



ARTISTS CONTRIBUTING TO SYRIA'S FUTURE

AN AUCTION TO SUPPORT SYRIAN EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Jusoor Annual Dinner and Art Auction: Saturday, October 19, 2013

Reception: 7:00 PM, Dinner: 8:00 PM

Location: Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London







Special Thanks from Jusoor

We would like to thank Ayyam Gallery and its artists, as well as the art enthusiasts participating in this evening's auction. Through your generous contributions, we will be able to support countless Syrian children and youth who are in desperate need of education and individual accomplishment. In so doing, we make an important investment towards safeguarding Syria's future. All funds raised from this auction will be used towards Jusoor's educational programmes, including our refugee education programme and our university scholarship programme.

We would like to express our gratitude to Kareem Sakka for his crucial contribution and tireless efforts in supporting our work throughout this and many other initiatives, and Khaled Samawi for his invaluable support in curating this beautiful art collection we have for the Jusoor Dinner auction.





About Jusoor

Founded in June 2011, Jusoor is an organisation that is focused on bringing together and engaging the global Syrian expatriate community in efforts that will help Syria and its people realise their full potential. Our programmes thus far have been primarily focused on education, and include a refugee education programme in Lebanon, a global university scholarship programme, and an education and career mentorship programme.

Jusoor believes that youth in Syria should have access to profoundly better opportunities in the years to come. We are a non-political organisation with strictly no ties to any political entity. Jusoor's programmes do not differentiate according to political views, ethnicity, religion or gender.

Jusoor has achieved several notable milestones since its establishment, including:

Membership: We now have over 20,000 individuals in our network from over 40 countries. Our membership ranges from students inside Syria to Syrian professionals in North America, Europe and Asia, to leaders of global institutions and global citizens who are committed to our cause of bettering Syria's future.

Scholarships: Jusoor is now partnering with the Institute of International Education (IIE) and over 40 universities around the world to provide scholarships for Syrian students. Through this partnership, more than 150 students now have opportunities to receive an education from some of the world's leading universities. These bright, young Syrians will play a key role in shaping an improved future for Syria.

Refugee Education: We recently launched our first programme to support education among Syrian refugees. The programme aims to lift the spirits of children we work with and ensure they receive the educational fundamentals they will need to have any chance at succeeding in life. Through the programme, we are working with over 100 young children ranging between 6 and 12 years old, focusing on basic Arabic literacy for the youngest children, and English and math training for the older ones in preparation to enter the Lebanese educational system. The programme will continue throughout the academic year, hopefully expanding to new parts of Lebanon. The magic behind this programme is that it is run by volunteers who come from around the world and touch the lives of these children with the love they bring and the innovative teaching approaches and games they each develop.

Mentorship: We have had over 200 volunteers working with Syrian students and job seekers on university admission mentorship and career advice. Each of these mentors was able to have a life changing impact on the future of these young Syrians. Jusoor will continue to offer and expand on its mentorship programmes where and when needed.

Please email us at info@jusoor-sy.org if you would like to get involved with any of these programmes.

Ayyam Gallery

Founded by collectors and cousins Khaled and Hisham Samawi in Damascus in 2006, Ayyam Gallery sought to nurture Syria's burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through landmark non-profit initiatives such as the Shabab Ayyam Project, an incubator for emerging artists. Expansion into Beirut and Dubai enabled Ayyam Gallery to broaden its scope from the promotion of work by Syrian artists to those from the wider Middle East region. In doing so, Ayyam Gallery has established itself as one of the foremost exponents of Middle Eastern contemporary art to the international community.

Today, Ayyam Gallery is recognized as a leading cultural voice in the region, representing a roster of Arab and Iranian artists with an international profile and museum presence. A number of non-commercial exhibitions, as well as the launch of Ayyam Publishing, Ayyam Editions, and The Young Collectors Auction, have further succeeded in showcasing the work of Middle Eastern artists with the aim of educating a wider audience about the art of this significant region. Ayyam Gallery Damascus currently functions as a studio and creative haven for artists who remain in the war-torn city. In early 2013, Ayyam Gallery launched new spaces in London and Jeddah.

