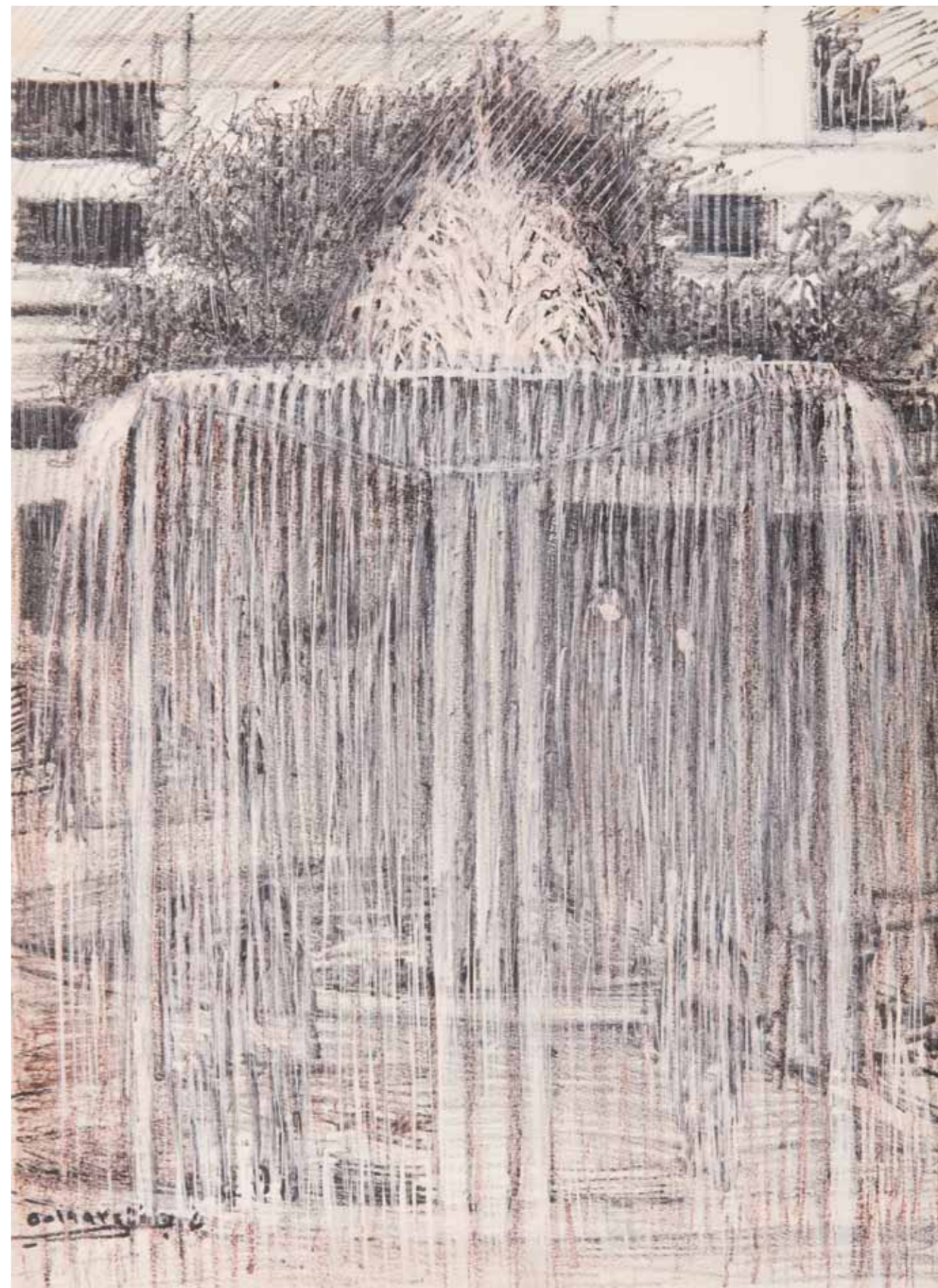


Nazem
Al - JAAFARI

Born 1918 -

Lot 055

Signed, Dated
38 X 27 cm. Mixed Media on Paper 1993
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)





Rashad MUSTAFA

1911 - 1995

Lot 056

Signed, Dated
27 X 45 cm. Gouache on Paper 1987
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)

Born in Damascus in 1911, Rashad Mustafa worked in Beirut during the French Mandate where he met seminal artists Mustafa Farruj, Omar al Unis and Taufiq Tariq, with whom he grew close to in the beginning stages of his career. Within this cosmopolitan environment, he painted alongside artists who sought to revive the avant-garde despite working against the setting of foreign occupation. During this time he developed his own style of painting, choosing to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors who depicted Syria's natural environment as a reiteration of national identity and a departure from Ottoman era influence.

A landscape artist at heart, despite also experimenting in portraiture and still-lives, he depicted the Syrian countryside with meticulous detail, opting to use several techniques at one time, as he incorporated expressive markings with realist depictions. Creating near Impressionist compositions, he employed early modernist techniques that were influential to his fellow artists, particularly as they grappled with greater access to international art trends and techniques.

For his vast contributions to local art, he was given the Syrian Order of Merit towards the end of his career and died in 1995.





Rashad
MUSTAFA

1911 - 1995

Lot 057

Signed, Dated
20 X 25 cm. Gouache on Paper 1980
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)





Rashad
MUSTAFA

1911 - 1995

Lot 058

Signed, Dated
36 X 33 cm. Watercolor on Paper 1942
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 5,000)





Rashad
MUSTAFA

1911 - 1995

Lot 059

Signed, Dated
25 X 35 cm. Gouache on Paper 1982
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)





Nazir NABAA

Born 1938 -

Lot 060

Signed, Dated
25 X 35 cm. Mixed Media on Paper 1967
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)

Born in Damascus in 1938, Nazir Nabaa studied oil painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo between 1959-1965 before traveling to Paris to continue his academic training several years later. Upon returning to Damascus he worked as an instructor at the Faculty of Fine Arts, where he was part of a significant group of artists that influenced a generation of contemporary painters. An accomplished artist in his own right, he received many honors at the start of his career, most notably from the Alexandria Biennale and the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris, as he participated in exhibitions at home and abroad. Today, his paintings are housed in the National Museum of Damascus, the Syrian Presidential Palace and Ministry of Culture and countless private collections.

Although a highly skilled draftsman, Nabaa quickly became attracted to modernist techniques that utilized cubism and other forms of semi-abstract to depict both realistic and metaphoric subjects. This led to an expressionist style that utilized symbolism as he became interested in mythology, regional folklore, in addition to the challenges that were specific to modern Arab life. In many instances these interests were combined in a single composition, creating powerful representations that could speak to all cultures.





