Young Collectors Auction

Contemporary Art from the Middle East

ayyam gallery | dubai April 30th, 20<u>10</u>





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Viewing: April 28 - 29 / 2010 IO AM to 8 PM Auction No. 04 Friday, Aril 30th, 2010 18:00 hrs.

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ayyam gallery | dubai



Dear friends,

this year.

works they are producing.

are present in force.

also present.

We thank you for your continued support of Middle Eastern art.

Since our last Young Collectors Auction in October of last year, Ayyam Gallery opened a new space in Beirut dedicated to Middle Eastern Art and held its first ever Beirut Sale, a very successful auction that was held earlier

Our dedication to contemporary and emerging artists from the Middle East is fueled by the amazing talent that these artists possess and the great

In this sale we have put together a selection of works that would befit the most important of Middle Eastern contemporary art collections. Works by some of the most important emerging artists from Syria, Iran, and Lebanon

While our concentration is on emerging artists, some of our favorite blue chip names such as Samia Halaby, Youssef Abdelke, and Asaad Arabi are

> Khaled Samawi Founder Ayyam Gallery



Omran YOUNES Syria 1971

Lot 001

Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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 Common Wealth 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.





Nihad AL-TURK Syria

Lot 002

«Vase on the Table» Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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 Dubai, Beirut's UNESCO palace, and Mark Hachem gallery 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 al-Turk's work an image of a vase takes on inferences that point to a deformed character, as its distorted form seems to teeter on the edge of a surface. Floral arrangements appear weathered as they are depicted under the darkness of a heavy shadow, while human figures are rendered as alien beings and animals are mutated nearly beyond recognition. The only items that retain their original form are bowls of fruit, perhaps suggesting the sustenance of life. Biblical references are abound, not only with a large painting that seems to depict the ubiquitous "last supper," a subject matter that also points to a larger tradition in art, but also with the reappearance of things in increments of seven. 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.





Sabhan ADAM Syria 1973

Lot 003

Signed, Dated 143 X 93 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2007 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Sabhan Adam is one of the most well known and sought after artists in the Arab World. His belief that every household in the world should have a painting of his drives him to produce as many paintings and works as humanly possible. This strategy has helped him produce numerous solo shows in the all corners of the world along with numerous large publications on his work. He is represented and showcased in many galleries across the Middle East and Europe.





Oussama BAALBAKI Lebanon 1978

Lot 004

Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Oussama Baalbaki was born in Lebanon in 1978. He graduated with honor degree from the Lebanese University, School of Fine Arts in 2002.

He participated in several collective exhibitions such as "Art Studio" under the supervision of the artist Nasser El-Soumi at Goethe Institute in Beirut 1999, and the Lebanese Plastic Arts Exhibition in Algeria 2007. His works were exhibited at "Autumn Salon" Sursock Museum in Beirut from the year 2003 till 2008.

He's got three selected solo exhibitions; "Paintings in Black" at Dar Al-Nadwa in Beirut 2004, "Scenes of Isolation" at Safana Gallery, Beirut 2007 and "Less Smoke and More..." at Agial Art Gallery in Beirut 2009.

Oussama Baalbaki represented Lebanon in the painting discipline at the last international "Jeux de la Francophonie" in October 2009, and won the silver medal.





Kais SALMAN Syria 1976

Lot 005

Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Tartous, Syria in 1976, Kais Salman has proven to be an exciting new talent, with the contemporary Arab art world continuing to take notice of his large expressionist works. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus in 2002, he is a prominent member of a young generation of Syrian artists that is currently transforming regional painting. With experiments in depicting the human form, an interest that took hold during his student days, and daring explorations into various mediums and techniques, he has remained at the cutting-edge of art.

Featured in countless 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 high profile shows. Recently he has become essential to Ayyam's lineup participating in such standout events as its "Summer Festival," "Shabab Uprising," "Young Collectors Auction (I and II)" and "Damascus Calling," an exhibition held at Marc Hachem Gallery in New York City in 2008. A favorite among collectors, his work is housed throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

His 2010 solo exhibition with Ayyam marks an important highlight of the artist's career, confirming his rapid emergence as one of Syria's most revered contemporary painters with his critically acclaimed body of work the "Fashion Series." This new collection of mixed media paintings combines striking (if not controversial) content with an assured and unrestrained approach to painting, demonstrating the ways in which Salman is currently redefining Arab visual culture.





Tagreed DARGHOUTH Lebanon 1979

Lot 006

Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Tagreed Barghout was born in Lebanon in 1979.

After her exhibition "Mirror, mirror!" in 2008 that put under the spot the plastic surgery phenomena in Lebanon, Tagreed's new work portrays a series on female domestic helpers that tackles the issue of foreign workers and their relationship to the society at large. This current work is from the "Mirror, mirror!" series.





Shahriar AHMADI Iran 1979

Lot 007

Signed, Dated 150 X 140 cm. Acrylic and Pencil on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 7,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Although the artist is young he is not a 'discovery' as such.

His talent brought him to exhibit for around 50 solo and group exhibitions in Iran, USA, London and China and got him not less than 6 awards.

Though Shahriar Ahmedi's palette is radiant, multicolour, and applied on monochromes backgrounds; he explores emotional and psychological areas inspired by the poems of the thirteenth century great mystic poet, Rumi.

The title "Rumi in my Chalice" refers to Rumi's love and philosophical poems and the Chalice refers to the painter's canvas. Suggesting both anxiety and playful abandon, the huge paintings are restless exploration of abstract pictorial possibilities.