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Khaled Samawi

A patron, collector, and a pioneering figure in the promotion of arts of the Middle East, Khaled Samawi sold his successful investment banking company in Geneva and co-founded Ayyam Gallery, the Middle East's premier art gallery with spaces in Damascus, Dubai, Beirut, Jeddah, and London. When the revolution struck Syria, Khaled spent over a year relocating Ayyam Gallery's Damascus headquarters - with its inventory of thousands of artworks - to Dubai, and all the artists and their families to countries of safety.

An influential figure in the advancement of the Middle Eastern art scene, Khaled initiated The Shabab Ayyam Project, an incubator and mentorship programme for young artists to develop their raw talent, and further non-profit initiatives such as a scholarship programme for young artists to complete fine arts-related university degrees. Also an avid collector, The Samawi Collection has acquired over 3,000 artworks, standing as one of the most important collections of Middle Eastern contemporary art in the region.

Lauded for his visionary role in expanding the Arab art market to an international audience and transforming the regional art scene with Ayyam Gallery, Khaled was awarded the 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Arabian Business Achievement Awards and is featured annually in the list of World's Most Influential Arabs by the *Arabian Business Magazine*, ranking 18 of 500. In 2012, he was named amongst *Canvas Magazine*'s The Power 50, a selection of the Middle Eastern art world's top power players.



Lara Zankoul

(Lebanon, born 1987)

Lot 001

Drown in Dreams
2011
archival print on cotton paper
85 x 85 cm
edition of 5
signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £2,000 - £3,000

The dreamlike compositions of Lebanese photographer Lara Zankoul are contemporary fairy tales, which explore the charm and mystery of the human psyche. Whimsical and playful, they represent an attempt to invent new worlds, to push against the boundaries of our reality and escape the monotony of everyday life. The characters inhabiting Zankoul's work are anonymous and timeless, universal symbols existing within a fantastical and surreal landscape.

Born in Lebanon in 1987, Lara Zankoul lives and works in Beirut. She has participated in group exhibitions within the Middle East and France. Part of the Shabab Ayyam incubator programme, she was an award recipient at the 2011 Shabab Ayyam Photography Competition and in 2013, she held her first solo exhibition at Ayyam Gallery Beirut.





Mohamad Badr

(Lebanon, born 1981)

Lot 002

Prayers of Light 2011
archival print on cotton paper 120 x 80 cm edition of 5 signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £2,000 - £3,000

'Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.'

Mother Theresa

Prayers of Light examines the role of faith in everyday life, capturing the intimacy of the prayer experience and moments of transcendental communion with the Divine. In a storytelling format, this black & white series engages the audience in a voyeuristic observance of the act of praying. The light has the illusion of coming out of the body and face, and it is this illumination which renders it a pure spiritual experience rather than a repetitive act.

Born in 1981 in Lebanon, Mohamad Badr lives and works in Dubai. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2011 Shabbab Ayyam Photography Competition and the Live Achrafieh Honorary Award for his contribution to the community (2011). He was also nominated for the fourth cycle of the Prix Pictet, the world's leading photographic award in sustainability (2012). He is the founder of the *Lakum Hamra2akoum wa Li Hamra2*, photography project in Lebanon, and Mosaic: Achrafieh International Photography Contest, Lebanon's first international photography competition. Selected solo shows include Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2012).