Adham ISMAIL

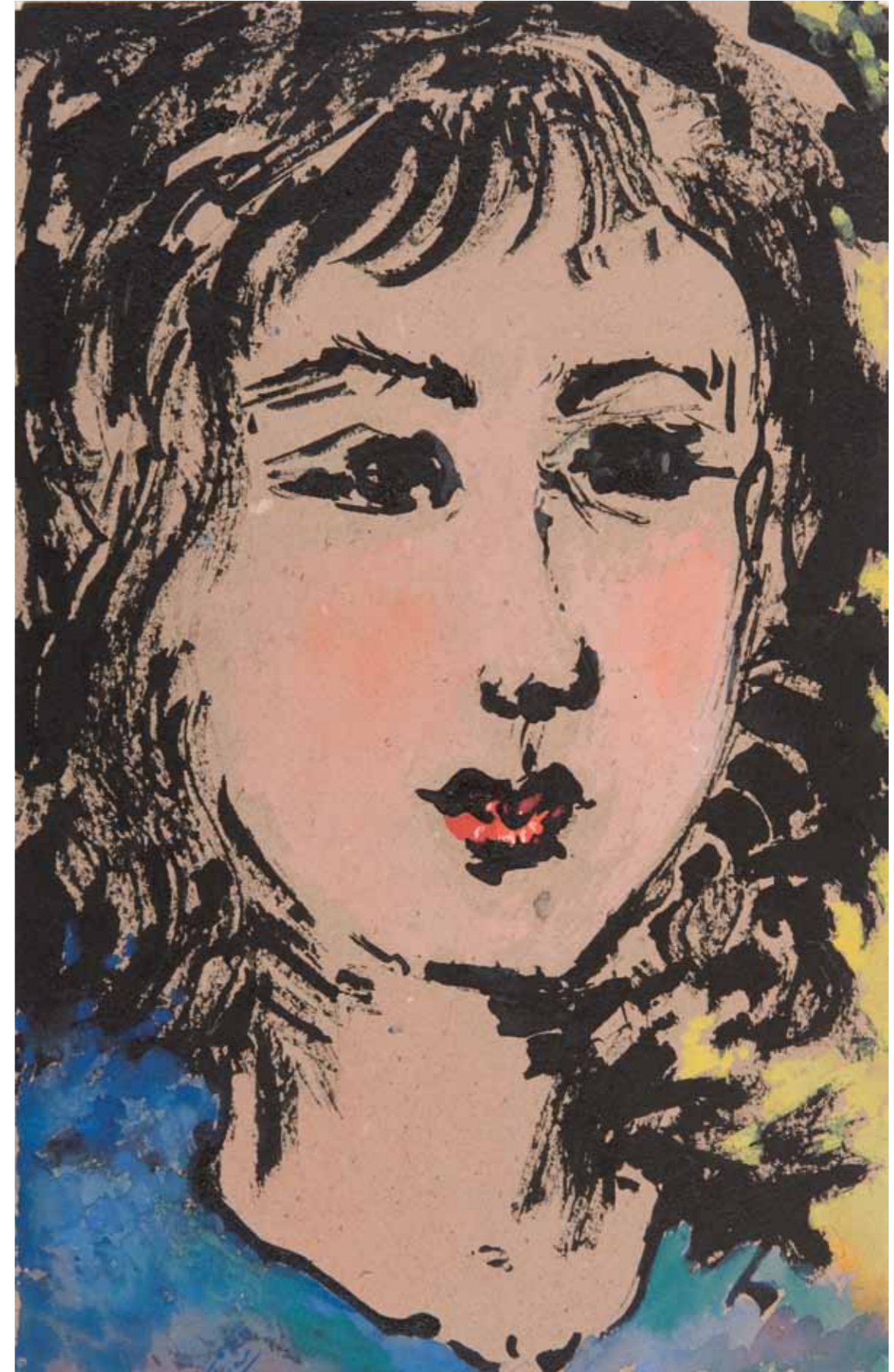
1922 – 1963

Lot 061

Signed, Dated
32 X 20 cm. Oil on Paper 1951
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)

Born in Antioch 1922, at the age of sixteen, Adham Ismail was already an accomplished artist. Migrating into greater Syria after the annexation of the country's northwestern cities left his birthplace under Turkish rule, Ismail later studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome from 1952-1956 as part of a cultural exchange program that was initiated between the Italian and Syrian governments. After working for a brief time as an art instructor in Syria upon his return, he moved to Cairo where he was a consultant to the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and subsequently taught fresco painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus when he resettled in Syria.

Although a pioneer in the expressing of Arab heritage in regional modern art, he was also one of the first artists to break free from the tradition of overt realism in painting, utilizing areas of flat color to detail fluid forms. Despite the astonishing fact that his professional artistic career only lasted a decade before his abrupt death at the age of forty, Ismail's influence lived on in the work of his colleagues, who recognized his great contributions to local aesthetics. His work can be found in the National Museum of Damascus and the Syrian Ministry of Culture.





Adham
ISMAIL

1922 - 1963

Lot 062

Signed, Dated
28 X 38 cm. Oil on Paper 1956
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)





Asaad ARABI

Born 1941 -

Lot 063

Signed, Dated
97 X 65 cm. Gouache on Paper 1991
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

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 went on to receive a diploma in painting from the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Paris in 1983 and later earned a PhD in aesthetics from the distinguished Sorbonne University in 1987. Arabi has been based in France since 1975, where he has undertaken extensive art research and has penned a significant collection of art writings in both French and Arabic. As such, he is also 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 developments in art.





