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11 MAY - 30 JUNE 2022
FANN À PORTER DUBAI

MIGHTY MINI

AN EXHIBITION OF SMALL SCALE ARTWORKS BY MODERN AND
CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND

About The Exhibition

Featuring a remarkable collection of artworks by accomplished and emerging artists, this exhibition brings attention to the captivating narratives depicted on the smallest of surfaces. Curated by Zaat and Fann A Porter, this exhibition presents works by Adham Ismail, Adnan Sharif, Ahmad Kasha, Assem Sharaf, Fadi Yazigi, Fakhir Mohammed, Farid Belkahia, Hala Al Faisal, Hamed Al-Oweidy, Houssam Ballan, Jamil Kasha, Juri Morioka, Soile Yli-Mayry, Leila Nseir, Majd Kurdieh, Mayar Obeido, Mehzen Fakih, Mohamad Khayata, Naima Shishini, Omar Khouri, Omar Onsi, Omran Al Kaysi, Oussama Baalbaki, Rabee Kiwan, Rafic Charaf, Soha Sabbagh, Youssef Ghazzawi and Zena Assi.



About ZAAT

ZAAT is a multi-disciplinary platform created to promote and empower artists and designers. By offering a place for collectors to buy, sell and trade work that ranges in styles, movements and eras, ZAAT then reinvests into showcasing and supporting the production of contemporary work. Coming from the Arabic root meaning, one, essence, self, ZAAT upholds the integrity of the art and artists.

Specializing in art from the Arab world, ZAAT is a digital platform that also curates events, advises clients interested in buying new work and consults on currently owned pieces. The platform is continually expanding with new artists and seeks out designers with social narratives and ethical production.

Conceived as a place to connect art enthusiasts and artists together, ZAAT aims to make art more approachable and understandable while supporting artists

ADHAM ISMAIL

About The Artwork

A pioneer of incorporating heritage subject matter into Arab modern art, Adham Ismail was credited as the first Syrian artist to move away from realism by experimenting with abstraction. Involved with the populist movements at the time, he desired to bring about change by igniting conversations about Arab identity, creative spirit and politics. Writing to a fellow artist, he once explained: “We want to resurrect this originary genius, setting it forth within the currents of international art, colouring them with its spirit, and making the Arab east into a source for abiding, vital art.”

About The Artist

Born in Antakya (Antioch), Adham Ismail (1922–1963) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Rome in 1956, after being awarded a scholarship by the Italian government. He taught at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and served as an art advisor for a short time in the Egyptian Ministry of Culture.

During the course of his career, Ismail addressed contemporary, local and regional topics such as chivalry, freedom, revolution and the Arab struggle, in addition to many historical themes. In his distinct style, he used continuous lines to form colour spaces that suggest volume. Drawing inspiration from calligraphy, the curvy shapes and soft arcs in his work have a graceful fluidity, forming bodies or depicting scenes.

During his life, Ismail’s works were shown widely in group exhibitions and acquired by the Syrian Ministry of Culture, National Museum in Damascus, Samawi Collection, and Dummar Museum. One of the most prominent art education centres in Syria was named in his honour: the Adham Ismail Center for Fine Arts.



ADNAN SHARIF

About The Artwork

Starting in the mid-90s, Adnan Sharif was experimenting with different shapes and sizes of canvas, similar to the triangular top of “Untitled.” As a well-respected artist, “His paintings became famous in Beirut and Germany through the subject of Palestinian exile... Afterwards, when he arrived to Amman his work had an expressive mix between jazz and color with a poetic uniqueness in abstract configurations” said artist Khalid Khreis.

About The Artist

Jordanian journalist and artist Adnan Sharif (1949-2011) studied journalism in Berlin and fine arts at Lebanese University. His exhibitions included: Gallery Boushahri –Kuwait; Ardenos Gallery – Cyprus; Our Country Hall- Amman; Gallery of the Phoenix – Amman; Hall of Dimensions– Amman; Spanish Cultural Center – Amman. Sharif won the Golden Sail award at the 10th Kuwait Biennial.



Adnan Sharif, Untitled, 1996, Acrylic on paper, 33 x 20 cm, 40 x 56 cm (framed)

AHMAD KASHA

About The Artwork

Ahmad Kasha is an contemporary abstract painter and sculptor whose raw and visceral depiction of reality emanate movement and dynamism. Born to a notable family of artists, Kasha's early encounters of art and lived experiences has influenced his art practice.

About The Artist

Born in 1997 in Syria, Kasha graduated from Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus. With an strong interest in the various movements of Syrian and Arab art, Kasha has been an active promotor and organizer of art exhibitions from the region and has collaborated with institutions such as Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE, Atassi Foundation, Dubai, UAE, Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art. Winning several art prizes from a young age, Kasha has participated in group exhibitions in Germany, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the UAE. His works are collected by public institutions and is included in private collections.





Ahmed Kasha, Untitled, 2022, Oil on pastels on paper, 21 x 30 cm



Ahmed Kasha, Untitled, 2022, Oil on pastels on paper, 21 x 30 cm

ASSEM SHARAF

About The Artwork

Painting expressive forms and colors, Assem Sharaf symbolically uses yellow to refer to earth & aggression while blue means serene & calm. In this work, a narrative emerges as his figures interact and gesture in a natural, instinctual way. Painted with intuitive yet controlled brushstrokes, the poetic compositions seem to explore the depths of the unconscious self and its primal urges.

About The Artist

Known for his abstract canvases, Egyptian artist Assem Sharaf (1953) obtained his degree in fine arts from Helwan University in 1981 and has exhibited worldwide in solo and group shows in Egypt, Switzerland, UK, Austria, Germany, Taiwan, England, Switzerland and Bahrain at venues like National Center of Fine Arts, Cairo; EAAB Foundation, Basel; and Delphina Studios, London.



Assem Sharaf, Untitled, Watercolor, 37 x 27 cm

FADI YAZIGI

About The Artwork

“Experimenting with various techniques and media, I try to escape from monotony,” says Syrian artist Fadi Yazigi (1966). Living in Damascus, he works to interpret the world around him and capture people’s emotions. In “Untitled,” he uses bright colors on a newspaper background to cheerfully depict the everyday apple.

About The Artist

Labeled as one of the region’s most fascinating artists, Fadi Yazigi studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University. His work is in numerous public collections such as: The British Museum, London; The Delfina Foundation, London; Kaleemat Foundation, Istanbul; A.M. Qattan Foundation, London; and Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, UAE.



Fadi Yazigi, Untitled, 1995, Mixed media, 20 x 18 cm

FAKHIR MOHAMMED

About The Artwork

Using symbols interspersed with bright colors, Fakhir Mohammed paints beautifully harmonic pieces that have an almost audible rhythm. In “Untitled”, patterns and shapes seem to move energetically around the canvas while highlights of color pop-out from corner to corner.

About The Artist

A prominent artist in Iraq, Fakhir Mohammed was born in Babylon in 1954. He received a degree in Painting from AFA in 1977 and an Advanced Painting Degree from AFA in 1980. He was the recipient of numerous awards including: Second Prize, UAE, 1984; Silver Prize, Faiq Hassan Young Artists Competition, Baghdad, 1985; Merit Award, Cagnes-sur-Mer Festival, France, 1984. His artwork has been collected internationally in: Jordan; UAE; Yemen; Libya; Italy; France; Germany; Netherlands; Spain.