Ammar Abd Rabbo

(Syria, born 1966)

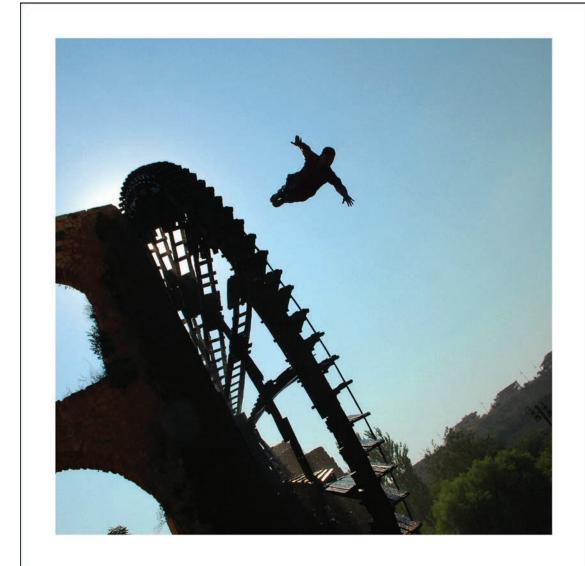
Lot 003

Freedom Loves Hama 2007 archival print on cotton paper 80 x 80 cm edition of 7 signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £3,000 - £5,000

Born in Damascus in 1966, Rabbo lived in Libya and Lebanon prior to ultimately residing in France in 1978. As one of the Arab world's most important photojournalists, his work has been published in the world's most widely circulated publications, from the *Time Magazine*, to *Paris Match*, *Der Spiegel*, *Le Monde*, and *Asharq Al Awsat*, where he signed more than 60 magazine covers. From a twenty-year career, his portfolio amassed intimate portraits of head of states, war coverage in Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, world-renowned celebrities like the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson, as well as high society events such as the Cannes Film Festival and Paris Fashion Week.

In 2012, Ammar Abd Rabbo held his first artistic exhibition entitled *Coming Soon* at Ayyam Gallery, Beirut. This exhibition transported the viewer beyond the wall of informality and provided a privileged look into one of life's most intimate spheres. *Follow the Leader*, Rabbo's second solo exhibition, held in Dubai, focused on the spontaneous moments that portray the humanity of our world leaders.





Shurooq Amin

(Kuwait, born 1967)

Lot 004

Blind New World
2013
archival print on cotton paper
128 x 110 cm
edition of 5
signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £3,000 - £5,000

Renowned for her brave subject matter and use of taboo images, Kuwaiti artist Shurooq Amin explores the double standards, hypocrisy, and secret lives that exist beneath the surface of a conservative state. Her work illustrates the hidden, hedonistic world and dichotomy of the Arab man: religious preacher, weekend alcoholic; political activist, well-known party-animal; conservative father, secret playboy.

Born in Kuwait in 1967, Shurooq Amin lives and works in the country. Selected solo and group exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2013); Lahd Gallery, London (2011); CAN, New York (2010); Tilal Gallery, Kuwait (2010); 11th International Cairo Art Biennale (2008). A retrospective of her work was recently featured in the biannual art journal, *Contemporary Practices: Visual Arts from the Middle East.*





Ammar Al Beik

(Syria, born 1972)

Lot 005

The Strong Believers
from the series Lost Images
2008
archival print on cotton paper
80 x 120 cm
edition of 7
signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £6,000 - £9,000

The unconventional photographs of Syrian artist and filmmaker Ammar Al Beik possess a highly developed cinematic quality. Often taking the form of large ultra-chrome prints on canvas, he has recently begun producing overtly political works that incorporate elements of video, sculpture and animation. His photographs toy with the manipulation of light and contrast and delve into the art of visual storytelling. Believing that art must not only imitate, but capture life, he upholds the narrative of his subjects with unflinching scrutiny and heightened sensitivity.

Born in 1972 in Damascus, Ammar Al Beik lives and works in Dubai. Internationally renowned for his work in film and documentary, he has shown at numerous international festivals including the Sao Paulo International Film Festival; Edinburgh Documentary Film Festival; Berlin International Film Festival; and Locarno International Film Festival. He is also the recipient of numerous awards including the Jury Prize Winner at the Busan International Short Film Festival, Korea (2012); Golden Award at the Rotterdam 7th Arab Film Festival, Holland (2007); the Golden Award at the Tetouan 13th Film Festival, Morocco (2007); and the Jury Award at the Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia (2002). In 2006, he was the first Syrian filmmaker to receive the award for best documentary at the Venice International Film Festival. In 2011, he presented *The Sun's Incubator*, a work exploring the domestic affects of the Arab Spring, at the 68th Venice International Film Festival. Solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2013); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2011, 2010, 2008); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2010).