Youssef DWEIK

Born 1963 -

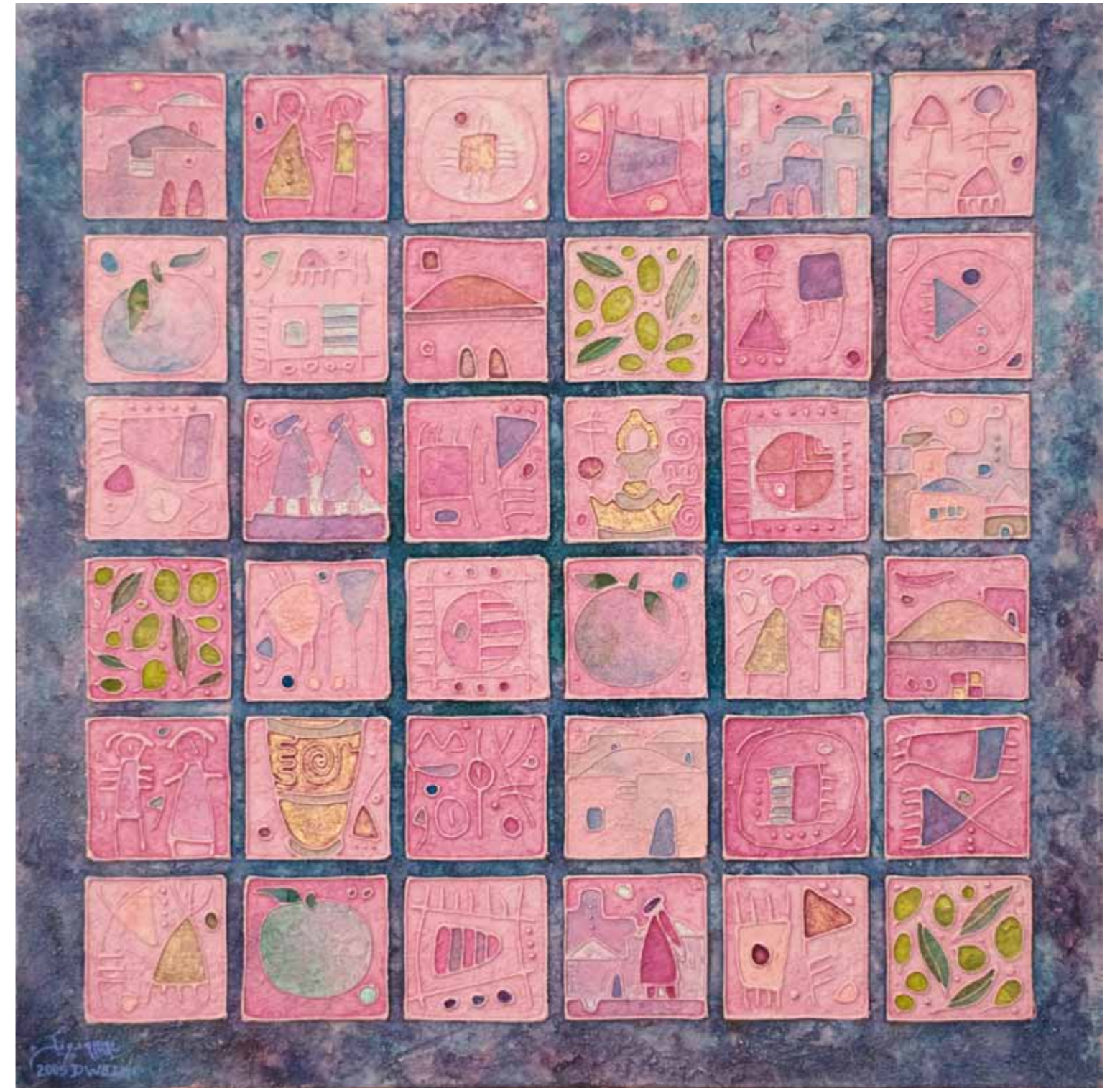
Lot 064

Signed, Dated
61 X 61 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2005
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)

Born in Jerusalem, Palestine and living in the UAE. Since his graduation from AL-Yarmouk University (Jordan) in 1985; he was passionate about portraying the progression of his country's forefathers through the ages and proceeds to express his own personal feelings to the world around him in his paintings. He uses symbols that represent the spirit of the ancient Arabic history to tell his story giving the paintings a hidden depth for those viewing them to unveil.

To achieve the balance between his commitment to telling his country's story and his desire to create beautiful artworks, Dweik uses delicate combinations of soft colors and textures which create quiet harmony. This innovative technique has developed as a result of years of experimenting with different methods and raw materials.

Each painting displayed depicts the effort, time and love the artist has invested in it.





Abdullah MURAD

Born 1941 -

Lot 065

**'Abstract' Signed, Dated
90 X 90 cm. Oil on Canvas 2005
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)**

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 has resulted in a solo exhibition in Damascus in 2007 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 to be 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 earth-tone 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.





Samia HALABY

Born 1936 -

Lot 066

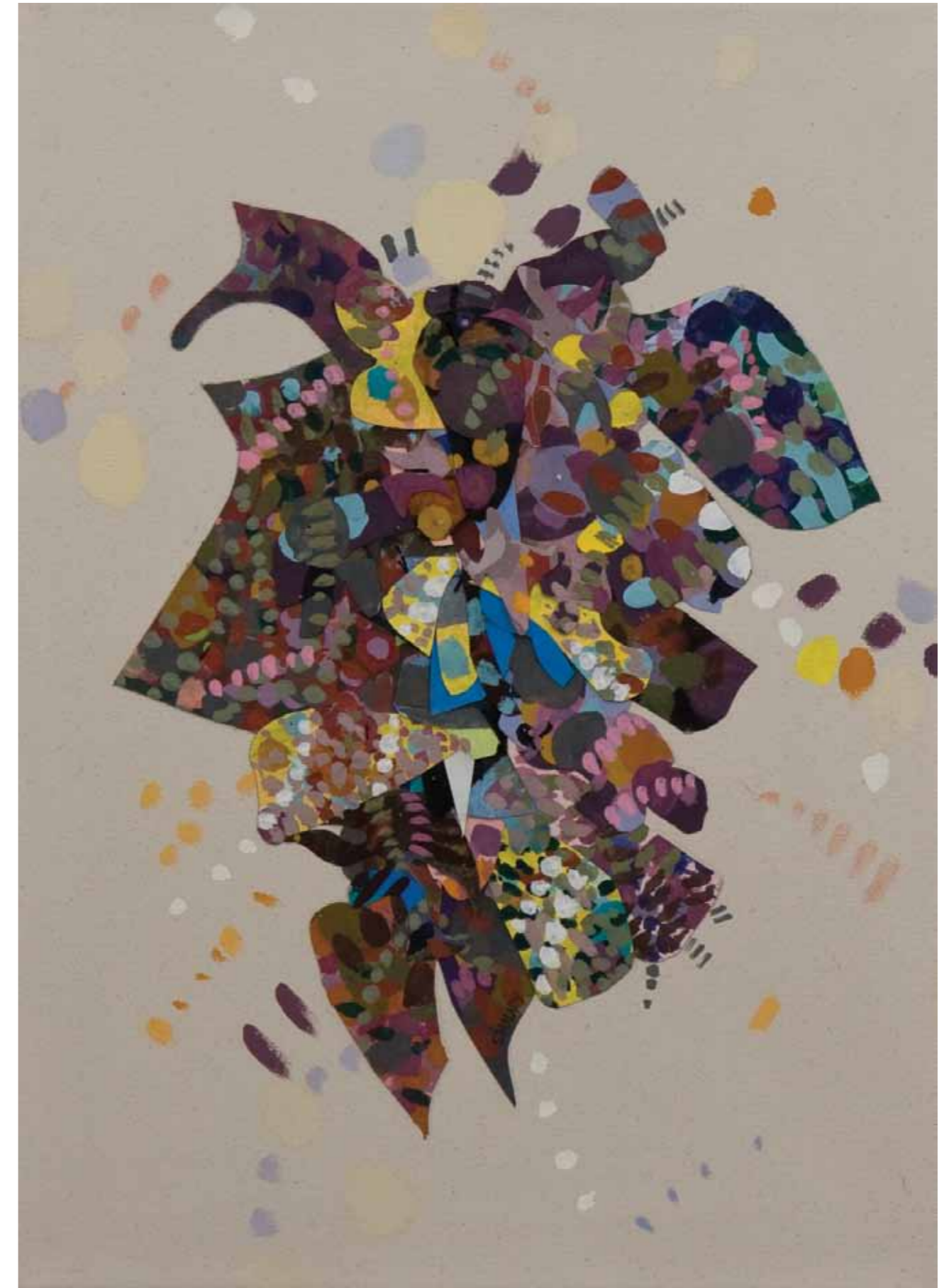
'Moth' Signed, Dated
64 X 46 cm. Acrylic on Canvas Collage 2009
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