The relationship between the lines, scripts and shapes are almost always in equilibrium so that the scripts reinforce a sense of dialogue with the poems of Rumi, the turbulent colour blocks seem to express the young painter's questioning and the lines and general compositions challenge at abstraction imagery in Iran today.

The fifteen paintings in the exhibition are executed with consummate assurance and a fluid hand. A virtuoso, Shahriar Ahmedi has developed a characteristic harmony of shape and dazzling intensities of colour. The sense of energy they project is already gaining popularity in Tehran and amongst prestigious supporters of the arts.

Born in 1979 in Iran, Ahmedi belongs to this young generation of painters announcing new variations on continuing themes, revisiting his country's great cultural past, the confrontation with contemporary Iran and the seek to find his true self. A common trait to many great artists!

Like Rumi's poems, Ahmedi's paintings reveal more layers of colours, angles and meaning every time we reread or relook at them.





Hani RASHED Egypt 1975

Lot 008

Signed, Dated H84 X W100 X D2 cm. Acrylic on Wooden Board 2008 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Hani Rashed was born in Cairo in 1975. Trained at fellow Egyptian artist Mohamed Abla's atelier for a decade before venturing off on his own creative path in 2004. Rashed has devoted himself to his art since then and recently quit his day job as a soundman for Egyptian Television, which helps to explain his particular style. The drawings and their distribution are illustrated in an almost televised manner; the often comical characters are pointedly cinematic. Two times awarded first prize for painting and drawing at the Salon of Youth in Cairo, he was also selected at the biennales of Dakar, Senegal and Cape Town, South Africa.

Rashed has had several solo exhibitions in Cairo at the Mashrabia Gallery.

His work has also been shown internationally, most recently at the Regents Park, Frieze Art Fair in London as well as in Greece, France and Spain.





Nour EL KHAZEN Lebanon 1980

Lot 009

Signed, Dated, Numerated 137 X 112. cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (2/3) 2007 Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 6,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Audio visual in Beirut, graphic design in Los Angeles, painting in New York, fashion communication in Milan, and photography in Montreal. From capturing reality, or interpreting moments of life, to creating imaginary scenarios, sets, concepts and scenes Nour is a very well rounded visual artist.

'I've always been sensitive to black and white pictures because they communicate emotions in a very authentic way.'

This photograph was El Khazen's thesis at I E D in Milan. It is about Lee Miller, a fashion photographer and a photojournalist who was the mistress of Man Ray, a pioneer of surrealistic art.

The photo summarizes Miller throughout her life and all her experiences. It represents the innovation of Man Ray through the posture of a woman, the fashion side of Miller through the outfit, and the wars Miller witnessed through her life as a very courageous and talented photo journalist. The grenade symbolizes the death of Miller who ended up alcoholic drowning herself into misery.





Ammar AL-BEIK Syria

Lot 010

«The Strong Believers» Signed, Dated, Numerated 110 X 140 cm. C-Print Plexi Frame (7/7) 2008 Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 8,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Damascus, Syria in 1972, Ammar Al Beik's artistic career stems from unconventional roots. Although graduating from the University of Damascus with a degree in business administration, his love for photography intensified while working at a camera repair shop for ten years. It is there that he received his formal training in the medium, exploring various methods and approaches while becoming an expert in photographic equipment. He has been exhibiting 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 global and has been honored with a number of awards. Having participated in screenings worldwide since 1999, his films have been featured in such prestigious events as the Venice and San Paulo International Film Festivals. His invitation to the 63rd Annual Venice Film Festival 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 great success 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 been impressing viewers and critics alike through such notable exhibitions as "Shabab Uprising," "Black vs. Color" and the "SCOPE Art Fair (Basel)".

As a result of his great 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.







Hassan HAJAJ Morocco

Lot 011

«Malicious Look» Signed, Dated, Numerated 86 X 61 cm. C-Print in the artist's wooden frame (3-10) 2000 Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 8,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Designer, photographer and Pop Artist, Hassan Hajjaj was born in 1961 in Morocco. Deriving his inspiration from the every day in Marrakech, he works capture people smoking in local cafes, young boys in action in the streets and items found in Moroccan markets redefining imagery that pervaded his childhood. He employs new technology and the vernacular of every day from match boxes, recycled bicycle tires, paint cans to Coca-Cola ads and creatively shapes these pieces into a picture frame surrounding the photograph inside. Hassan Hajjaj works symbolize a meeting of old and new, traditional and modern, and for much of his work, this influence comes direct from fashion photography. Hajjaj describes his work as a celebration of the culture that he is engrossed in each day. His solo exhibitions include one at the British Museum, 2005, and "Graffix from the Souk", exhibited in various locations in Morocco, France and the UK 2000 – 2003.





Shadi GHADIRIAN Iran 1974

Lot 012

«Be Colourful 01» Signed, Dated, Numerated 90 X 60 cm. C-Print (8-10) 2002 Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 7,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Shadi 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.

Like Everyday is a series of photographs depicting anonymous chador-wrapped figures with kitchen utensils instead of faces. This simple, ominous collision of potent symbols – the veil and domesticity –parodies stereotypical understanding of women of the region and universally. Qajar is a recreation of the photographic compositions and styles of the studio portraits that flourished in the Qajar dynasty, who ruled Iran from I794-I925. With fierce monobrows and period dress, Ghadirian's models mimic the photography of that time against a painted background. But clear intrusions of modernity surface in the work, in the form of ghetto blasters and television sets. She lives and works in Tehran.







Alireza MASSOUMI Iran 1978

Lot 013

«Moteza - Alis Cat» Signed, Dated 150 X 200 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Alireza Massoumi was born in Cardiff, UK in 1978. He now lives and works between London and Tehran.