Tammam Azzam

(Syria, born 1980)

Lot 006

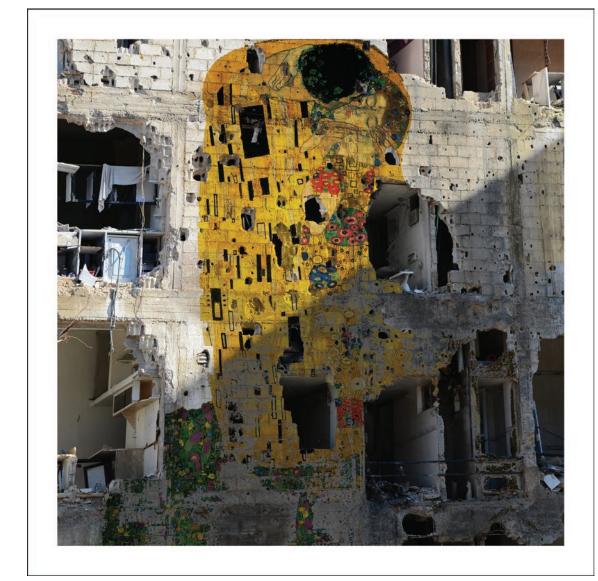
Freedom Graffiti
from the series The Syrian Museum
2013
archival print on cotton paper
112 x 112 cm
edition of 25
signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £3,000 - £5,000

Born in the Syrian capital in 1980, Tammam Azzam graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus with a concentration in Oil Painting and subsequently obtained a Fine Arts Certificate in 2001 from Darat al Funun's Al Kharif Academy, an esteemed artist workshop series led by Syrian master, Marwan Kassab Bashi. Since joining the Shabab Ayyam Young Artists Programme in 2008, he has been featured in several significant events including the group show, *Stories from the Levant*, Scope Art Fair, Basel, in 2009, and Art Miami 2010, and has held solo exhibitions at Ayyam Gallery, Damascus in 2010 and Dubai in 2011.

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. Azzam's latest works utilise digital art to extend a political commentary on the upheavals in his homeland as a result of the Syrian Uprising. Many of these new works depict the country of Syria riddled with bullet holes and bloodshed, reflecting the horrific violence faced by his countrymen. These prints are highly coveted for their originality and poignancy.

Freedom Graffiti has gained global popularity with its rendering of Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* overlaid atop the facade of a bullet-ridden, crumbling building. This work articulates loving relationships juxtaposed with the capacity of hate the Syrian regime presently holds for its people.





Elias Izoli

(Syria, born 1976)

Lot 007

Untitled
2011
acrylic on canvas
150 x 150 cm
signed and dated

Estimate: £8,000 - £12,000

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





Samia Halaby

(Palestine, born 1936)

Lot 008

Yellow Highrise, Blue Cloud 2013 acrylic on linen canvas 145 x 120 cm signed and dated

Estimate: £15,000 - £20,000

Samia Halaby is recognized internationally as an important abstract painter and has had substantial influence on contemporary Arab art. Her practice is one of radical experimentation and creative urgency. Recent works examine the angular perspective of architecture alongside textures and variances found in nature, combining things that create pliable space with things created from hard surfaces

Born in Jerusalem in 1936, Samia Halaby lives and works in New York. She has taught widely at many institutions and her 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. A monograph has recently been published by Booth-Clibborn Editions and will be launched at Halaby's solo exhibition with Ayyam Gallery London in October 2013.