Born in Jerusalem in 1936, Samia Halaby is a leading Palestinian painter and scholar. After immigrating to the US via Lebanon in 1951, she obtained a Bachelor of Science 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 in teaching art at the university level throughout the US, which culminated in a decade long position as the first fulltime 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 such institutions 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 US 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, she has 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 (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

Born 1936 -

Lot 067

'City Turning' Signed, Dated
56 X 76.5 cm. Silkscreen (Edition 21/38) 1983
Estimate (US\$ 1,500 - 2,500)





Asma FAYOUMI

Born 1943 -

Lot 068

Signed, Dated
70 X 70 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)

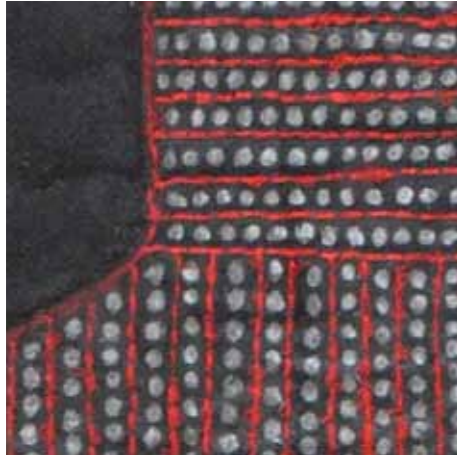
Born in Amman, Jordan in 1943, Asma Fayoumi's formative years as a painter occurred in the 1960s with the emergence of a particular school of Syrian abstraction that was led by the Italian artist and instructor Guido La Regina.

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, during this time. As such, 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, as it created a significant buzz. Since then she 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.





Huda
LUTFI

Born 1948 -

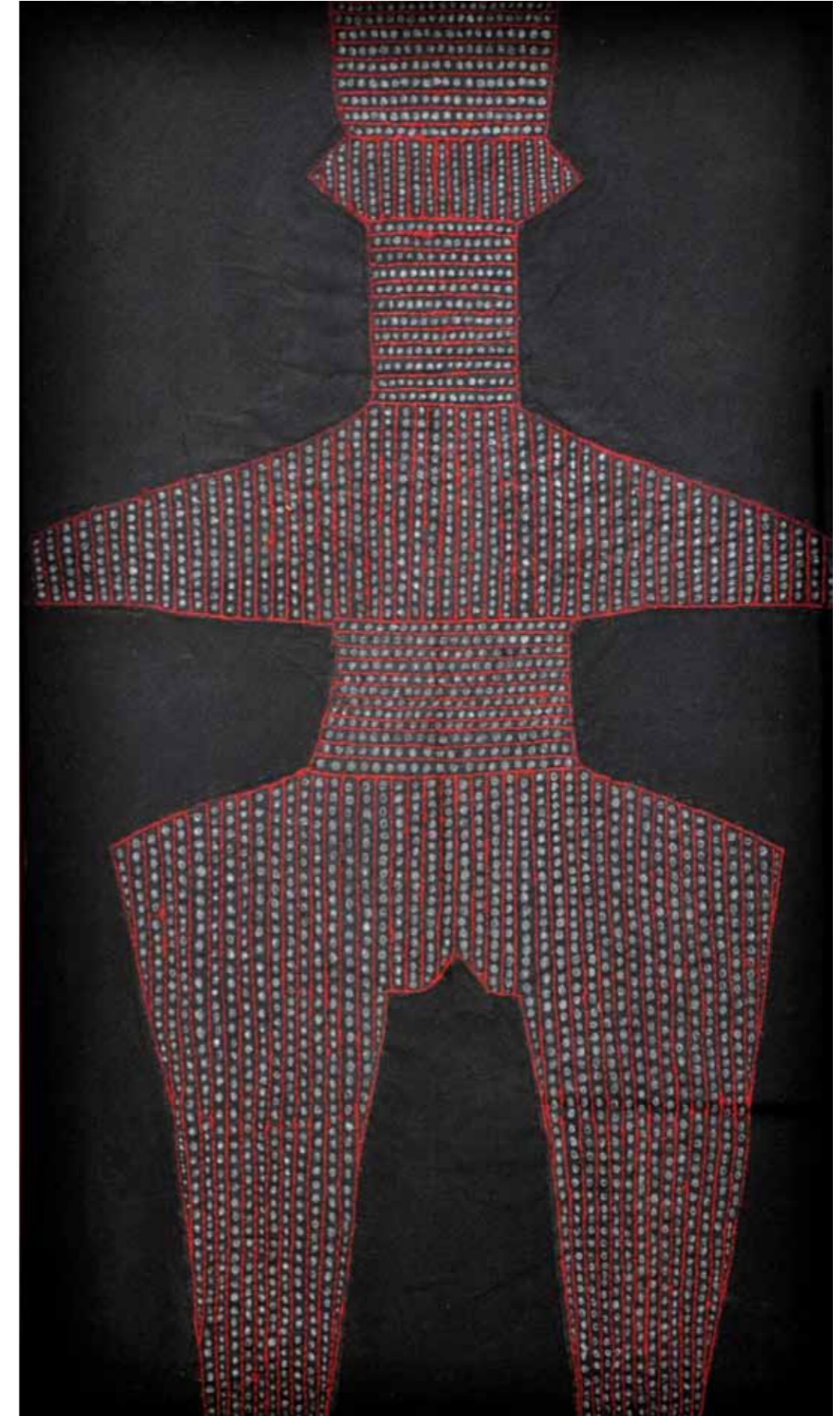
Lot 069

**'Totem Doll I' Signed, Dated
94 X 56 cm. Paint and Embroidery on Fabric 2006
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**

Born in Cairo in 1948, Huda Lutfi is trained as a cultural historian and with her second career as an artist, Lutfi emerged as one of Egypt's most notable contemporary image-makers. She received her Doctorate in Islamic Culture and History from McGill University, Montreal, Canada (1983), and has been teaching at the American University in Cairo. Huda Lutfi works like an urban archeologist, constantly digging up found objects as loaded fragments of history. She then re- packages them using bricolage and collage as interceptive strategies. Thus recognizable objects, figures, icons are taken over, re-contextualized and made to tell a different story.