He participated in several collective exhibitions such as at Elahe Gallery in Tehran 1999, Golestan Gallery in Tehran 2002 and 'The 6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennial' at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran 2003.

In 2006 Alireza participated in 'Whished and Dreams' exhibition at the Meridian International Center in Washington DC, USA, 'Collected Memories' at Art Space Gallery in London, UK 2007 and at Mall Gallery in London 2008.

He's got several solo exhibitions as well such as in 2001 at Elahe Gallery, Tehran, in 2003 at Golestan Gallery, Tehran, at B2I Gallery in Dubai in 2005 and an exhibition entitled 'Postcards from Utopia' at Carbonl2 Dubai in 2009.





Mohannad ORABI Syria

Lot 014

«Self Portrait» Signed, Dated 150 X 120 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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 a dynamic generation of talented Syrian artists, he has exhibited frequently at home and abroad 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) and Art Hong Kong. Recently his canvases were highlighted in solo exhibitions at Ayyam Damascus and Dubai and were part of the gallery's popular exhibition "Shabab Uprising," which offered a groundbreaking showcase of Syria's new wave of contemporary painting. The artist's work is housed in private collections across the globe.

The emerging artist is as much an individual as he is a continuation of international artistic 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 on robust male and female figures. Orabi's compositions present his subjects in different scenarios, each one presenting variations on human emotions and interactions. Whether adorned in traditional Surian 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.





Oussama DIAB Palestine 1977

Lot 015

«Ahmad and Words» Signed, Dated 150 X 170 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Palestinian artist, born in 1977, Oussama Diab is one of the Middle East's most dynamic new talents. Since graduating from the Faculty of Fine 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. His debut show with Ayyam Gallery Damascus in 2009 marked the beginning of an exciting new partnership and was well-received within the local art scene. With successful sales at the gallery's Young Collectors auction, he has quickly 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 in part by American painter Jean-Michel Basquiat, Diab's work presents an exciting new take on graffiti-inspired Neo-Expressionism. Updating this painting style while injecting it with his own references, he presents a fresh look at the world. His markings appear quick and spontaneous with an overwhelming urgency, while his subjects exist in a nondescript setting, a technique that creates a sense of universality.

At once pop-infused and marked with a childlike innocence, his canvases are also discernible by their serious subject matter, a juxtaposition that reflects the striking duality of his work. Diab belongs to a contemporary movement of Arab painting that is characterized by its great experimentation and range.





Farzan SADJADI Iran 1977

Lot 016

«Shady Fields» Signed, Dated 150 X 270 cm. Household Paint on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Farzan Sadjadi was born in Tehran, Iran in 1977. He graduated from the University of Arts in Tehran with a BA of painting in 2005.

Shady Fields is on the cover of Sadjadi's catalog for his solo show "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" at Carbon I2.

Sadjadi's time at the military has had a distinct influence on the theme of his art. While he describes his military service as absurd, this period had a significant impact on his life, and is a major source of inspiration. During that period he continually found himself torn between performing his duty as a soldier while being true to his values as a human being. Farzan Sadjadi delivers his powerful compositions to remind us of the paradoxical world we live in. The subjects contemporary, the works provocative, the brush stokes mature.

Sadjadi takes us to desolate and cold landscapes. The theme illustrates the existence of mankind without his presence. A subtle yet powerful reminder that being alive is a far cry from living. While tearing down the notion that the world is pure, the canvas provide evidence that the disenfranchised are among us, whether they are behind prison wall, or fighting for existence on the cruel, wintery streets.

Through his vision, we find ourselves transported to an unpleasant winter day, where the snow has already lost its immaculate purity, in a world where beauty and violence continually coexist.





Walid EL-MASRI Lebanon 1979

Lot 017

«Chairs» Signed, Dated 150 X 120 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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. Considered one of the Arab world's most exciting young talents, he has been given solo shows in Damascus, Dubai and Paris and has been featured in a number of Ayyam's high profile events such as its competition for emerging artists in 2007 and its "Young Collectors" auction in 2009. The recipient of several awards, he has won prizes at various workshops and contests in Syria.

Masri's paintings combine the sublime nature and serene spirit of such mystical sects as the Sufi or Druze while displaying a meticulous approach to rendering subjects. Experiments in palette and composition revolve around a relentless examination of a singular 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 collectors from across the Middle East.





Omran YOUNES Syria 1971

Lot 018

Signed, Dated 180 X 180 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 15,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist





Mohannad ORABI Syria 1977

Lot 019

«Self Portrait» Signed, Dated H95 X W25 X D25 cm. Mixed Media 2010 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist





Abdul-Karim MAJDAL AL-BEIK Syria 1973

Lot 020

'Mourik 2' Signed, Dated 152 X 152 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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. Acknowledged for his accomplished painting style, he has received several awards, including second prize at the Lattakia Biennale and second place in Ayyam's Shabab competition for emerging artists. Audiences have been further exposed to his dramatic canvases with a solo exhibition at Ayyam Damascus and in critically acclaimed shows, most notably the gallery's "Buried in Tradition/My World/ Walls Speak." His works are housed in public and private collections in the Middle East and Europe and have been featured in such noteworthy events as Art Palm Beach and 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 current 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, creating a startling effect that speaks of a weighty exploration into the bearing of witness and the uncarthing of memories.





