

NOVEMBER

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

11 NOVEMBER–31 DECEMBER 2015 / GEORGE BAHGORY / *LASTING IMPRESSIONS* / SHARJAH ART MUSEUM, SHARJAH

Known as the 'Grandfather of Caricature', George Bahgory was presented in a retrospective organised by the Sharjah Art Museum. The show was featured as part of the sixth edition of *Lasting Impressions*, a platform that showcases distinguished local and regional artists. Bahgory's comprehensive exhibition displayed more than 90 works in six phases to represent different periods from the artist's life, covering over 50 years of his artistic practice. The sections included *Early Years*, which included examples of early drawings and sketches; *Rebirth*, with work from his move to Paris; *Caricature*, showcasing works from his most familiar style; *Experimentation*, showcase his stylistic range; *Memoirs of Egypt*, which displayed works such as *The Battle of the Camel*, which depicted the 2011 Egyptian revolution; and *Self Reflection*, which included a number of self-portraits in multimedia formats. The prominent Egyptian artist was famous for his political satire, but also for his work as a painter, a sculptor, a novelist, a children books' writer and an actor. Evident in his work was his ability to combine classic and Contemporary art with a comical twist. The collection included five of his most notable oil on canvas artworks, including *Musicians*, *Mechanics*, *Om Kalthoum* and *Musicians* and two other pieces entitled *Om Kalthoum*.



Bahgory's *Mechanics* (circa 1970s) at his solo show at Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah. Image courtesy the artist.



Installation views of *Through Mist* at Lehmann Maupin. Image courtesy Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong.

NOVEMBER

## THROUGH MIST

25 NOVEMBER 2015–9 JANUARY 2016 / SHIRAZEH HOUSHIARY / *THROUGH MIST* / LEHMANN MAUPIN, HONG KONG

In her first solo exhibition in Hong Kong at Lehmann Maupin, Iranian artist Shirazeh Houshiary presented a series of new works that explore metaphysical thoughts. *Through Mist*, curated by Fereshteh Daftari, debuted seven new paintings that triggered all the senses in a process that involves building up layers of pigment, pattern and lines. Upon closer inspection, Houshiary's pencilled-gestures form written words that are obscured through overlapped repetition creating an infinitum. Interestingly, Houshiary's painting technique involves placing the canvases on the floor and working horizontally above them. This gives her work a direct attachment to the limitations of her body, whether in dimension or in execution. Also included was a one-piece steel wall sculpture, entitled *Resonance*, coated in matte black paint, which haphazardly contrasts with the artist's light and colourful paintings. The organic form takes the shape of a flying ribbon whereby the artist reiterates the infinite, while challenging the perceptions of time, space and presence.

NOVEMBER

## PRESENT TENSE

12 NOVEMBER 2015–16 JANUARY 2016 / ZINEB SEDIRA / *PRESENT TENSE* / TAYMOUR GRAHNE, NEW YORK

Paris-born London-based artist Zineb Sedira held her first solo exhibition in New York at Taymour Grahne, presenting a number of seminal works that included both old and new pieces ranging from photography and video to installation and sculpture. Curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath of Art Reoriented, *Present Tense* explored the current moment, and all the underlying feelings that come with it in works that included a multimedia installation adaptation of *The End of the Road* (2010), commissioned for the artist's New York solo show. "The curators originally commissioned the work for *Told, Untold Retold*, the inaugural Contemporary art exhibition of Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha," explained Sedira. "I was happy to conceive an adapted version on the occasion of my solo show in New York." Sedira's pieces were themed on old objects or sites that have survived an unfortunate situation, whether from the times of French colonial rule in Algeria, as is portrayed in her photographic series of lighthouses, or a ship graveyard in Mauritania.



Installation views from Sedira's solo show *Present Tense*. Image courtesy Taymour Grahne, New York.