Asaad Arabi

(Syria, born 1941)

Lot 009

Talk of the Soul 2011 acrylic on canvas 150 x 150 cm signed and dated

Estimate: £12,000 - £18,000

One of the generation of Syrian artists who came of age during the Arab Renaissance - or Nahda - of the 1960's, Asaad Arabi continues to explore the region's social taboos through his Expressionist works. Alive with colour and movement, Arabi's canvases are concerned with the hidden world and with contrasts and duality, such as those that exist between the veiled and unveiled, sometimes nude women, and the exterior and interior of Damascene houses.

Born in Damascus in 1941, Asaad Arabi lives and works in Paris. He holds a PhD in Aesthetics from the Sorbonne University and his work on aesthetic theory has been widely published in both French and Arabic. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Jeddah (2013); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2011); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2010); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2009); Cairo Biennial (2004); Sircov Gallery, Brest, France (2003); Kuwait Museum (2003). His works are housed in museum collections including Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Barcelona Contemporary Museum of Art, The National Museum, New Dehli; and South Korea's Museum in Seoul.





Oussama Diab

(Palestine, born 1977)

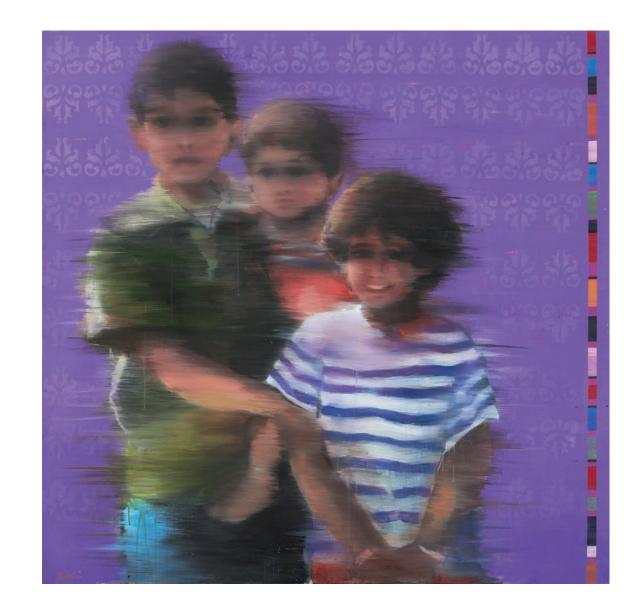
Lot 010

Untitled
2012
mixed media on canvas
130 x 130 cm
signed and dated

Estimate: £5,000 - £8,000

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

The large, colourful canvases of Palestinian artist Oussama Diab employ pop-art and childlike imagery as a means of exploring global political concerns. Balloons, bananas and water guns function as symbolist interpretations of current events - in contrast to the universality of their nondescript background. Both figurative and abstract, Diab's compositions relay stories of love and hate within a conflicted society.





Walid El Masri

(Lebanon, born 1979)

Lot 011

Chairs
2007
mixed media on canvas
120 x 120 cm
signed and dated

Estimate: £5,000 - £8,000

The paintings of Lebanese artist Walid El Masri relentlessly examine a single material subject matter – a chair – treating it as a point of departure for greater investigations into the fundamental components of painting and as a vehicle for experiments in palette and composition. Toying with depth and space, El Masri's work seeks to reconfigure compositional properties in order to explore the myriad variations that result from a repeated action.

Born in 1979 in Beirut, Walid El Masri lives and works in Paris. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2012); Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2009); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2008).





Safwan Dahoul

(Syria, born 1961)

Lot 012

Reve 2013 archival print on cotton paper 110 x 130 cm edition of 7 signed, dated and numerated

Estimate: £6,000 - £9,000

Safwan Dahoul's evocative canvases, all of which share the title *Dream*, examine some of the most intimate moments of the human experience: slumber, companionship, solitude and death. The soulful, dreamy human figures that populate his work are 'substance matter' for the artist, a tool through which he depicts and preserves his own biography.

Dominated by black, white and muted tones, Dahoul's canvases explore the relationship between the figure and its background, between the human being and space. His minimalist use of colour references his surroundings and is a response to the absence of colour now seen on the streets of Syria and the rest of the Middle East.