Pierre KOUKJIAN Lebanon 1962

Lot 021

«Impressive People 10» Signed, Dated 120 X 120 cm. Oil on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 15,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

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

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





Mouteea MURAD Syria

Lot 022

«City of Butterflies 1» Signed, Dated 100 X 120 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 6,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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 where he was initially interested in drawing, 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 and the influence of Palestinian painter Samia Halaby can be found in many of his works. 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 and China.

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.





Khaled TAKRETI Syria

Lot 023

«Le Foulard Rouge» Signed, Dated, Numerated 110 X 110 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (1/7) 2010 Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 4,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Beirut in 1964, Surian artist Khaled Takreti studied architecture and design in Damascus and worked for the General Directorate of Antiquity and Museums in Syria prior to earning a reputation as one of the Middle East's most exciting contemporary painters. 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, Art Hong Kong and Art Palm Beach. His works are housed in such prominent Middle Eastern institutions as the Syrian National Museum and Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts. A standout artist whose acrylic canvases hint at an array of creative influences, he has developed a style of painting that incorporates original subject matter with a refined sense of design, a daring use of color and a vivid imagination. His large scale compositions often revolve around portraits of women-a subject matter that the artist feels brings a sense of stability and strength while generating tranguility 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 fields, 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 reminiscent of David Hockney's pools and were rendered with a palette similar to that found in the work of Alex Katz. His more recent canvases have become increasingly campy and outlandish, with a refreshing sense of freedom that is rare among painters today.





Khaled TAKRETI Syria 1964

Lot 024

«Le Bijou» Signed, Dated, Numerated 110 X 110 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (1/7) 2010 Estimate (US\$ 2,500 - 4,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist





Safuan DAHOUL Syria

Lot 025

«Rêve» Signed, Dated, Numerated 112 X 156 cm. Archival Print on Cotton Paper (4/7) 2009 Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 8,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Hama, Syria in 1961, Safuan Dahoul has recently become one of the Arab world's most prominent painters. Among the highest grossing Middle Eastern artists to date, his outstanding auction sales and blockbuster shows with Ayyam Gallery have made him widely popular with regional and international collectors alike. That he has perfected a unique approach to painting, one incorporating a variety of influences, speaks volumes about his success, as he impacts the local art scene and leads a new generation of contemporary Syrian art.

After graduating from the Faculty of Fine 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 solo and group exhibitions throughout the Middle East, Europe and the US.

As such, Dahoul's art is undeterred by national borders. His style of painting has been inspired by a vast range of art history, including ancient Assyrian and Pharaonic art and European masters such as Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Bruegal 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 the formation of his aesthetic through the detailed exploration of a haunting female subject and the continuous awakening of the subconscious.





Hazem MAHDY Egypt 1986



Lot 026

«I Will Be Yours Forever - Ana Lak Alatool» Signed, Dated, Numerated 70 X 210 cm. Triptech Lambda Print Mounted on Aluminum (5/5) 2009 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 4,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Hazem Mahdi, born in the cultural city of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates - 1986, is an Egyptian artist. It was in Sharjah where he attended, studied and moved from many schools to stay with his brother Khaled. After spending a few summers with his aunt who taught art in kindergarten school in Cairo, he was strongly influenced to carry on what she taught him. He always carried a sketch book with him that he filled up by drawing his favorite cartoon characters and scenes he has visited in Egypt.

He joined the American University in Dubai (AUD), where he had in mind to study Graphic Design since it was the closest thing he found related to art to study. In the summer of 2006, Hazem took a digital photography course where it opened his mind up to another light in art, it was at a time where his photographs were greatly appreciated by many and made him feel like he should make another drastic change in his life. A few months after he changed his major from Graphic Design to Fine Art Photography; he was assured he did the right thing when he got so many good responses on a work of art he submitted to an exhibition promoting young artists. His chances on getting accepted in that exhibition were very slim, since his art work was purely political and Anti-American, a very sensitive subject that can hardly be discussed in the Middle East without getting in trouble. The artist now challenges to create thought-provoking images, regarding various aspects in life that he wants to talk about in a non-sensational and non-literal manner.



Arwa ABOUON Libya 1982

Lot 027

«Route 6 (Round About We Go)» Signed, Dated, Numerated 59.5 X 59.5 cm. Digital Print (3/3) 2009 Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Arwa Abouon's Routes (Round About We Go) series is comprised of six digital collages that draw parallels between image of the vehicle as the modern equivalent of the human figure, and images of prayer. The works features cars from an old letracet Abouon found in a street market in Libya and human figures that are combinations of illustrations and tracings from photographs. As with much of Arwa Abouon's work, the series contains a humorous, somewhat ironic tone, and yet has a serious side as well, reflecting modernized images of prayer. Employing simple shapes and everyday iconography, the works comment upon how prayer and spiritual intention can be seen in the everyday moments, even those that are often taken for granted. Featured in here are Route 5 – which evokes the forms of people lining up for prayer, with a field of cars parked in rows and a car in front echoing the Iman leading prayer – and Route 6 – which references figures circling the Kaaba. Through her playful photographs and graphic interventions, Abouon questions her own place within a so-called Western culture on the one hand and her upbringing in a Muslim household on the other (she was born in Tripoli, Lybia 1982 of Libyan and Tunisian parents, and currently lives in Canada). Balancing playful humor, irreverent re-appropriation and respectful homage, Abouon's work is always visually impactful and intricate in the subtleties within its voices. After earning a BFA in Design Art and Photography at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, Abouon has been featured in several group exhibitions in the North America and the Middle East. Abouon participated in the 2009 Bamako Biennal.