FARID BELKAHIA

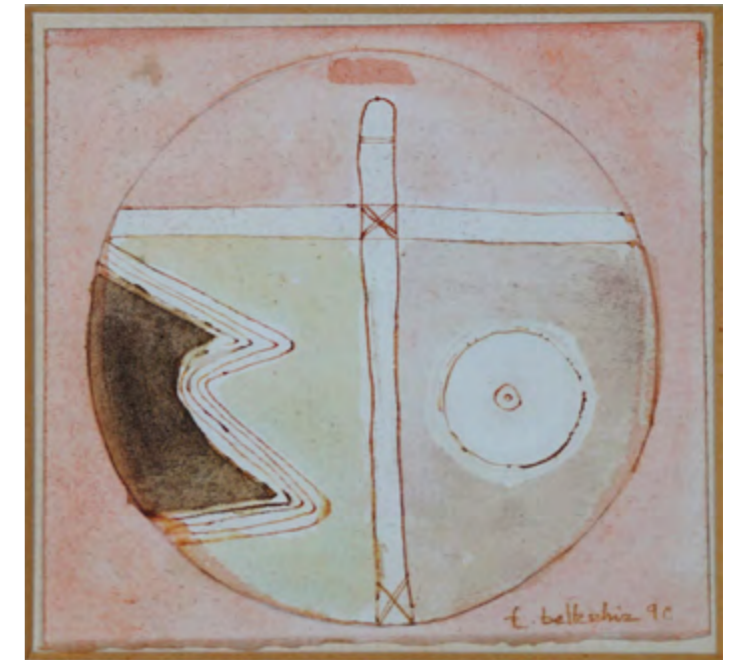
About The Artwork

One of the foremost modernist artists in Morocco, Farid Belkahia is influenced by his cultural heritage in the creation and usage of shapes, materials, and techniques. In his work, Belkahia roots international modernism within the local context. His carefully theorized lexicon of symbols and organic shapes are seen in the “Untitled” work.

About The Artist

Farid Belkahia began his training at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts of Paris and continued his studies in Prague until he returned to Morocco in 1962 to become director of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Casablanca. An active voice in post-colonial debates, he turned the school away from the inherited French model of easel paintings and still lives in order to highlight Moroccan visual culture and architecture.

Farid Belkahia has shown globally, including: National Gallery, Morocco; Batha Museum, Fes; Darat al Funun, Amman; Musée d’Art Moderne et Contemporain, Nice; Galerie Charpentier, Paris; Paris Biennial; Panafrican Festival, Algiers; First Arab Biennial in Baghdad ; Maison de la Culture, Grenoble; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, Johannesburg; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Venice Biennial and Lyon Biennial.



HALA AL FAISAL

About The Artwork

In her paintings, Faisal has celebrated human faces, with a focus on the eyes. She says of this, “The eye is the window to the soul and a reflection of the inner suffering experienced by man.”

In addition to the faces, Faisal focuses on the female body, turning it into an aesthetic masterpiece with many connotations and incarnations. It may be painted in the form of a tree with birds around it or a player carrying a musical instrument that makes the beholder hear melodies emanating from the colours of the painting.

About The Artist

Syrian artist, Hala al-Faisal (1958) studied fine arts in Damascus, Paris and New York and set decor at the Higher Institute of Cinema in Moscow. She lived, worked and exhibited in Syria, Russia, Italy, Germany, US, France and Lebanon.



Hala Al Faisal, Flourishing Like a Flower in a wild forest, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40 cm



Hala Al Faisal, Swimming in a purple sky, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40 cm

HAMED AL-OWEIDY

About The Artwork

Creating work with a combination interests from social justice, the rhythm of music to religion and spiritualism, Hamed Al-Oweidy was a masterful calligrapher. He used each Arabic letter in all its malleable beauty to create modern forms and formats. Breaking with traditions, he was known for taking calligraphy out of the frame and even letters out of words.

About The Artist

Egyptian artist Hamed Al-Oweidy (1957 - 2008) was a renowned calligrapher, graphic artist, journalist and political activist. Developing a passion for calligraphy early in life, he graduated from The Arabic Calligraphy Institute, and was later ranked as one of the most prominent calligraphers in Egypt. Exhibiting across the globe from Japan to Rome, his most famous works are illustrations of poetry by notable writers like Amal Donqol and Mahmoud Darwish. Memorials to his work and life were written widely by artists and journalists while exhibitions featured retrospectives of his prolific calligraphy work.



Hamed Al-Oweidy, Untitled, 1994, Watercolor on Paper, 28 x 18 cm

HOUSSAM BALLAN

About The Artwork

Houssam Ballan takes a large focus on research and the exploration of new ideas within his practice, providing his works with a strong theoretical base. His studies, black and white ink, charcoal and mixed media on paper, are also informed from this research. In order to reach his final larger canvas works, Ballan extensively explores through the creation of these drawings — he uses them to plan the elements to be incorporated in the finished works, such as light, colour, form, perspective, and composition. The viewer can find the same figures seen in his paintings in these studies, drawn with a free hand.

About The Artist

Ballan is a tutor and member of the Teacher's Association at the University of Damascus since 2009. Between 1999 and 2007, he participated in workshops with artist J. Bradley Adams and painter Jose Friexanes, and trained in mural painting with Pierre Palas. The artist was part of the 13th Cairo Biennale, Cairo (2019). In 2020, the artist collaborated on a workshop with Berlin based non-profit, CoCulture e.V. Ballan has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions including MADS Gallery, Milan, Italy (2021); Azad Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2021); Litehouse Gallery, London, UK (2020); Egypt Int'l Art Fair (2022, 2021, 2020); BBA Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2019); Hafez Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (2019); Fann A Porter Amman, Jordan (2019); Atelier Stories, Paris, France (2018); Fann A Porter, Dubai, UAE (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018), Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon (2014); Arab Cultural Centre (2010, 2007, and 2005); Ayyam Gallery, Damascus, Syria (2006); French Cultural Centre, Damascus, Syria, (2004); among others. His works can be found in numerous private and public collections.

Ballan was born in 1983 in Sweida, Syria where he currently lives and works.



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, oil on paper, 32 x 21.5 cm



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, oil on paper, 20 x 29 cm



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, oil on paper, 20 x 29 cm

JURI MORIOKA

About The Artwork

From her studio in New York City's Lower East Side, Morioka writes, "These works are visualizations of my mental surroundings, helping me to remember who and where I am in an ever-changing series of internal and external worlds. Like everyone, I'm moving about constantly, perpetually losing and finding myself along the way while searching for that land of peace which, for now, can be found only in our hearts."

About The Artist

Juri Morioka is a Tokyo born painter who came to the US for the first time as a high school exchange student in Ohio. She now lives and works in New York City. Since receiving her BFA in Painting from Parsons School of Design, she has had solo shows in New York City, Portland (OR), Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan and Dubai, and two-person shows in Tokyo and Abu Dhabi. She has participated in numerous group shows at galleries in New York City, Basel, Dubai, Damascus, Paros (Greece) and Tokyo as well as in Texas and Florida, and been a guest lecturer at various institutions in the USA and UAE.

In addition, her work is included in numerous private and corporate collections around the world, including the private collection of the Ruling Family of the United Arab Emirates, Sony Corporation and Burj Khalifa.



Juri Morioka, Landscapes from another dimension #11, Pencil, water-based pigments, and 24K Kanazawa golds, 12.7 x 17.78 cm



Juri Morioka

Juri Morioka, Landscapes from another dimension #12, Pencil, water-based pigments, 24K Kanazawa golds, crushed semi-precious gems, 12.7 x 17.78 cm



Juri Morioka, Landscapes from another dimension #13, Pencil, water-based pigments, and 24K Kanazawa golds, 12.7 x 17.78 cm