Playing on public memory and a shared iconography, Lutfi somehow flattens cultural timelines by coming up with such figures as a mummified Oum Kalthoums. Her focus has been on the historical representation of the female form, and how it translates into the everyday. Working with the form of dolls in their various contexts, Lutfi explores the multiple roles of women within visual culture: as active producers of it and depicted symbols within it.

Lutfi has recently exhibited at Sultan Gallery, Kuwait (2011) and Tache Art, Cairo (2011). Lutfi currently lives and works in Cairo, Egypt.





Zena
ASSI

Born 1974 -

Lot 070

**'Mass Movement No.1 & 2' Signed, Dated
82 X 189 cm & 82 X 71 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010
Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 12,000)**



Born in 1974, Lebanon, Zena Assi lives and works in Beirut. She graduated with honors from l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA), worked in advertising for two years and taught in different universities.

Her contemporary work on canvas draws inspiration from the relations and conflicts between the individual and his spatial environment, society and its surroundings. The artist uses various supports and mediums to document and explore the cultural and social changes of her country. Her work takes shape in installation, animation, sculpture, and mainly paintings on canvas.

She has been present in the salon d'automne of the Surssock museum since 2005 where she received the prize 'mention speciale du jury' in 2009. She also won the BMW, mini cooper's 50th anniversary, 'best design for the middle east', 2009. Her work was repeatedly auctioned in Christie's Dubai and Sotheby's London, is part of the Barjeel art foundation Sharjah UAE, and took part in the 12th Cairo biennale in 2011.

Assi has exhibited in solo as well as collective shows across Europe, the Middle East, and Northern America including for her solos in Beirut Lebanon, in Bahrain ,and mostly at Art Sawa Dubai UAE, and her collective : Salon d'Automne Surssock Museum (Beirut Lebanon), Zoom (Miami USA), Contemporabilia Dome (Beirut Lebanon), Paris Abu Dhabi art fair (Abu Dhabi UAE), 12th Cairo Biennale (Cairo Egypt), Shubbak (London UK), Menasart fair ,Biel (Beirut Lebanon), Rebirth Beirut Exhibition Center (Beirut Lebanon), Subtitled Apeal Royal college of art (London UK).



Tamara AL SAMERRAEI

Born 1977 -

Lot 071

Signed, Dated
144 X 148.5 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

Born in Kuwait in 1977, Tamara al Samerraei lives and works in Beirut. She received a BA in Fine Arts from the Lebanese American University in Beirut in 2002. In 2008, she had a solo exhibition at Agial Gallery entitled "Something White". She had participated in numerous group exhibitions including, All About Beirut, White Box, Munich (2010); Exposure, Beirut Art Center, Lebanon (2009); MidEast Cut: International festival for alternative film and video, Denmark and Finland (2009); Radius of Art project Fladernbunker, Kiel, Germany (2008); Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait (2007); His Life is Full of Miracles, Site Gallery, Sheffield, UK (2006); Kent Explora, Strange Fruit, Lebanon (2002). She has also participated in Braziers International Artists workshop, UK (2003) and AIW:A, the International Artists workshop, Aley (2005).

"In Samerraei's work we are always in front of the borderline between twin realms. The prevalent ambiguity of her spaces and what inhabits them stands between the familiar and the improbable. Her work takes us into a world of childhood, but is it? Or it is an adult who is reminiscing? Are her spaces undefined surfaces like suggested memories, or is it what we know by heart and eyes since we were born. She poses difficult questions with a lightness and playfulness that leave her scenes seeping into our visual world with ease, and yet, unsettling." Abdallah Kahil