Arwa ABOUON Libya 1982

Lot 028

«Route 5 (Round About We Go)» Signed, Dated, Numerated 59.5 X 59.5 cm. Digital Print (3/3) 2009 Estimate (US\$ 2,000 - 3,000)

Provenance - Private Collection





Nassouh ZAGHLOULEH Syria 1958

Lot 029

«Striptease Series» 110 X 110 cm. C-Print Plexi Frame (1/7) 2008 Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 8,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Ever since Zaghlouleh was a child, he has always been mesmerized by the tricks that the light played on objects, creating shadows and strange shapes. His mother and aunt would drag him to the Hamidiya Bazaar in Syria, where Zaghlouleh would spend most of his time watching the dust fall, creating arches as they hit the roof of the bazaar.

Zaghlouleh's work is inspired by the extermination of light projecting from the sun. Over the years, he has studied light falling from luminous color sources that remind him of the pale light of a lamppost in the alleys of Damascus as it spreads in the soul.

Born in Damascus in 1958. His passion for photography led him to long years of study, first in Damascus then in Paris; where he specialized in photography and visual communication from the "Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs" in 1987 and then a master's degree in plastic arts from University VIII of Paris in 1990.

Zaghlouleh has 30 years of professional photography experience in France behind him and more than 20 documentary films and 80,000 photos documented and attributed to him.





Golnaz **FATHI** Iran 1972

Lot 030

Signed, Dated Diptych 2 X H27.3 X W35.3 X D4.5 cm. Print and Lightbox (1/4) 2010 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

The accomplished painter's hallmark style features calligraphic forms that have been absented from meaning, entitling much of her work as "unwritten". As her letter forms are vacated from a strict literal meaning, they are charged with an emotive potential, drawing as much from the language of painterly gestures as from the actual script. While best known for stunning large-scale paintings on canvas, by adapting her practice to a lightbox Fathi is able to further distill script to its essence, with tight white lines in sharp contrast to a black surface. Her first use of the medium developed from a series of paintings in which she used repetitive marks to turn entire surfaces black, referencing the traditional calligraphic practice of Siah Mashgh ("Black Practice").

Classically trained at the Calligraphy Association of Iran, Fathi was the first woman to win an award for Ketabat (a genre of calligraphy). She has exhibited in a number of international shows, including in New York, Geneva, London, Dubai and Doha. Fathi participated in the 2009 International Woman Artists' Biennial, South Korea and in the 2010 International Calligraphy Biennial of Sharjah, UAE. Fathi currently lives and works in Iran.







Nadim KARAM Lebanon 1957

Lot 031

«Elephant» Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 7,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

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

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). Highly sought after by collectors, his work is housed in corporations and cultural foundations in the Arab world, Europe and Asia. A respected innovator, he has been commissioned to produce urban art across the globe, in such places as the UAE, the Czech Republic, Australia and Japan. The former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design at Lebanon's Notre Dame University, his influence has also been felt on an academic level.

In 1996, he established Atelier Hapsitus, a studio that he defines as "the satellite grouping of young architects and designers around happenings and situations." Atelier Hapsitus has become a vehicle for Karam's unique oeuvre, boasting a number of works and projects that blend architecture, design and art and defy conventional modes of creativity and thought.

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

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





Amir H. FALLAH Iran 1977

Lot 032

«Master My Universe (Pump You Up)» Signed, Dated 213 X 152 cm. Acrylic, Ink, Watercolor, Pencil, on Paper Mounted to Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 15,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

In Fallah's collaged painting Master My Universe (Pump You Up), 2008 he explores the intersection of boyhood memory, masculine ideals, the intensity of relationships, and the thin line between the real and the imagined. A jumble of body builders, prickly cacti (symbolic replacements for people), souvenirs, knick-knacks, figures and trinkets rest on precariously constructed towers of found objects. Set within a dreamlike gradient-laden void, the painting's acid sunset (or sunrise) defies specificity, at once prehistoric, unearthly, and futuristic. The work combines both photographic and painted imagery, blurring boundaries between authenticity and artifice, original and copy. Fallah's distinctive sense of humor shines through the piece, reflecting a sense of reverie and ironic celebration at life's occasionally irrational and erratic nature. His work is a playfully constructed metaphor for the ways in which we precariously assemble meaning and memory, monument and truth—which, like his forts, are always teetering on the verge of glory, or collapse.

Throughout his artistic practice – which includes painting, drawing, photography and large scale installations - Fallah evokes a fresh, brightly colored aesthetic that addresses a nexus of idiosyncratic topics. In addition to creating fine art, he is also the publisher of Beautiful/Decay, an internationally distributed contemporary arts magazine and Creative Director of Something in The Universe, a design agency/creative think tank. Fallah received his B.F.A. from The Maryland Institute College of Art and his M.F.A from UCLA in 2005. Exhibitions include shows in the United States at 4-F, M.Y. Art Prospects, Laband Gallery, cherrydelosreyes, Overtones, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Mary Goldman, Rhys gallery and LA Louver; and internationally at The Third Line and The Sharjah Biennial. Fallah lives and works in California, USA.




Omid MASSOUMI Iran 1984

Lot 033

«The Wet Circle» Signed, Dated 150 X 200 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 6,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Omid Massoumi was born in Tehran in 1984 and graduated with a BA in Graphic Design from Tehran's Art University. Massoumi has exhibited extensively including group exhibitions in Basel in 2008, Kuwait in 2008 and London in 2008 and 2007.

Massoumi's works use satire to show us the inner turmoil facing today's new generation. He paints generation X, a generation that is neither obsessed nor concerned with changing their world or the course of their history. He paints a generation that seem to submissively deal with existential dualities brought about by their lives: love and anger, attraction and repulsion, stillness and movement and pleasure and pain. Massoumi's use of visual elements paired with his combination of positive versus negative spaces has resulted in the expressive depiction of the subjective world of his generation.