SOILE YLI-MÄYRY

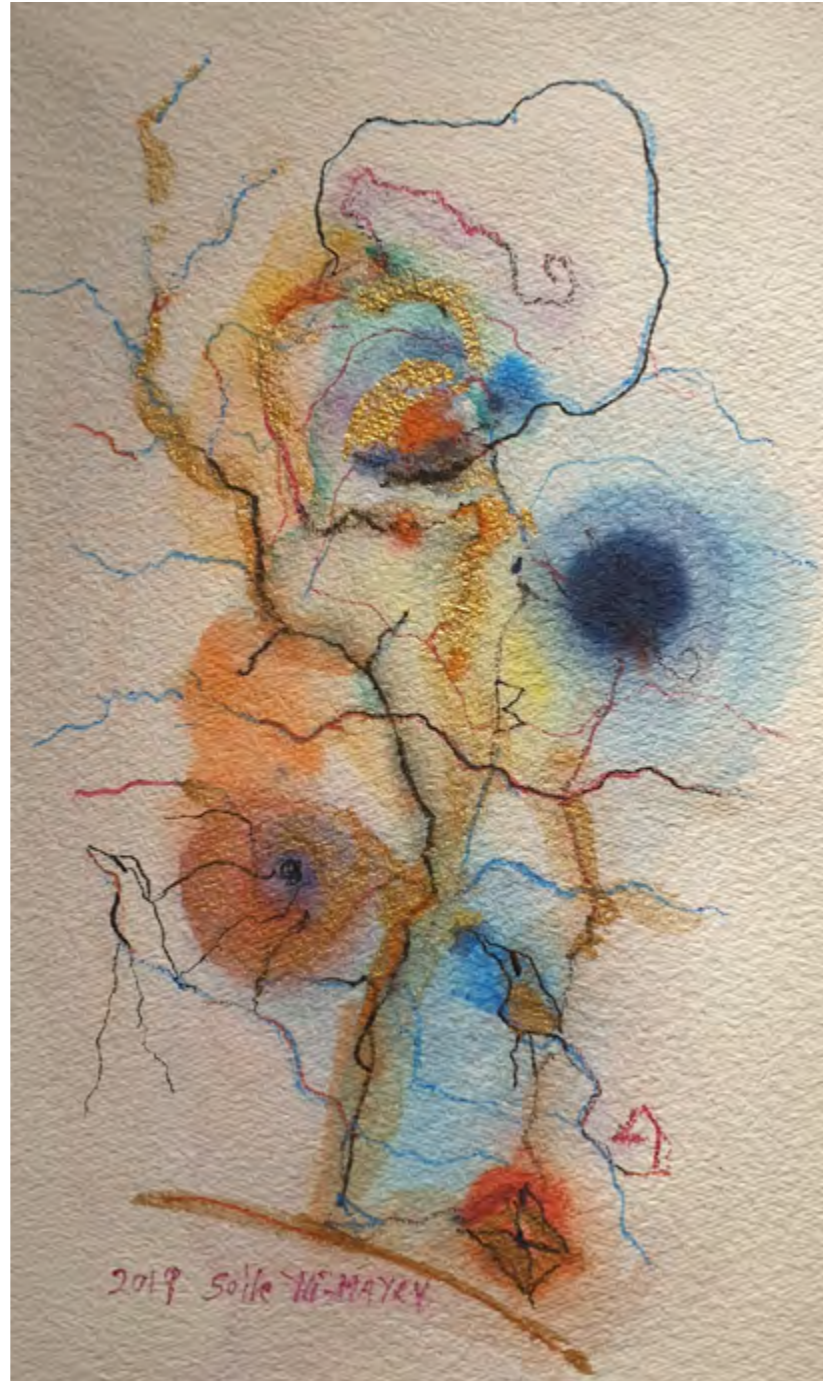
About The Artwork

Soile Yli-Mäyry is a Finnish artist with an impressive international recognition. The main theme in Yli-Mäyry's work is humanity and people's alienation from nature in the urban world. Immensely energetic, her work reflects this energy.

About The Artist

Soile Yli-Mäyry is a Finnish Postwar & Contemporary painter who was born in 1950. Numerous key galleries and museums have featured Soile Yli-Mäyry's work in the past.

Since her arts studies at the Arts Academy in Stuttgart in Germany (1972-75) she has had in 30 countries about 300 solo exhibitions in Japan, in China, in India, in Latin America, in the United States and in many countries in Europe.



Soile Yli-Mäyry, DIGIBIRD, Aquarelle on paper, 60 x 42 cm (unframed)



Soile Yli-Mäyry, DIGIBIRD, Aquarelle on paper, 65 x 40 cm (framed)

LEILA NSEIR

About The Artwork

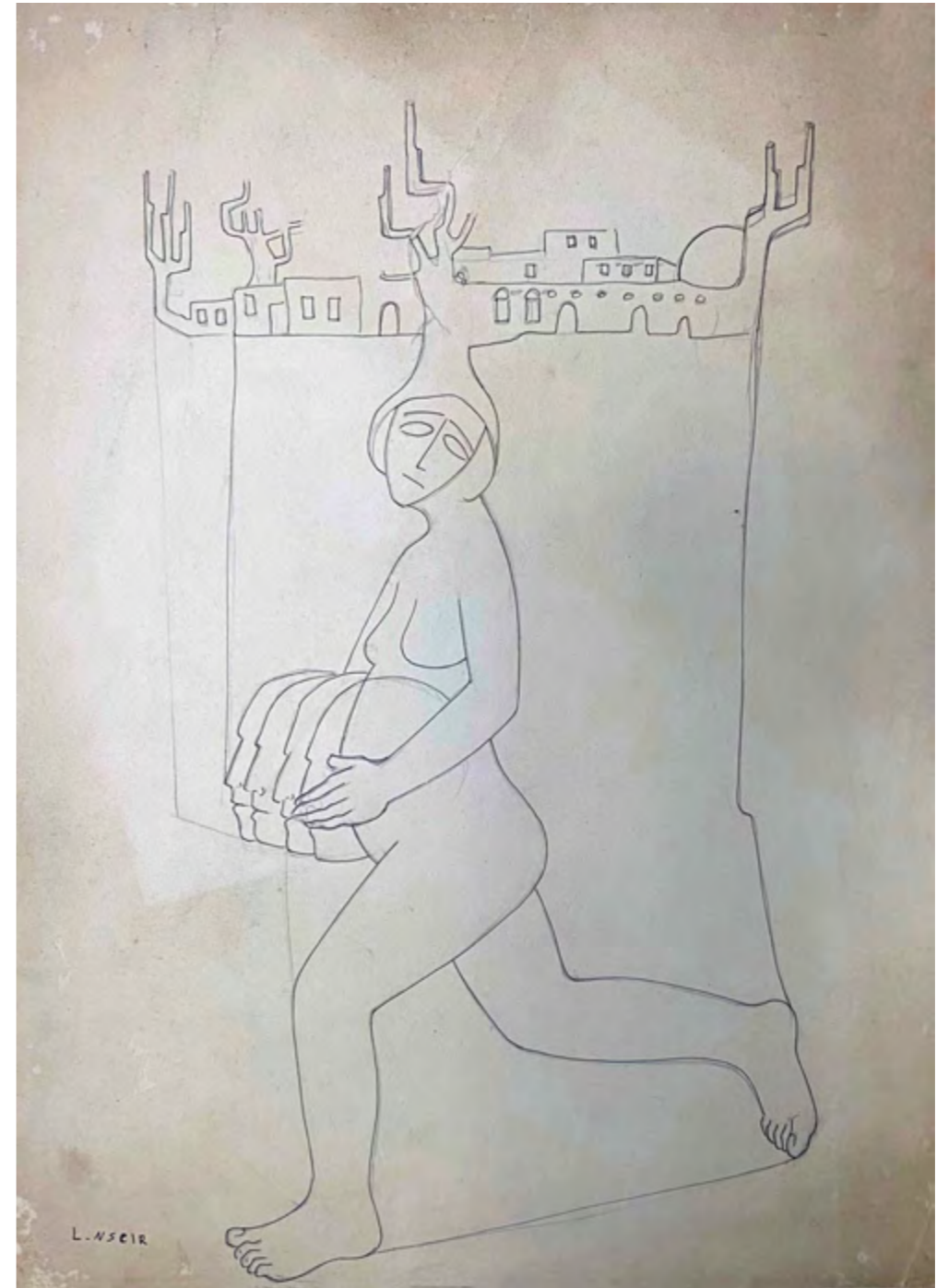
Growing up in rural villages, in order to get to school, Leila Nseir would walk through impoverished communities with children, in the snow and cold. Reflecting on these memories in her work, she has been searching “for the essence behind those faces.”