Othman MOUSSA

Born 1974 -

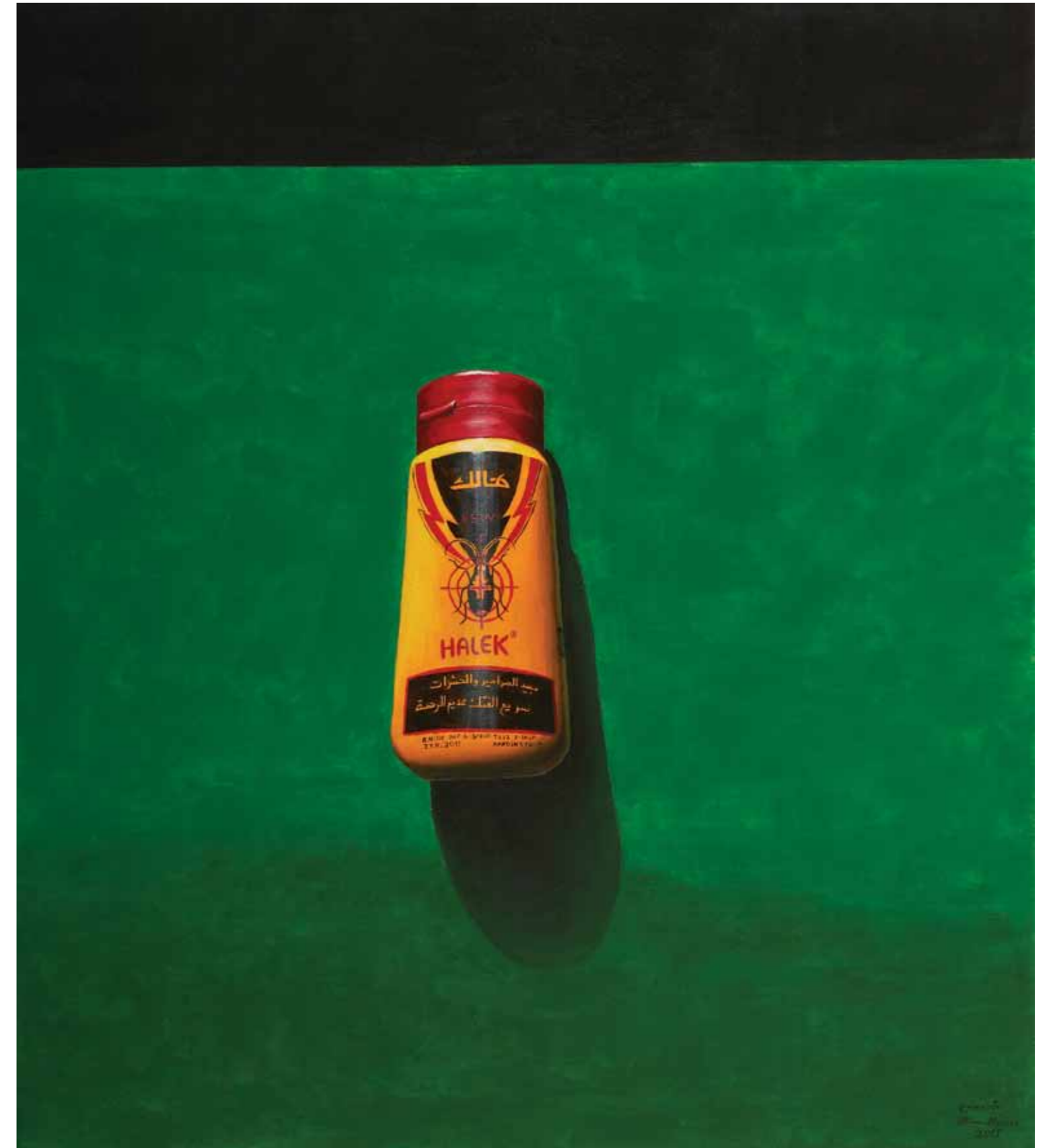
Lot 072

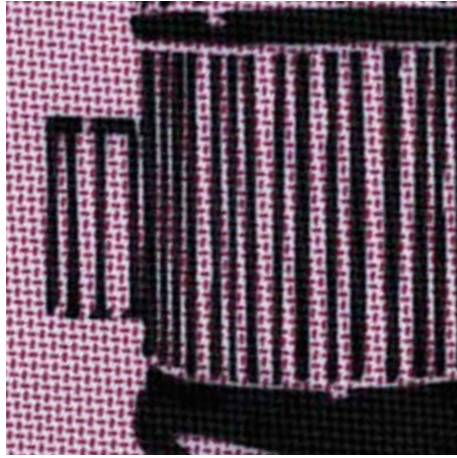
'Insecticide' Signed, Dated
90 X 80 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 5,000)

Born in Zabadani, Syria, a rural town on the outskirts of Damascus, in 1974, Othman Moussa has emerged as Syria's leading Hyperrealist 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 with Ayyam Gallery alongside distinguished painter and art critic Assad Arabi in "Visual Dialogue," a two-person exhibit in 2009.

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 in-line with the hybrid approaches that have been employed by artists in the post-colonial 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.





Qaswra HAFEZ

Born 1973 -

Lot 073

**'Bird Cage (Chapter 2)' Signed, Dated
150 X 150 cm. Red Spray Paint on Red Shomagh 2011
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)**

Born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1973, Qaswra 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 in the US between 1991 and 1994, and later trained as an interior architect.

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 found inspiration in the intellectually driven environment that comprised his immediate surroundings early on. As a poet and writer who also held several diplomatic positions, his father played a significant role in shaping the critical views that now exist as an essential component of his art.

Working with a variety of mediums and found objects, Hafez often creates works that possess underlying elements of social critique, addressing the modern state of the Middle East by utilizing symbols and/or imagery that are loaded with cultural meaning. Yet at all times there is a particular duality to these conceptual pieces, as images and signifiers are never one-dimensional and seemingly contrasting details are juxtaposed then merged as potent visuals.





Golnaz FATHI

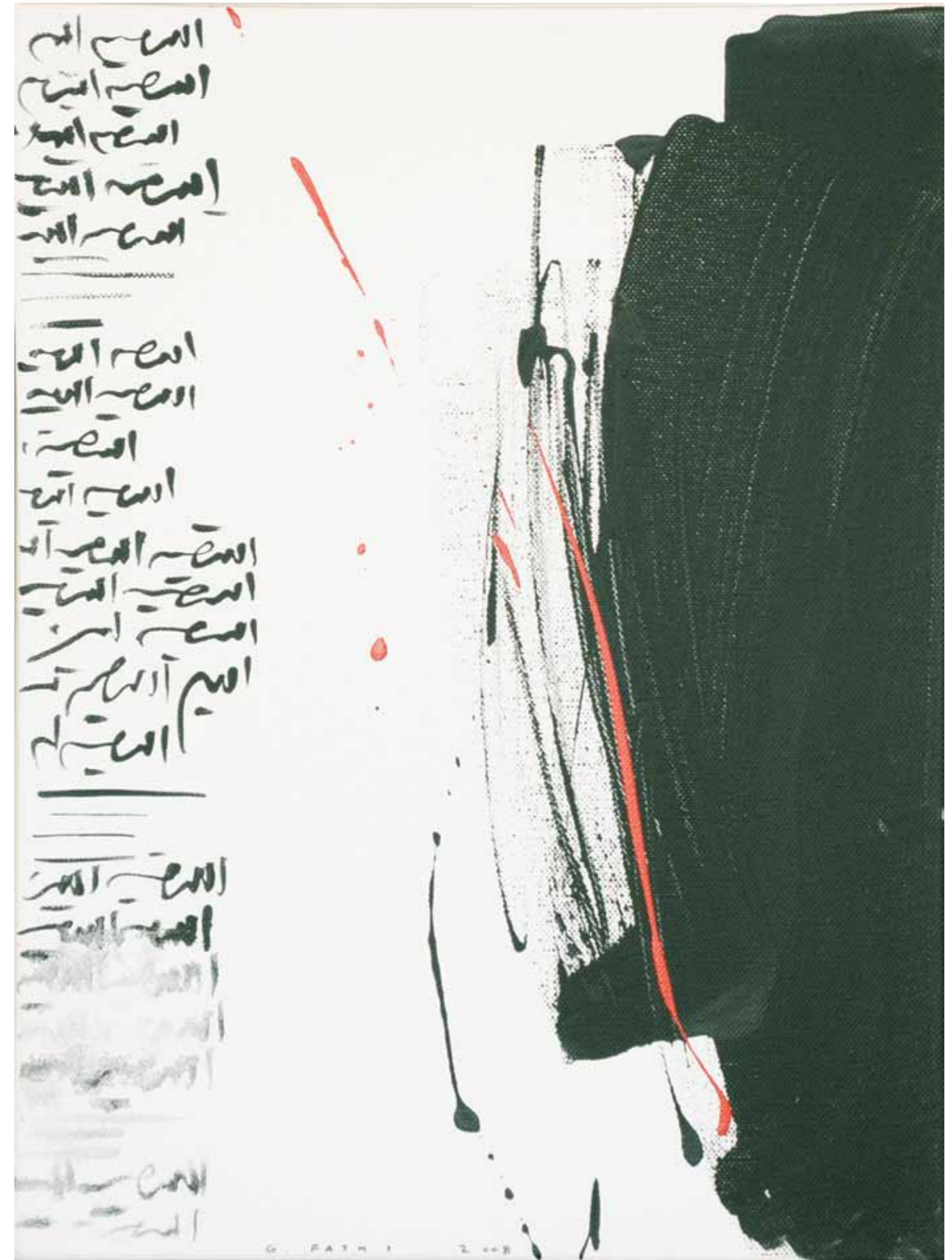
Born 1972 -

Lot 074

'Untitled 1' Signed, Dated
40 X 30 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 4,500)

Golnaz Fathi was born in 1972, Tehran where she now lives and works. As a trained calligrapher, Fathi has the ability to skillfully transform known language into form and composition. Having discovered calligraphy while studying graphic design at Tehran's Azad University, she later enrolled at the Calligraphy Association of Iran for six years. As a result, Fathi was the first woman to win an award for 'Ketabat', a distinct genre of calligraphy. She soon tired of the discipline's rules and regulations and thus created a new form of expression in her paintings: an imaginary language deeply rooted in Persian tradition while simultaneously hinting at a social renaissance.