Thaier HELAL Syria 1967

Lot 034

Signed, Dated 121 X 121 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Syria in 1967, distinguished artist Thaier Helal has become 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 prominent exhibitions and events throughout the region, including the Sharjah, Alexandria and Tehran Biennials and Christie's and Bonhams auctions.

A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, Helal has emerged as a well-known figure of contemporary Syrian art with a unique approach to painting that remains at the cutting-edge of Arab visual culture. This has been confirmed by the countless honors 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 I5th 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 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 and to trigger 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.





Asma FAYOUMI Syria 1943

Lot 035

Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Oil & Acrylic on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 5,000 - 7,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Amman, Jordan in 1943, Asma Fayoumi is one of Syria's leading female artists. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, her formative years as a painter occurred in the 1960s with the emergence of a particular school of abstraction that was lead by the Italian artist and instructor Guido La Regina.

Working alongside her fellow students Assad Arabi, Faek Dahdouh and Sakher Farzat, who later became recognized as seminal artists, her artistic career began at one of the most crucial 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.

Amidst this creative upheaval, Fayoumi's paintings are widely 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.

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. 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, making her a favorite among artists and the public alike.





Ghassan SEBAI Syria 1939

Lot 036

Signed, Dated 120 X 145 cm. Oil on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Born in Homs, Syria, Sibai studied oil painting in the University of Alexandria, Egypt, and continued his specialization in engraving in the School of Fine Arts in Paris. In 1974 he returned back to Damascus and taught engraving in the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus till 2002.

His early works depicted the nature and Al-Assi River of his hometown in Homs. His artistic style was influenced by the metaphysical school and his experiments developed to present an impressionist language with a symbolic aspect.

Sebai's paintings treated political and social issues in a modern approach.

He participated in many exhibitions inside and outside Syria, and his works are preserved in the National Museum of Damascus, Beit Eddin Museum in Lebanon, The Royal Museum in Amman and in many other local and international private collections.





Samia HALABY Palestine 1936

Lot 037

«Gray and Pink» Signed, Dated 121 X 147 cm. Acrylic on Linen Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 12,000 - 15,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

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 of teaching art at universities throughout the US, which culminated in a ten-year 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 foremost institutions as Birzeit University in the West Bank and Darat al Funun in Amman, Jordan.

Since I970, she has held countless solo exhibitions, both in the US and abroad and has been featured in a number of groundbreaking exhibitions of Arab art, such as "Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World" at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. (I994) and "Made in Palestine" at the Station Museum of Art in Houston, Texas (2003). Her large abstract canvases have had successful sales at auctions throughout the Middle East.

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, while her many years of researching and writing led to the publishing of Liberation Art of Palestine (2002), one of the few English-language books on contemporary Palestinian art available today.

Although her exceptional style of painting 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 forty years. As a result, she is recognized as a major contributor to the school of abstraction in Arab art. Halaby's vivid canvases have been praised in a number of leading American publications including The New York Times and Art in America, while her exhibitions in the Arab world have been reviewed by Al Nahar and The Daily Star. In 1983, she created a computer program for kinetic paintings, an aspect of her oeuvre that resulted 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).





Abdullah MURAD Syria 1944

Lot 038

«Abstract» Signed, Dated 100 X 160 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2009 Estimate (US\$ 10,000 - 15,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

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.





Youssef ABDELKE Syria 1951

Lot 039

Signed, Dated 107 X 107 cm. Charcoal on Paper 2000 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Born in Kamishli, Syria in 1951, Youssef Abdelké lives and works in Paris. He moved there shortly after his graduation from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. He got a diploma in etching from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1986 and a PH.D in plastic arts, University VIII of Paris 1989.

He has worked in many different areas of graphic art since 1968, including posters, logos and book covers, authored over 30 children books, and has written several books on the history of caricature in Syria and the Arab world.

His artworks can be found in The National Museum of Kuwait, The British Museum, The National Museum of Damascus and many other museums.

As an engraver, ABDELKÉ is a great observer of living phenomena, and while he is deep, strict and methodical in his approach, there is also a poetic side to his paintings.









Lot 040

«Damascus The Dream» Signed, Dated 95 X 129 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Damascus in 1941, Asaad Arabi is one of Syria's most established artists. Recognized as a leading contemporary Arab painter since the 1980s, his works have been featured in countless venues throughout the region and abroad and are housed in several prestigious collections such as 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 to which he has contributed a variety of canvases and has demonstrated an impressive 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. He has been residing 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 successfully traversed multiple international developments in art.





Fadi YAZIGI Syria 1966

Lot 041

«Mayoush» Signed, Dated H25 X W17 X D10 cm. Bronze Sculpture (7/8) 2007 Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 6,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Born in Lattakia, Syria in 1966, Fadi Yazigi studied sculpture in the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. Since his graduation in 1988, Yazigi has been working with amazing discipline as a full time artist. He enters his studio at 8:00 am and doesn't leave it before 6:00 pm for seven days a week. Yazigi uses different techniques in his works; he paints on canvas or newspapers, makes relief ...etc and he developed a very personal style in each of them. His talent is evidently present in all his works.

As a professional sculptor, Yazigi's bronze sculptures are formed in a very exquisite way that is inspired by the creatures present in his black and white paintings; as if they decided to leave the paintings and have a walk around us.

Yazigi had numerous exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe and the USA, selling to collectors all over the world. His paintings are also sold between London and Dubai, in Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses.