Experimenting with various materials and techniques, Nseir is also known for putting women in her paintings as workers, in later stages of pregnancy, or even as martyrs. Breaking from cultural norms of the time, she has never shied away from controversy in work or in life, saying: “I was the first woman in Syria who wore trousers and sat in the Rawda cafe in Damascus, and my pants were tight and clinging to me... I wanted to open the doors for others [to do the same].”

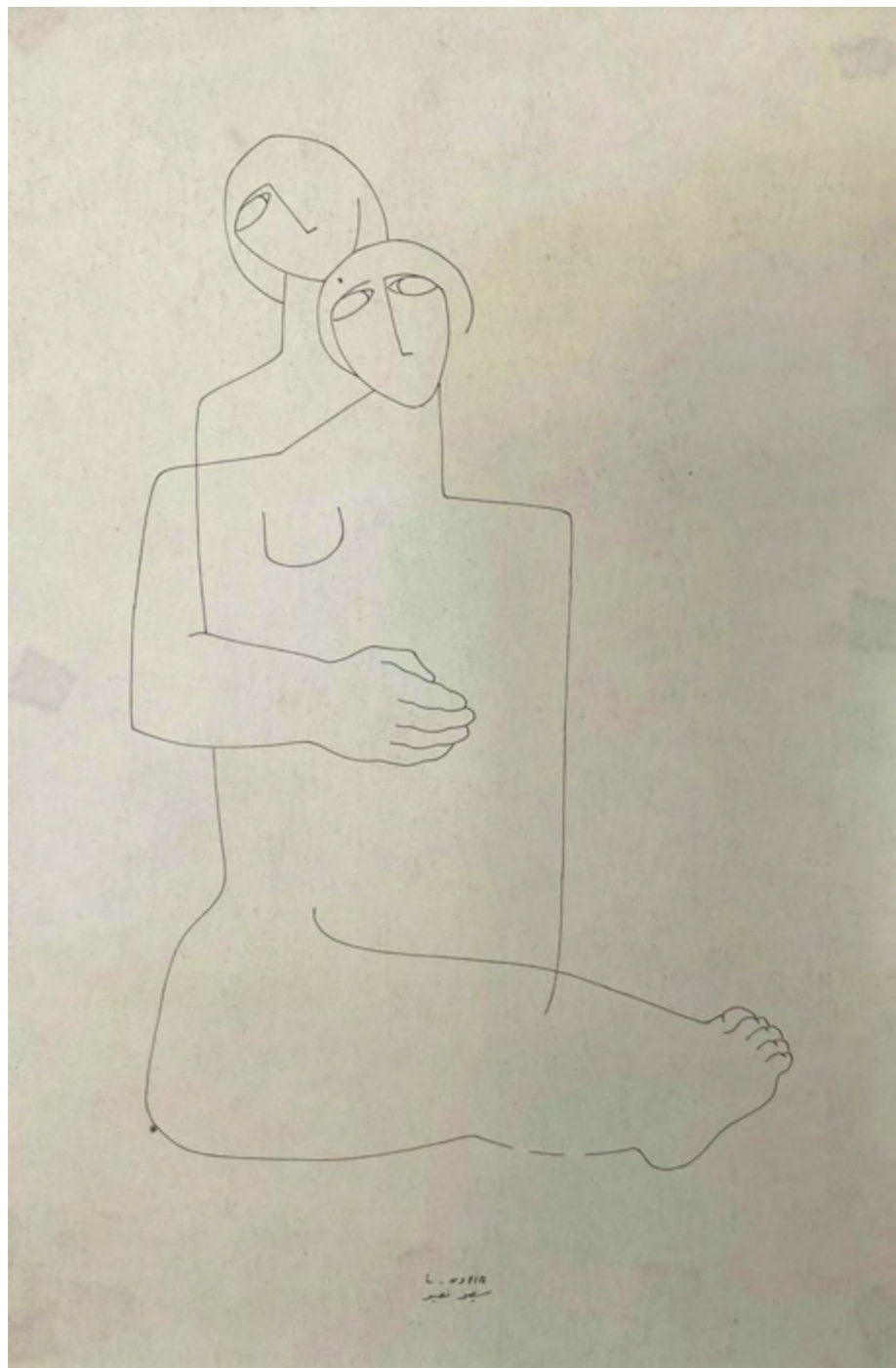
About The Artist

Born in Al-Haffah, north of Lattakia, Leila Nseir (1941) began drawing at the age of 14. She received a government scholarship to study in Egypt and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo in 1963. Beginning her career during the height of Syrian modernism, Nseir was an active figure in the evolving art scene. She had a friendship with Louay Kayyali whose similar themes such as issues of life and death, human struggle and the experiences of the working class appear in both of their work. The influence of her time in Egypt can be found in her later work, as she draws on Egyptian mythology in order to allegorically illustrate contemporary issues.

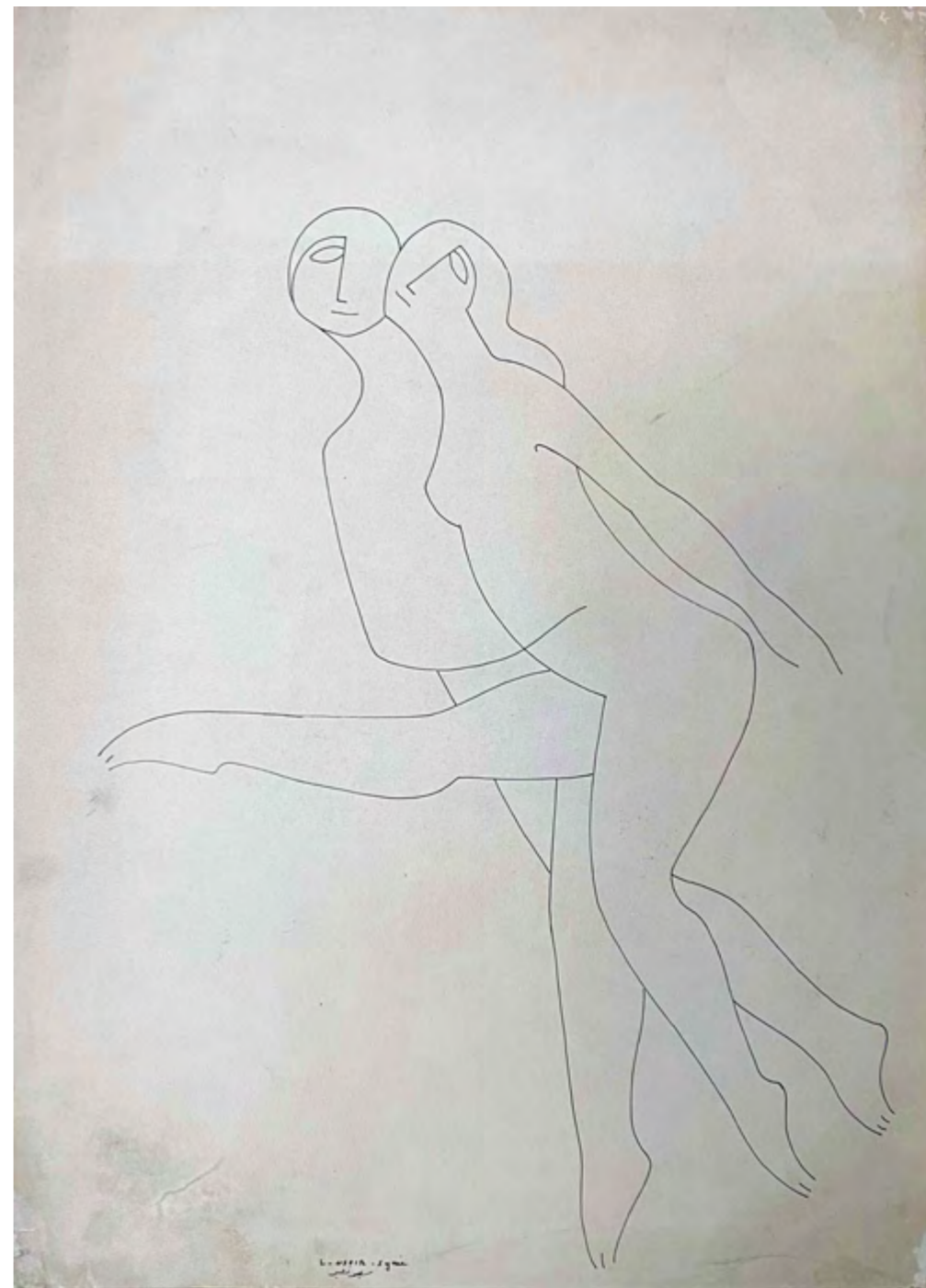
Nseir’s works are found in public collections such as National Museum of Damascus and Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah as well as numerous private collections throughout the Middle East, Asia, Europe and North America.