Her paintings carry traces of meaning that have no known coded alphabet. The strength of her work stems from the drive to express emotions that cannot be pinned down into words; Fathi's works succeeds where language fails. She has exhibited in a number of international shows, including at The Art of Writing, Art Forum of Wiesbaden, Germany (2011); Transvanguard, Contemporary Art from Around the World, October Gallery, London, UK (2011); Ride Like the Wind, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait (2010) and participated in the International Woman Artists' Biennial, South Korea (2009). Fathi received the Young Global Leader 2011 Award and currently lives and works in Tehran, Iran.





Nadim
KARAM

Born 1957 -

Lot 075

Signed, Dated
50 X 50 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2006
Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)





Oussama DIAB

Born 1977

Lot 076

**'Apple and Screw' Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011
Estimate (US\$ 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 Fines Arts in 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 (including first prize) from the distinguished Young Artists exhibition in Syria. Since his debut show with Ayyam Gallery Damascus in 2009, his work has continued to wow critics., while several successful sales via Ayyam Auctions, has garnered 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.





Amir H. FALLAH

Born 1977 -

Lot 077

'She liked it but I was hoping for more' Signed, Dated
119 X 91 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2007
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

Amir H. Fallah lives and works in Los Angeles. He founded 'Beautiful/Decay', a definitive art and design publication showcasing emerging and established contemporary artists, when he was sixteen years old and has seen it go from a black and white zine to an internationally distributed colourful publication.

From framed miniatures on paper, to large-scale canvases, murals and life size hand-constructed forts, Fallah's works lie between the amorphous painterly blobs of a Philip Guston and the flashy candy coated gloss of computer-generated illustrations. His paintings have delved deeper into a history of landscape painting with and inspired by a Californian twist. Rainbow colored retro borders frame Grand Canyon-esque sceneries peppered with collaged Arnold Schwarzeneggers and minutely painted forts capture these surreal concoctions of dream-like worlds as references through the artist's memories of boyhood.

Fallah received his B.F.A. from The Maryland Institute College of Art and his M.F.A from UCLA in 2005. His work has recently been featured in Show Off, Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE (2011) The State: Uppers & Downers, Works from The Farook Collection, Traffic, Dubai, UAE (2011) and About Paint, Carl Berg Projects, CA, USA (2011). Other exhibitions include shows at Cherry And Martin, 31 Grand, Overtones, The Third Line, Weatherspoon Art Museum, The Sharjah Biennial, Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Mary Goldman Gallery, Rhys gallery, and at LA Louver Gallery.





Rafik MAJZOUB

Born 1971 -

Lot 078

**'Broken down-Super Star' Signed, Dated
100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2010
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)**

Rafik Majzoub was born in 1971 in Beirut, Lebanon, where he now works and resides. A self – taught Lebanese Jordanian artist, Majzoub is considered today as one of Beirut's most atypical figures in the contemporary art scene; a painter and a graphic artist whose fame has largely gone beyond his city of adoption. His paintings are known to be raw, sarcastic and tense. They mainly display angular, tortured faces as if they were visual translations of Tom Waits songs.

Majzoub managed to carve a special niche in the Lebanese art scene. His painting technique is often focused on a personage in a perpetual quest of himself. Each trait, each tonality, each drawing and each brushstroke leaves its impact on the impression of a work in progress, leaving it nonetheless open, unfinished and unaccomplished, echoing the essential incapacity of the human being to accomplish in a world of imperfection, fracture and fragmentation. The dexterity of Rafic responds through tension, impatience, velocity and a negligence of the exact and calculated detail in favor of the expressive and the improvised.

Rafik worked as an illustrator for "Al Nahar Newspaper" until 1998. In the same year, the artist attained a three-month presidency at "The Lagos Cultural Center" for getting UNESCO's Artist Grant. Later in 2001, the artist won First Prize for "Post Cards of Lebanon".