Moustafa ALI Syria 1956

Lot 042

«Between Two Walls» Signed, Dated H90 X W50 X D24 cm. Wood & Bronze Sculpture (1/8) 2008 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Ali was born in Lattakia in 1956. He studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Art in Damascus and graduated in 1979. He continued his studies in the Fine Arts Academy in Carrara in Italy and graduated in 1996.

He has held several individual exhibitions in Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain and France. He has also participated in several collective exhibitions and symposiums including the Emaar International Art Symposium in Dubai in 2007, the International Symposium for Sculptors in Valencia, Spain in 2001, the Biennial of Alexandria, Egypt (1994), Sharjah (1995), Cairo (1996) and the "Europe Art" exhibition in Paris, France and Geneva, Suitzerland (2002). He has been awarded several prizes such as the Bronze prize in Al-Sharja competition in 1992, the Golden prize in the Lattakia competition in 1997, and the 'Emaar' contest prize for sculpting in 2007.

Many of his monumental sculptures are found in open areas, including "The Gate of Syria" in the Mediterranean Olympiad in Pari, Italy, and "The Tower of Memory" in the International Damascus Fairground.

His works can be found in the National Museum in Damascus, the Syrian Parliament, the Ministry of Culture, Al-Sharjah Museum in the UAE, the Modern Art Museum and the Royal Society in Jordan, the Arab World Institute in Paris, France and in many private collections.







Lot 043

Signed, Dated H166 X W69 X D5 cm. Bronze Sculpture (1/5) 2009 Estimate (US\$ 4,000 - 6,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Orouba Dib was born in Damascus, Syria in 1968. Graduated from Adham Ismaeel Institue in Damascus in 1989 and from the Intermediate Institute of Applied Arts in Damascus, sculpting department in 1991.

Dib has participated in several collective exhibitions such as in Ashtar Gallery 2001, at Al-Sayed Gallery in 2003, an exhibition with the artist Hammoud Shantout at Art Form Gallery in Mont Real, Canada 2004, at the Modern Art Museum in Lattakia 2005 and an exhibition with 5 women artists from Syria in Kuwait in 2009.

She also had a solo exhibition at Gallery Choura in Damascus 1998. Her latest solo exhibition was in Kamel Gallery Damascus, 2009.

Dibs' works can be found in the Syrian Ministry of Culture and in many private collections.





Othman MOUSSA Syria 1974

Lot 044

«The First Sin» Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Oil on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 6,000 - 8,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Zabadani, Syria, a rural town on the outskirts of Damascus, in 1974, Othman Moussa has emerged as one of the Middle East's most talented young Hyperrealists despite economic hardship. Although nurturing his love for art with alternative formal training due to the demands of a grueling schedule that included I2 hour days at a family business, Moussa's unwavering resolve and artistic prowess led him to a successful partnership with Ayyam shortly after entering its "Shabab 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 alongside distinguished painter and art critic Assad Arabi in "Visual Dialogue," a two-person exhibit in 2009. The creative exchange that occurred between Moussa and Arabi not only had the local art scene abuzz, it demonstrated the range and mastery of half a century of Syrian art. It is with this impressive start that Moussa is delving into the regional art scene.

An accomplished draftsman, he creates still life compositions in the tradition of I7th century Dutch painting, which used a meticulously executed realism to extract the poetic essence of everyday objects. Although matching their artistic aptitude, Moussa's technique is thoroughly contemporary. 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 quite moments of Syrian society that often are overlooked, the subtle yet profound beauty that exists away from the busy existence of modern day life.





Tammam AZZAM Syria 1980

Lot 045

«Laundry Series» Signed, Dated 180 X 180 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2010 Estimate (US\$ 8,000 - 12,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Born in Damascus in 1980, Tammam Azzam is one of Syria's rising young talents. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts with a concentration in oil painting, he has exhibited with some of the country's leading art spaces, including Atassi gallery and the French Culture Centre. Striving to further his artistic practice, Azzam obtained a Fine Arts Certificate from Darat al Funun's esteemed artist workshop program Al Kharif Academy under Syrian master Marwan Kassab Bashi in 2001. Since being selected for "Shabab Ayyam" project 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. As such, he has established an impressive fan base that includes collectors from all over the world.

Azzam's style of painting is one that 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. Often times a chair or clothes line with actual pins is depicted with quick brushwork so that his compositions are infused with a playful yet enigmatic narrative. Yet in the same regard these inanimate items work to emphasize the vigor of the space around them, as the remainder of the composition is usually rendered with vivacious strokes and bold markings that imply a sense of movement and energy.

As though suspended in time, his subjects compliment the abstract expressionist details that form them. Recalling the blunt lines, spectacular peaks and vivid sensations found in nature, the artist's imposing canvases are partly inspired by the rugged volcanic landscape of his native Suwieda in southern Syria, as though contrasting manmade elements with those that form organically.





Sara SHAMMA Syria 1975

Lot 046

Signed, Dated 150 X 150 cm. Oil on Canvas 2006 Estimate (US\$ 7,000 - 9,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Sara Shamma, the daughter of Damascus, born in 1975 to a Syrian father and a Lebanese mother, an engineer and a sociologist who filled her with determination, self-confidence, choice, love, music and colors to sculpt it all into one of the most audacious, inspiring and distinguished artists of Syria.

An independent artist, Sara Shamma is a figurative painter. Her paintings depict the soul of the human being in its various forms, expressions and moods. Looking at any of her paintings you will see people waving their hands, flipping their heads back, looking into you with a reflection of a glittering light in their eyes, or gazing peacefully enchanted with the music that you hear playing somewhere at the back.