Leila Nseir, Untitled, 1970 - 1980, Ink on paper, 40 x 29 cm



Leila Nseir, Untitled, 1970 - 1980, Ink on paper, 37 x 25 cm



Leila Nseir, Untitled, 1970 - 1980, Ink on paper, 37 x 27 cm



Leila Nseir, Untitled, 1970 - 1980, Ink on paper, 37 x 27 cm



Leila Nseir, Untitled, 1970 - 1980, Ink on paper, 37 x 27 cm

MAJD KURDIEH

About The Artwork

Artist Majd Kurdieh's practice incorporates painting, drawing, and literature using recurring figures that stand to tell a story, usually carrying a strong moral and positive reinforcement that the artist projects into the world.

Kurdieh turned to more childlike paintings in which he incorporates strong literary and story-telling techniques. He paints recurring whimsical characters that seem to narrate a story. Over the past four years, the artist has created a 'cast of characters', the two main ones being the Fasaeen (Arabic for 'tiny ones'). The stories told through the representation of these figures are not specific stories that the artist references but rather ones that could apply to any viewer, leaving room for personal interpretation. The Fasaeen, one boy (Fasoon) and one girl (Fasoneh), always smiling despite the fact their world is filled with hardships, are usually accompanied by other characters.

About The Artist

Recently, Kurdieh has featured in solo and group exhibitions at MADS Gallery, Milan, Italy (2021); Azad Art Gallery, Cairo (2021; 2020); Egypt Art Fair (2022; 2021; 2020); BBA Gallery, Berlin (2019), Fann A Porter, Jordan (2021; 2020, 2019); Fann-A-Porter, Dubai (2021; 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016), El-Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo (2019), and Athar Al Farasheh, Aleppo (2011), Sikka Art Fair, Dubai (2018) and Art Bahrain, Manama (2019, 2018). His works are housed in public and private collections in the Middle East and abroad, including HE Dr. Zaki Nusseibeh's private collection and Atassi Foundation.

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1985, Kurdieh lives and works in Amsheet, Lebanon.



I lean on you, using your light to write.
All I do is hold the pen.



“- Oh cloud seller, how much is my heart worth?
* It's worth the world and everything in it.”

Majd Kurdieh, Watermelon Peace series, 2021, Oil on canvas, 35 x 50 cm



I tolerate my heart and its doings only because it loves you Ms. Butterfly.

Majd Kurdieh, Watermelon Peace series, 2021, Oil on canvas, 35 x 50 cm

MAYAR OBEIDO

About The Artwork

We live in a world full of objects and shapes, sometimes we pay attention to the simplest shapes in our life and sometimes we don't, it depends on the mental phase that we're in, the routines and the repetitions that we experience every day.

I think the repetitions force us to pay more attention to the objects around us and to start questioning their forms and meanings.

For me, the apple is an object that I deal with and observe every day and i try to record it with all its different forms when it starts to experience changes in its shape under the effect of time and other factors.

About The Artist

Mayar Obeido is a visual artist, born in Damascus, Syria 1995, he had a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Damascus University 2017. Participated in a several collective exhibitions, workshops and symposiums in Syria, he exhibited his first solo exhibition entitled " Apple " at zawayya gallery in Damascus 2021, his artwork basically depends on the object "Apple" as he tries to create a relationship between the characters that he draws and the apple in attempt to present ideas about repetitions, observation and change. he uses the characters and apple as a tool to express a certain state of the mental image of himself and its reflection on the shape of the apple.

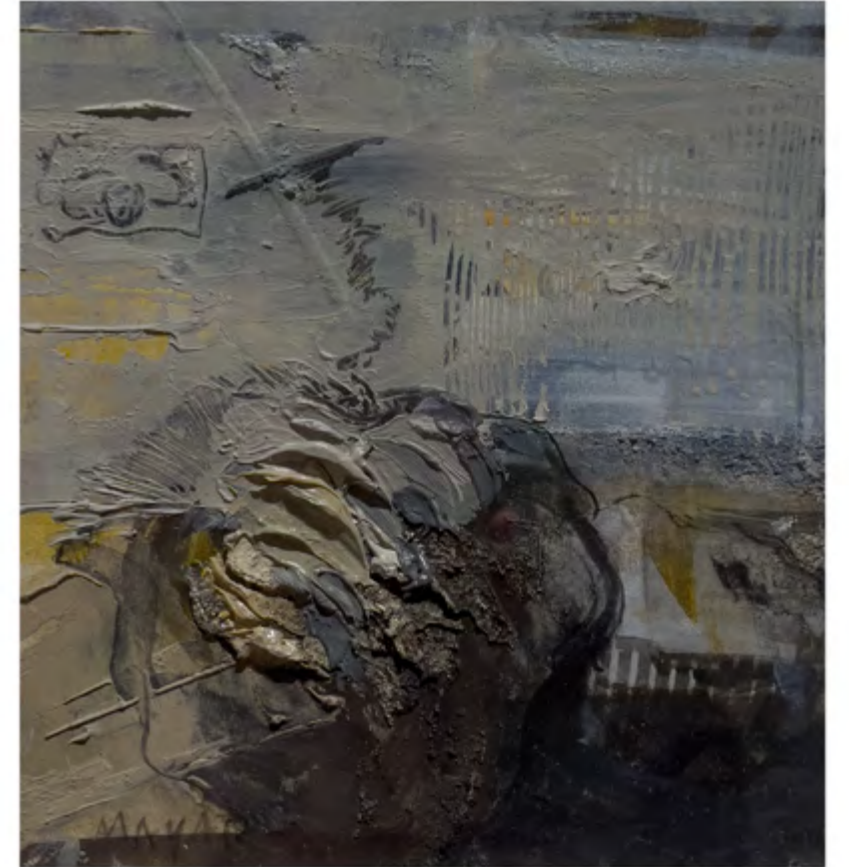




Mayar Obeido, Apple series 2, 2021, Mixed media on paper, 25 x 25 cm



Mayar Obeido, Apple series 3, 2021, Mixed media on paper, 25 x 25 cm



Mayar Obeido, Apple series 4, 2021, Mixed media on paper, 25 x 25 cm

MEHSEN FAKIH

About The Artwork

While known for his work in calligraphic portraiture, Mehsen Fakihi's works can also reflect present-day issues in Lebanon.

About The Artist

Inspired by the Arabic language in all its forms, Lebanese artist Mehsen Fakihi (1993) pursued his passion for calligraphy by studying under masters from Lebanon, Morocco and the United States. By learning new and different techniques in calligraphy, Fakihi builds visual compositions with words, creating works with a precise hand. He has shown his work both in the Middle East and in Europe.



Mehsen Fakihi, ستكون خراباً , ink on newspaper, 42 x 29 cm

With the image of Lebanese government officials upside down, reflecting the revolutionary rage at corruption, ستكون خراباً was drawn on the October 17 newspaper after the famous saying of Muthaffar Al-Nawab.