Firmly rooted in the personal, Dahoul's work is also rich in art historical references; from the elaborately maquillaged eyes and cavalier perspective of Pharaonic Egypt, to gestural fingers that trace their lineage to Roman oration; to the checkerboard patterning common on Insular metalwork. The geometric shapes and curvature in the lines of Dahoul's figures allude to the elaborate patterns of Arabic calligraphy.

Born in 1961 in Hama, Syria, Safwan Dahoul live and works in the Dubai. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2011, 2009); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2011); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2009).





Khaled Jarrar

(Palestine, born 1976)

Lot 013

Untitled
2013
c-print diasec mounting
140 x 210 cm
edition of 5

Estimate: £8,000 - £12,000

Palestinian artist Khaled Jarrar works with photography, video, and performance to interrogate the problematic situation in his native country, particularly the question of recognition of the State of Palestine and the militaristic discourse around this. He uses his artistic practice as a means of thinking about questions of conflict, nationhood, home and belonging.

As a tree burrowing through concrete is a testament to strength and will in the face of adversity, this photograph of a small tree protruding through a crevice in the Apartheid Wall serves as a metaphor for the Palestinian people who are confronted daily with the obstacles this wall presents.

Born in Jenin in 1976, Khaled Jarrar lives and works in Ramallah, Palestine. He completed his education in Interior Design at the Palestine Polytechnic University in 1996, then graduating from the International Academy of Art Palestine with a BA in Visual Arts in 2011. Jarrar rose to prominence with his 2007 exhibition, *At the Checkpoint*, which was placed in full view of the Israeli soldiers at Howarra & Qalandia checkpoint. Recent solo exhibitions include Galerie Guy Bartschi, Geneva (2013); the NEWTOPIA: The State of Human Rights Contemporary Arts in Mechelen and Brussels (2012); Galerie Polaris, Paris (2012); Al-Mahatta Gallery, Ramallah (2009); Al-Mahatta Gallery, Ramallah (2007). Recent group exhibitions include at the 7th Berlin Biennale (2012); 52nd October Salon, Belgrade (2011); Al-Ma'mal Foundation, Jerusalem (2010); London Film Festival, London (2010); and the Instant Video Festival, Marseille (2009).





Othman Moussa

(Syria, born 1974)

Lot 014

The Queen's Treasure
2013
oil on canvas
120 x 100 cm
signed and dated

Estimate: £5,000 - £8,000

The hyperrealist still life compositions of Syrian artist Othman Moussa examine the poetic nature of everyday objects. The artist's choice of subject matter—a lit cigarette, a Syrian clay pot or evil-eye ornaments – seek to focus attention upon the quiet, often overlooked, moments of Syrian society. They act as mediations on the subtle yet profound beauty that can be found away from the busy existence of modern day life.

Born in 1974 in Zabadani, Syria, Othman Moussa lives and works in Damascus. Solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2012); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (with Assad Arabi, 2009). Group exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2011).





Thaier Helal

(Syria, born 1967)

Lot 015

Untitled 2008
mixed media on canvas
90 x 90 cm
signed and dated

Estimate: £5,000 - £8,000

A leading figure in contemporary Syrian art, Thaier Helal's large mixed media works are at the forefront of contemporary Arab abstraction. Drawing inspiration from his immediate environment and the physical and psychic aspects of society and culture, Helal's canvases communicate movement and energy through explosions of colour, the meticulous division of space and the repetitive layering of the surface.

Born in Syria in 1967, Thaier Helal lives and works in the UAE. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Al Burda International Award from the Emirati Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development (2008); the Grand Gold Award at the Iran Contemporary Painting Biennial, Tehran (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).

Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Cairo (2011); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2010) Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2010); Green Art Gallery, Dubai (2006, 2003); Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi (2002); Sharjah Art Museum (2000). Selected group exhibitions include Art Paris Abu Dhabi (2008); Iran Contemporary Painting Biennial, Tehran (2005); Imagining the Book International Biennale, Alexandria (2005).



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