


HASSAN SHARIF

A photograph of an elderly man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a light blue striped shirt, working in his studio. He is focused on a large, tall sculpture made of crumpled white paper. He is using an orange sponge to smooth or shape the paper. In the foreground, there is a black bucket containing more crumpled paper. The background shows a window with a view of a building and some studio equipment.

Nestled in a traditional neighbourhood amidst the towering skyline of Dubai is Hassan Sharif's studio and home. As the 'founding father' of Conceptual Emirati art prepares for his solo show, opening at Dubai's Gallery Isabelle Van Den Eynde on 17 November, we meet an artist whose practice and life are one and the same.

This place is like a factory.



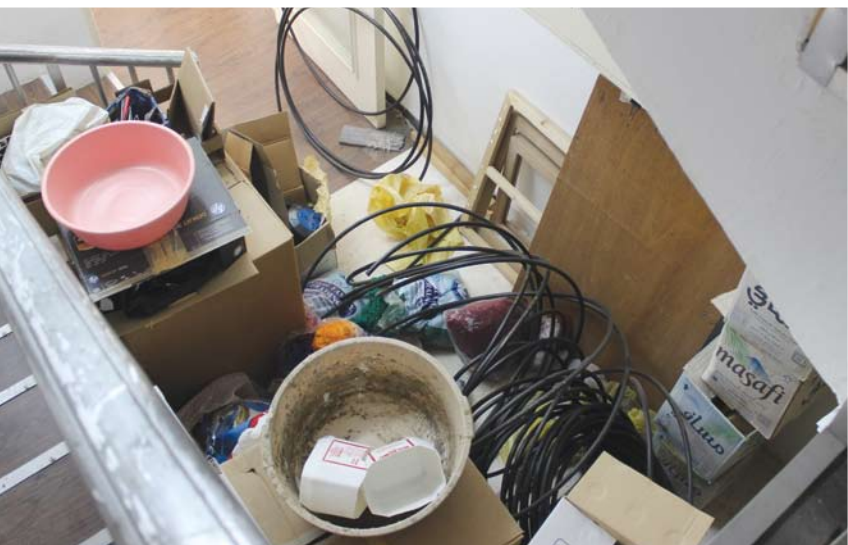
I like to exhibit the tissue work upside down, so you can see the layers. If you cut it up, you can see lines, just like old trees.



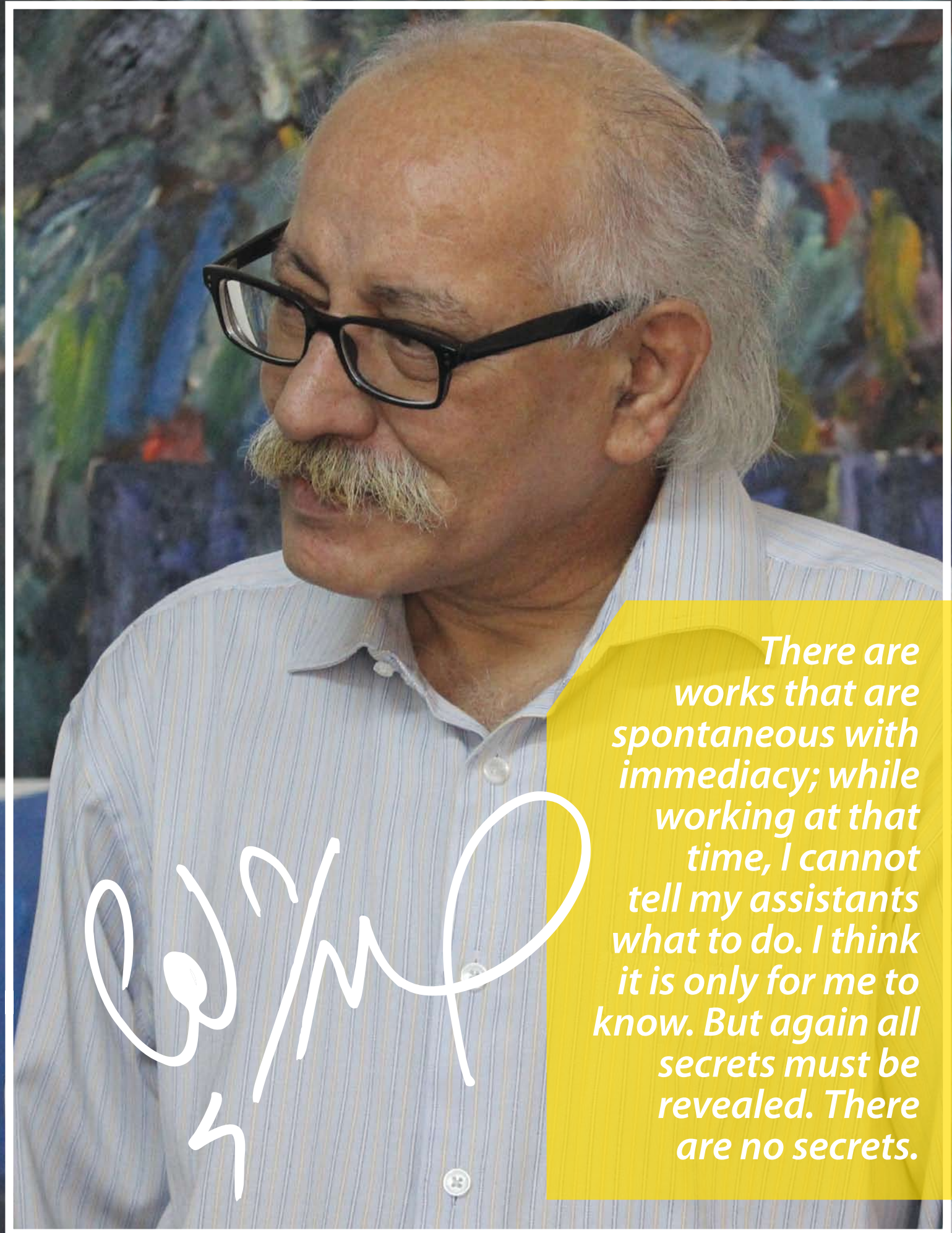
The function of tissue is to clean the face but you can't clean your face with what I have done to this work. I like the contradiction.



Shows are important for my art. I am not making art for myself. I am making art for the audience.



I don't throw anything away. I use everything.



There are works that are spontaneous with immediacy; while working at that time, I cannot tell my assistants what to do. I think it is only for me to know. But again all secrets must be revealed. There are no secrets.