Mehsen Fakihi, اليوم الأخير , ink on canvas, 29 x 42 cm

The tragic situation of people struggling is depicted in the Illustrated faces of “The Last Day” drawn with the translated phrase “They carry their souls on the palms of their hands.”

MOHAMMAD KHAYATA

About The Artwork

Addressing the issues of Syrians living in Lebanon, artist MohamadKhayataexamines “their relationship with the political and societal environment, focusing on their jobs as workers and farmers, which are the professions they are allowed to practice, while addressing the social life of women.

About The Artist

Born in Damascus, Mohamad Khayata (1985) holds a degree in Fine Arts obtained from Damascus University. As the result of years of displacement, Khayata’s work deals with concepts of migration, memory and identity. Evolving from photography to encompass mixed media, painting, sculpture and music, he often combines more than one medium with photographic work to produce a multilayered exploration of identity and nation. Many of his pieces include the ongoing metaphorical - and literal - theme of the patchwork quilt, which reflects his desire to stitch Syria back together.



Mohammad Khayata, Anchor, oil on canvas, 2022, 50 x 50 cm



Mohammad Khayata, Skyscrapers, oil on canvas, 2022, 50 x 40 cm

NAIMA SHISHINI

About The Artwork

Strokes of colors and lines come to together into forms creating an energy and movement in Naima Shishini's paintings. Seen throughout her career, the expressive lines are almost calligraphic with a language of their own. The "Untitled" painting has an ephemeral and harmonious rhythm complimented with serene colors.

About The Artist

Egyptian abstract artist Naima Shishini (1929) received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Alexandria and her PhD in the History of Art from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and has taught in universities in Egypt, Turkey, Spain and the Netherlands. She has exhibited internationally in former Yugoslavia, Germany, Spain, Italy, Jordan, Austria, India, Uzbekistan. An advocate for social change, she was most recently in an internationally touring exhibition "Breaking the veils. Women artists in the Islamic world."



Naima Shishini, Untitled, 1990, Watercolor, 35 x 25 cm

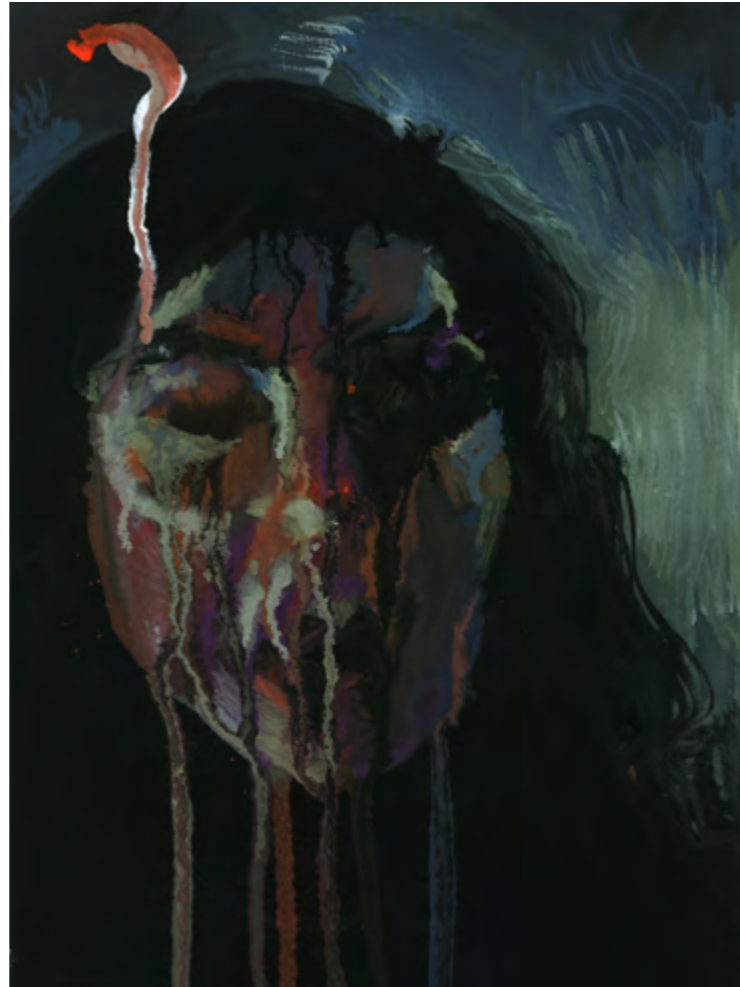
OMAR KHOURI

About The Artwork

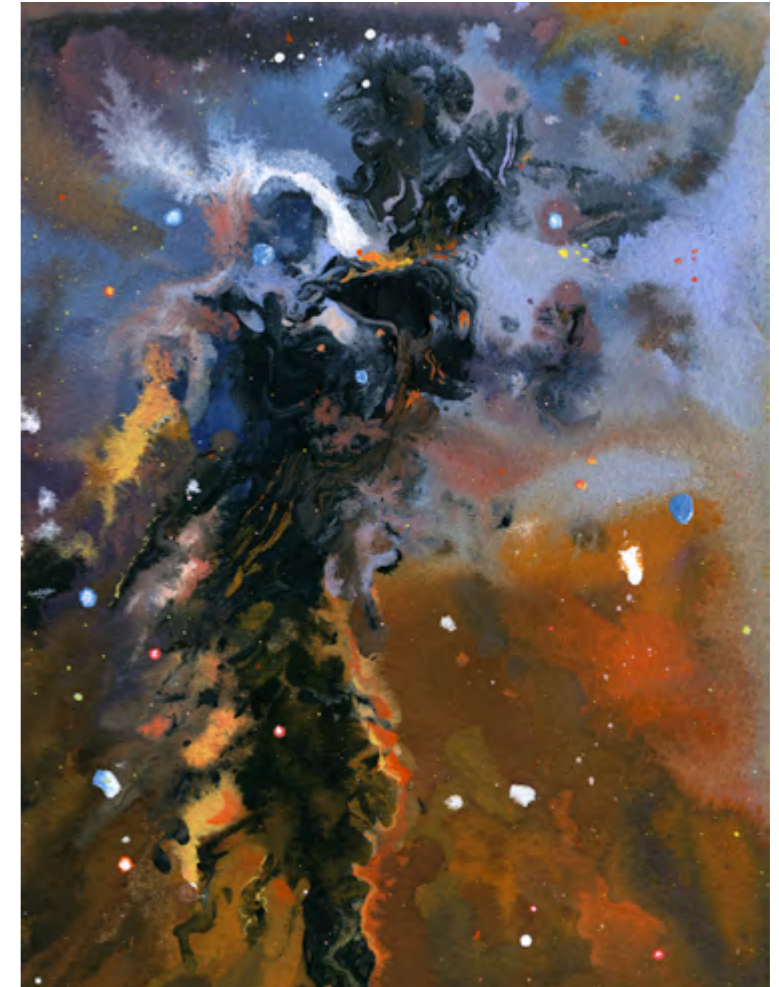
Well-known for comic illustrations and portrait paintings, Omar Khouri's work touches on the complicated and layered psychology of the individual in society. Inspired by sci-fi, this work is part of a series that depicts deep space with its dramatic events, as well as reflecting the dark part of the human mind.