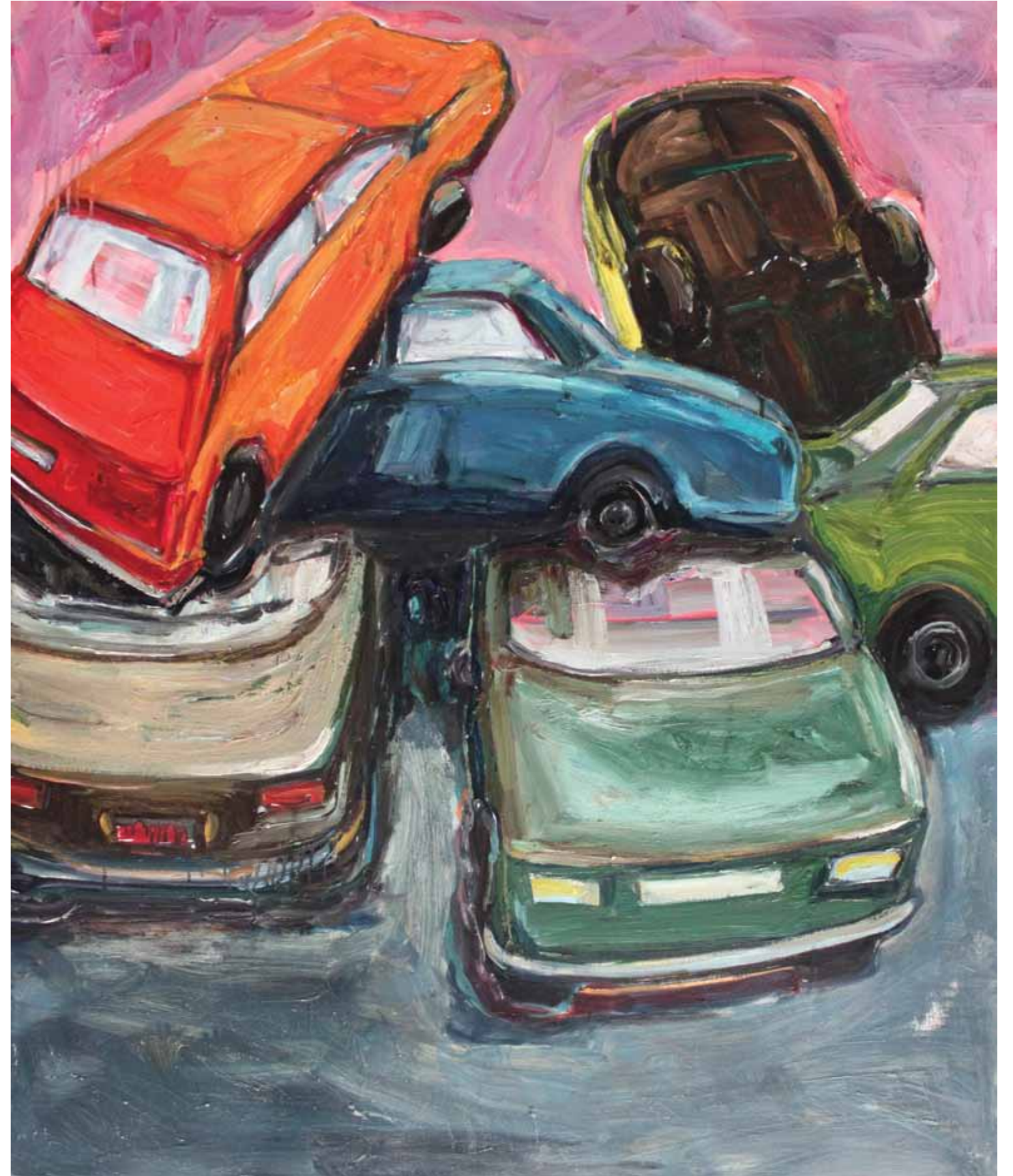
Salah SAOULI

Born 1962 -

Lot 079

Signed, Dated
120 X 100 cm. Oil on Canvas 2010
Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 6,000)

Born in Beirut in 1962, the Germany-based artist Salah Saouli has exhibited since 1991 in individual and group exhibitions in Europe and Asia. Trained in painting at the Institute des Beaux Arts, Lebanese University, Beirut, studied painting and sculpture at the Hochschule der Künste (University of Arts) Berlin, and printmaking at the Chelsea School of Art, London. He is the recipient of several awards and residencies, including the 1997 Honor Award of the Third Sharjah Biennale, UAE a 2004 Artist residency at the Nagoya University of Arts, Japan and the 2006 1st award of "Blickachse 2006", Worms, Germany. Saouli now works and resides in Berlin.





Sabhan ADAM

Born 1972 -

Lot 080

Signed, Dated
145 X 150 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2007
Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 7,000)

Born in Al-Hassaka, Syria in 1972, self-taught artist painter Sabhan Adam has developed a highly recognizable style of figurative painting that captures the darker side of man. And yet despite the heavy content of his canvases, his work remains widely popular. As such 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 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, perhaps this form of representation is really just a simple 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.





Yaser
SAFI

Born 1976 -

Lot 081

Signed, Dated
120 X 120 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2007
Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)





Hani RASHED

Born 1975 -

Lot 082

Signed, Dated
120 X 150 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008
Estimate (US\$ 3,500 - 4,500)

Born in 1975, as a life-long resident of Cairo Hani Rashed has often turned to the city's vibrant youth culture for inspiration. Training at the atelier of contemporary Egyptian pioneer Mohamed Abla between 1994 and 2004, he later quit his job as a soundman for Egyptian television in order to devote his time entirely to developing his distinct brand of painting. A two-time winner of Egypt's annual Youth Salon, he is currently at the forefront of a young generation of artists that is transforming local artistic practices. Often mixing the comical with the ironic, Rashed's vibrant collage paintings deconstruct everyday scenes, observing both the private and public realms of interior and exterior spaces (and lives). Extracting the identity of his figures so that they remain as ghostly silhouettes of their former selves, he places a heavy emphasis on their environment and the ways in which the human subject is placed (and then erased) amidst scenes from popular culture.

This highly-recognized style has gained attention from local and international curators and has resulted in the featuring of his work in commercial art throughout the region and in Europe and Africa, most notably at Cairo's Mashrabiya gallery, Beirut's Agial gallery and Dubai's B2I gallery, in addition to prominent international events such as Frieze Art Fair in London.



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. Prospective bidders should also consult www.ayyamgallery.com for the most up to date cataloging of the property in this catalog.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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Auction No. 12

The Young Collectors Auction

Art from the Middle East

Viewing: January 9 - 16, 2012, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Auction: Tuesday, January 17, 2012

7:00 PM

**Head of Session & Auctioneer
Hisham Samawi**



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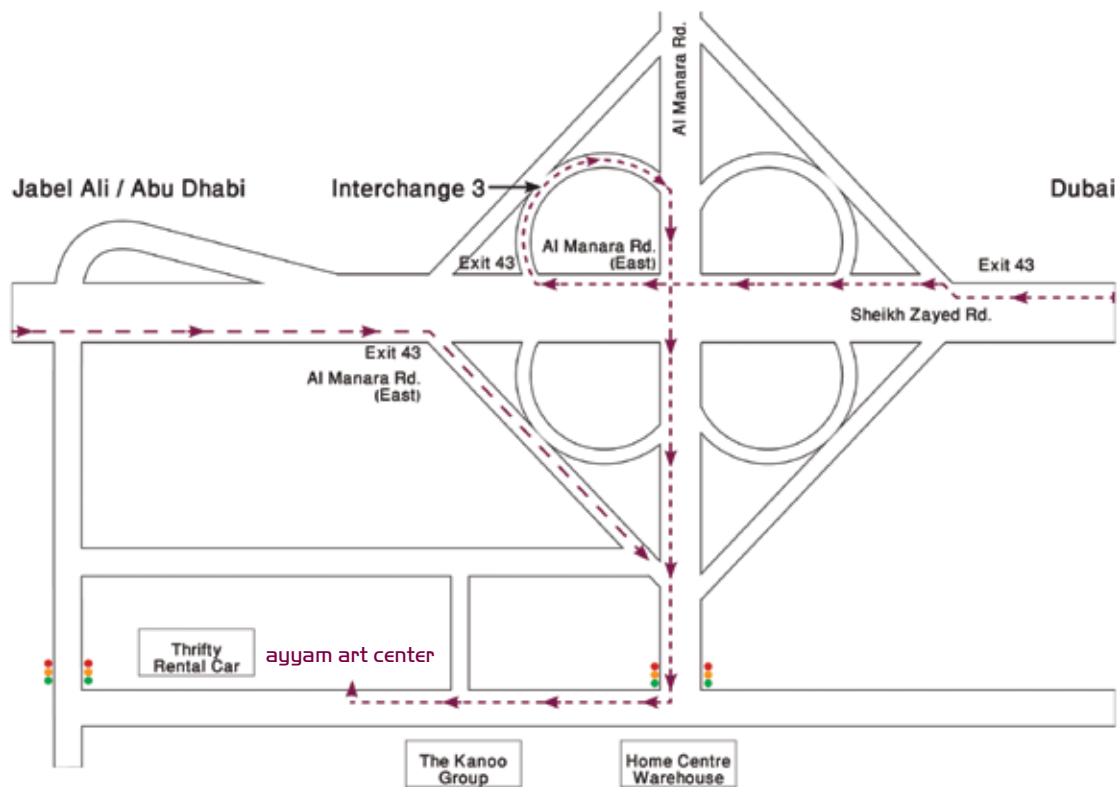
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