This focus on such a vivid, intense yet simple theme made it easy for the international art community to connect with Sara's paintings through the multiple exhibitions spreading over countries in the Arab World, Europe, North America, and Australia. She won many prizes among which are the first prize in Painting in Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize in Australia, the fourth Prize at The BP Portrait Award at The National Portrait Gallery in the UK, and the first Prize (The Golden Medal) in Latakia Biennial (Painting) in Syria.

At the local level, Sara has always been keen on contributing to and keeping open communication channels with the Syrian public through teaching, organizing periodical solo exhibitions in Syria, and arbitrating in art contests such as the Annual Exhibition held by the Ministry of Culture in Syria. She also represented her country abroad on several occasions such as the International Women Arts International Vision in Sharjah and the Mediterranean Biennial in Tunisia.





Yasser SAFI Syria 1976

Lot 047

Signed, Dated 120 X 120 cm. Mixed Media on Canvas 2008 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Directly from the artist

Yasser Safi's paintings exemplify an unconventional yet remarkable approach to depicting the human form. Born in Kamishli, Syria in 1976, he studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus and later pursued a 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.





Abdel Rahman KATANANI Palestine 1983

Lot 048

«Za3tar» Signed, Dated 100 X 100 cm. Mixed Media 2010 Estimate (US\$ 3,000 - 5,000)

Provenance - Private Collection

Abdel Rahman Katanani is a Palestinian artist, born in Lebanon in 1983. He graduated with a Deploma of superior studies in painting and sculpture from the Institute of Fine Arts, Lebanon University in Beirut 2007.

He participated in several group exhibitions such as Caricature, a group of colleges' exhibitions in Beirut, Lebanon 2001-2005, at the Lebanese University in Beirut 2007, Salon d'automne in Paris in 2007 and 2008, and at Fête de l'Humanité, Paris 2008. Katanani has several solo exhibitions as well such as in 2001 Caricature exhibition, Beirut, Lebanon and a group of Caricature exhibitions in France (Nantes, Paris, Lyon) 2006.





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Viewing: April 28 - 29 / 2010 10 AM to 8 PM Auction No. 04 Friday, Aril 30th, 2010 18:00 hrs.

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Auction Sales Conditions

I. Auction Sales Conditions

We recommend you to read very carefully all the conditions set in the present catalogue with regard to all the art work put on sale.

2. Estimated Price

The catalogue includes the estimated sales price determined by our advisors for each work to be sold at auction. The estimated price is determined by considering factors such as the condition, the rarity, the quality, the origin (the history of the previous owner, the person for whom it was made, and the person(s) who used it) of the art work. The estimated price does not include Ayyam Gallery's commission, V.A.T., and other taxes and fees payable by the purchaser were applicable. In the event whereby the work «OFFER» appears instead of the estimated price, please submit your offer directly to Auyam Gallery.

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Unless otherwise specified, a «Reserve value» is determined for every work included in the present catalogue. This confidential value is the value for which the owner accepts to sell, and the relevant work cannot be sold for any price below this value. The reserve value cannot be above the estimate price indicated in the catalogue. Works with no Reserve value are indicated with an asterix «*».

4.Registration of the Purchasers

Purchasers must register for a paddle at least thirty (30) minutes before the auction.

5. Raising Paddles & Bidding

The auctioneer shall attend and conduct the session so that participants may bid by telephone or by person. Silent bids may also be given to Ayyam Gallery at least thirty minutes before the lot is auctioned off.

Until a work reaches its reserve value the auctioneer may conclude the sale either through his/her own initiative or according to those who participate by telephone, in person, or silent bids.

6. Potentional buyers not attending the session shall be entitled to apply to Ayyam Gallery and request the paddle to be raised on their behalf for a given work up to a maximum price they will indicate. This is called a silent bid.

The attendants of Ayyam Gallery shall raise paddles considering the Reserve value in a way to enable to purchase of the work for the lowest possible price. In the event whereby two or more silent bids are for the same value, priority will be given to the one having submitted the silent bid first.

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Those wishing to purchase from the auction may participate during the session by calling the telephone numbers provided in the catalogue. Such participants must call Ayyam Gallery at least twenty four (24) hours in advance and inform that they intend to participate in the auction by telephone.

intervals.

<u>Between</u>	1,000	10,000 USD	500 USD
<u>Between</u>	10,000	20,000 USD	1,000 USD
<u>Between</u>	20,000	50,000 USD	3,000 USD
Ονερ	50,000		5,000 USD

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9. The Premium

To create a silent bid please contact Ayyam Gallery at

7. 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

The purchaser shall pay Ayyam Auctions an extra 20% commission calculated on the basis of the hammer price that will be added to the hammer price as the final cost price of the buyer. Payment to Ayyam Gallery shall be within 5 working days of the auction. The buyer will also be charged customs, delivery, storage and/or sales tax where applicable.

Mouteea MURAD



The above painting is part of Mouteea MURAD's solo exhibition at **ayyam gallery** damascus Vernissage, Saturday, May15th, 2010 the exhibition will run till 19/06/2010



The above painting is part of Thaier HE Vernissage, Thursday, June 10th, 2010 the exhibition will run till 05/08/2010

ayyam gallery damascus

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Thaier HELAL

of Thaier HELAL's solo exhibition at **ayyam gallery**|**beirut** the 10th, 2010

ayyam gallery beirut



Khaled TAKRETI 'Auto-Stop' 180 X 180 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2009

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