About The Artist

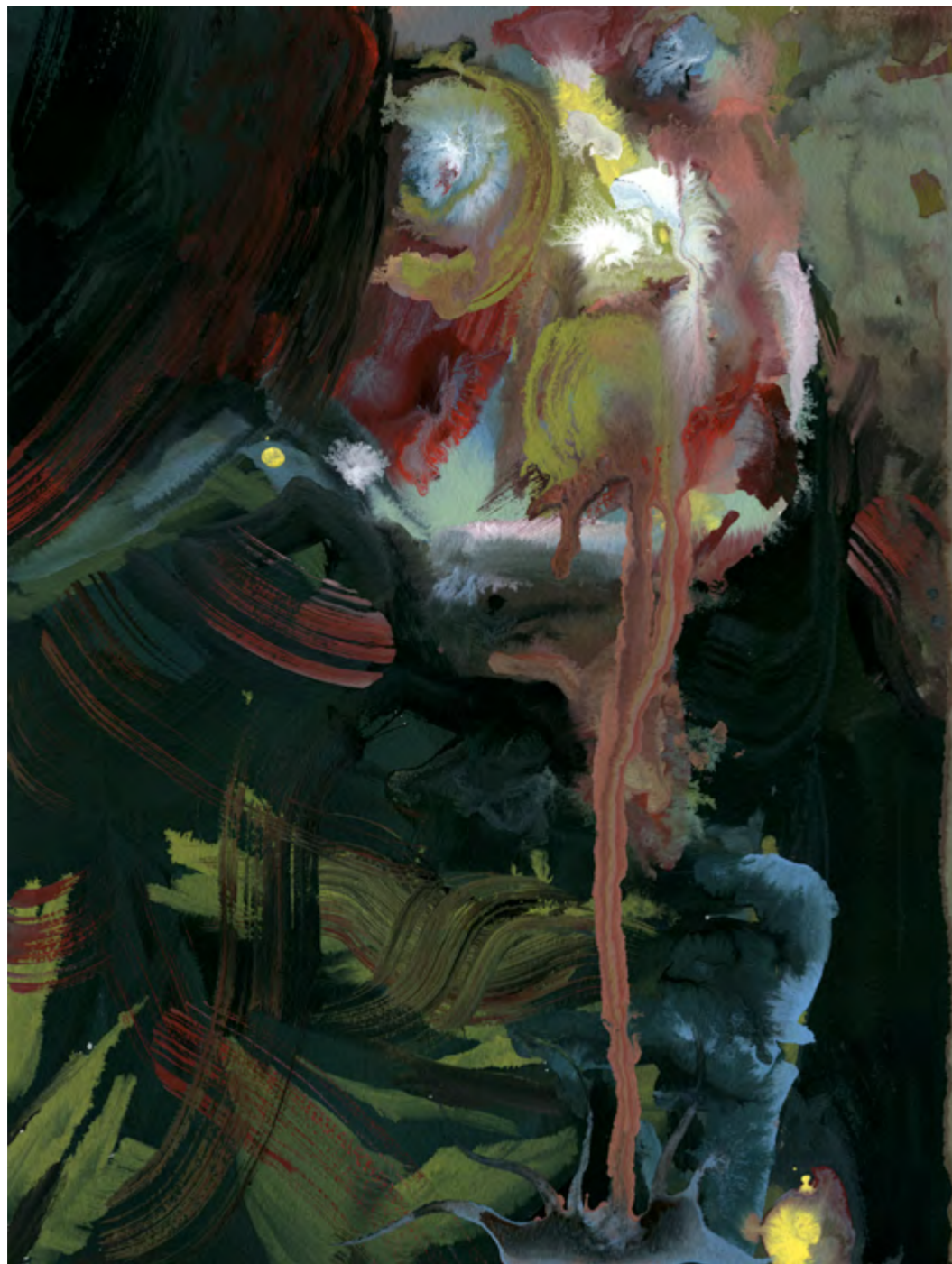
Lebanese artist Omar Khouri (1978) graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston and works primarily in painting, comics, and film. In 2006, he co-founded Samandal Comics and was the co-writer, concept artist, robot designer and actor in the award winning Lebanese Science Fiction film "The Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow." Khouri's work has been exhibited and is held in collections in the US, UK, Europe, Japan and Lebanon.



Omar Khouri, Ally, 2019, Gouache on paper, 36 x 26 cm



Omar Khouri, The Eagle Spire, 2019, Gouache on paper, 31 x 15.1 cm



Omar Khouri, Plastic Love, 2019, Gouache on paper, 41 x 31 cm



Omar Khouri, V838, 2019, Gouache on paper, 41 x 31 cm

OMAR ONSI

About The Artwork

Working mainly in pencil, watercolor and oil, Onsi spent hours observing a subject before starting a rendering. He tried to remove “traces of himself as a rationalizing being and to react unselfconsciously with precise draughtsman ship, direct brushwork, and heightened sensitivity to optical effects.” This work is a classic Onsi, a natural landscape with dynamic brushwork that gives the scene a sense of movement and energy.

About The Artist

One of the most famous Lebanese Impressionist painters and pioneer of modernism in Lebanon, Omar Onsi (1901-1969) studied with master painter Khalil Saleeby and later on at the Académie Julian in Paris. He exhibited his work in Germany, Spain, Italy, and Egypt and was well known for his landscape paintings that were quickly bought by affluent families.



OMRAN AL KAYSI

About The Artwork

In “Untitled” (The Wounded Lion of Babylon), Omran Al Kaysi paints a lion injured by three spears each of which represents the separate wars which occurred within the last thirty years in Iraq. Symbolic of the country struggling to survive and heal the wounds from those wars, the tragedy and the determination of lion is apparent as he tries to move forward.

About The Artist

Artist, historian, and art critic, Lebanese-Iraqi Omran Al-Kaysi (1940) is well-known for his artwork and writings throughout the Arab world.

He has shown internationally with exhibitions in Lebanon, Canada, Iraq, Jordan, Spain, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, Russia, Japan, Brazil and around the African continent. His work is the collections of the Contemporary Art Museum, Boston; Royal Court Jeddah, Royal Jordanian Museum, Bagdad Contemporary Art Museum and the Beiteddine Museum. His writing is published in various art magazines, newspapers and publications including: *Ontological Study: Aref el Rayess*; *Path of Peace*; and *Abdel Halim Ridawi & Contemporary Saudi Art*.



OUSSAMA BAALBAKI

About The Artwork

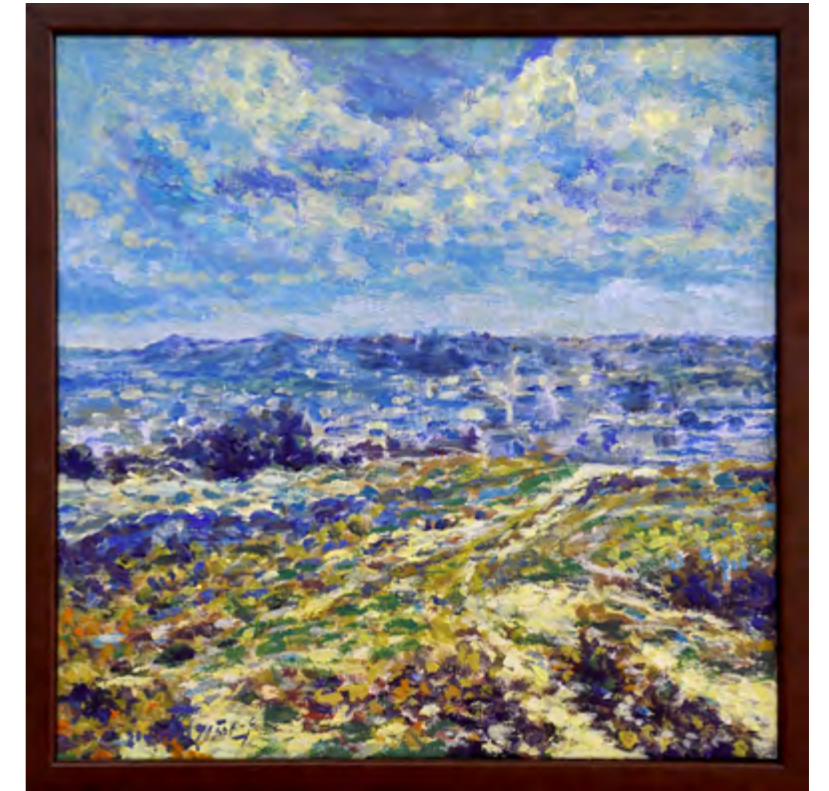
Well-known for his contemporary renderings of landscapes and portraiture, Lebanese artist Oussama Baalbaki (1978) graduated from the School of Fine Arts at the Lebanese University in 2002. His work has been exhibited internationally at galleries, fairs and auctions and is held in collections including the Dalloul Art Foundation, The Mokbel Art Collection, and Ministry of Culture, Lebanon.

About The Artist

Creating poetic atmospheres in his work, Oussama Baalbaki primarily paints Lebanese landscapes that vary from realistic expressionism to rhythmic impressionism. Emotion-filled in their vibrant colors and brushwork, the paintings can feel upbeat, bright, gloomy, isolated, romantic or somewhere in between.



Oussama Baalbaki, Untitled, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 40 cm



Oussama Baalbaki, Untitled, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 40 cm

RABEE KIWAN

About The Artwork

“The main element of my work is the human figure in all its states and manifestations. Since the beginning of my career, I took inspiration from the observation of reality, trying to imitate it in the composition of my works, at the same time playing with the material in an expressive manner”

In this latest series titled Black, the artist’s experiment is considered a natural extension of his previous exploration of contemporary human life. He uses a special technique that abstracts space and imbues his paintings in different details.

We see human subjects with skewed expressions representing a condition of awe and astonishment that are clearly manifested in wide eyes that are reminiscent of Sumerian sculptures from the region’s old civilizations. The size of the eyes signified the person’s socio-economic status, but the artist portrays them as a reflection of the surrounding environment and its sudden and continuous change.

About The Artist

Born in Damascus, Syria in 1984, Rabee Kiwan graduated from the painting department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus in 2008. Rabee Kiwan’s works are part of several private collections in Europe, Canada, America, the Persian Gulf and Lebanon.

The artist lives and works between the UAE and Syria.





Rabee Kiwan, Untitled, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 26 x 30 cm



Rabee Kiwan, Untitled, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 26 x 30 cm

RAFIC CHARAF

About The Artwork

Inspired by Western expressionism and affected by cultural and social issues around him, Rafic Charaf was sensitive to both the human struggle and issues within Lebanon. Throughout many phases in his career, he painted subjects such as the folk hero, landscapes and calligraphy. Many of his landscapes like “untitled” portrayed Lebanon, particularly the Bekaa valley, sometimes rendered bleakly.

About The Artist

Growing up in Baalbeck, Lebanon, Rafic Charaf (1932-2003) was the son of a blacksmith who always carried coal in his pocket to draw on anything in the village. In 1952, he enrolled at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Art (ALBA) and also studied in Spain and Italy on scholarship. Later, he joined the Beirut intellectual scene, painting and exhibiting internationally in the 60s, 70s, and 80s.



SOHA SABBAGH

About The Artwork

Inspired from her ancestral roots in Southern Lebanon, the Arab revolutions and women rights, Soha Sabbagh feels that her work both reflects a part of broader society while expressing her own emotions.

About The Artist

Lebanese expressionist artist Soha Sabbagh holds a postgraduate diploma in Drawing & Painting from the Institute of Fine Arts and is a Professor at the Teachers' College of Art. She is a member of the administrative board of the Association of Lebanese Artists and has participated in exhibitions in Lebanon and abroad. Sabbagh also acted in a film about prominent Palestinian cartoonist, Naji El Ali and directed a documentary film about the Lebanese artist Rafic Charaf.



Soha Sabbagh, Untitled, 2000, Oil on canvas, 40 x 35 cm

In this intimate painting, a woman embraces the outline of a man that is abstracted with broad strokes. The viewer focuses on her face in the center of the canvas. Her eyes are closed, seemingly with contentment.



Soha Sabbagh, Untitled, 1997, Pastel on paper, 31 x 23 cm

While this pastel work is of a traditional vase with flowers, it has a unique frenetic energy in the strokes creating movement in a “still life.”

YOUSSEF GHAZZAWI

About The Artwork

The Lebanese artist Youssef Ghazzawi references the idea of home in his works using the simple symbol of a house. In this abstract pastel on paper, some might see the triangular roof and square body of the house, dissected and tumbling in a dark cloud. Hence, the feeling of “home” is destroyed, dark and shaken to pieces. Over the years, the artist lost his home three times to Israeli bombings.

About The Artist

Artist, writer and academic, Youssef Ghazzawi was born in Khyiam, Lebanon. He studied fine art at ALBA, art history at the Sorbonne, museum science at Modern Art Museum, Paris and the practical application of stained glass at Lyon Blanché – applying the technique to a number of projects in France. In 1992, he was awarded a PhD in Fine Arts from the University of Paris.

Youssef Ghazzawi has exhibited extensively in the Arab world and Europe as well as participating in fine arts discourses and groups. He has also researched and published fine arts texts and is a Professor at the Lebanese University.



Youssef Ghazzawi, Untitled, 1988, Pastel on paper, 40 x 37 cm

ZENA ASSI

About The Artwork

Drawing inspiration from her native Beirut, Zena Assi's work portrays the socio-cultural aspects and intense emotions of contemporary urban society such as migration and memory. Using collaged mixed media, Assi illustrates the corruption-made humanitarian crisis facing present-day Lebanon.

About The Artist

Born in Lebanon, Zena Assi (1974) graduated from l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA) and taught drawing and visual communication at different universities. Her work has been at auction at Christie's, Sotheby's, Bonhams and Phillips and is part of collections such as ALBA, Barjeel Art Foundation and Institut du Monde Arabe.



Zena Assi, Martyr, 2021, Mixed media, 33 x 18 cm

Inspired from street art and poster-like memorials “Martyr” questions what images of the dead mean to the living, influencing choices and affecting obligations.



Zena Assi, Memento Mori, 2021, Mixed media, 30 x 20 cm

In Memento Mori, she depicts an exhausted over-burdened woman, sitting next to a skeleton. An age-old artistic reference to the inevitability of death, Assi gives a contemporary and local twist on this classic depiction, adding layers of meaning both symbolically and literally with the collaged mixed media.



Zena Assi, Buy or Sell, 2021, Mixed media, 30 x 21.5 cm

Filled with symbolism, "Buy or Sell" has a woman struggling with her head barely above water emphasizing that life still goes on even through the chaotic humanitarian situation.

About Fann A Porter®

Fann A Porter is a contemporary art gallery that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists, with locations in Dubai, UAE and Amman, Jordan. The gallery aims to nurture the burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through quality exhibitions, non-profit events, auctions, and an active community program.

The gallery's exhibition program includes ten curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media. Fann A Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, museums, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

In 2015, the gallery organized a charity auction Artists for the Kids of Syria under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture and in collaboration with the UAE Red Crescent. The charity auction helped raise over AED 500,000 to help the children in the refugee camps in Jordan. In 2019, the gallery launched Art for All Collective (AFA) to provide a platform to make quality art accessible through bespoke payment plans, a first of its kind initiative for the Middle East.

By hosting a regular public programming including exhibitions, talks, non-profit initiatives, and by participating in fairs, Fann A Porter has established itself in forefront of the region's exciting arts landscape.

Founded in 2009 by collector Ghada Kunash, the gallery was initially known as Vindemia.art, opened adjacent to and under the umbrella of Vindemia, an antiques and collectibles gallery at Jumeirah Beach Residence, Dubai. In 2010, the gallery partnered with Kempinski Hotel Mall of The Emirates, for a dedicated space for the art. In 2014, under the same trade license of Vindemia Novelties LLC, the art gallery was rebranded to Fann A Porter.

In 2016, Ghada Kunash opened The Workshop Dubai, combining her two ventures – Vindemia and Fann A Porter, a unique community space consisting of a café and design space, providing visitors with a unique artistic and cultural experience. The Workshop Dubai, with its naturally bathed garden, is located in the heart of Jumeirah.

In 2020, with the vision to expand and provide a local platform, Ghada Kunash opened a second Fann A Porter outpost, in Amman, located at Manara Arts & Culture, a creative hub and social space in the heart of Jabal Al Lweibdeh.



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