



FANN-À-PORTER



3 - 5 February 2023

Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

HOUSSAM BALLAN

Figurative painter Houssam Ballan's (Syria, b. 1983) canvases are informed by his accomplished technical abilities and through his extensive academic and research endeavour. In his latest collection of works, the artist takes a minimalist approach, using only a few elements and colour groups that have become the most prominent in his work as of late. At times, he utilizes the same element repeatedly, offering different perspectives on one shape by altering its size.

In the end, each form is a visual message speaking through the language of colour, space, and composition. The work, which is symbolic, also serves as a psychological depiction of the artist's life.

We do not know where the characters in these paintings live for that connection has been severed. Each piece is a poetic formula — intentionally rhetorical and brief.

Ballan was a tutor and member of the Teacher's Association at the University of Damascus. 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 MENART, Brussels, Belgium (2023); Fann A Porter, Dubai, UAE (2023, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018); Agial Gallery Beirut, Lebanon (2022); MADS Gallery, Milan, Italy (2021); Azad Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2021); Litehouse Gallery, London, UK (2020); Cairo 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); 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.



Houssam Ballan, *Beirut Corniche Little Girl* | فتاة الكورنيش بيروت |
2022, oil on canvas, 130 x 150
USD 10,000



Houssam Ballan, *The Monster and the Dinosaur* | البيوع والديناصور
2022, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm
USD 9,000



Houssam Ballan, *The Toys* | الدمى
2022, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm
USD 9,000



Houssam Ballan, *Playing at Suhoor* | اللعب وقت السحور
2022, oil on canvas, 130 x 150 cm
USD 10,000

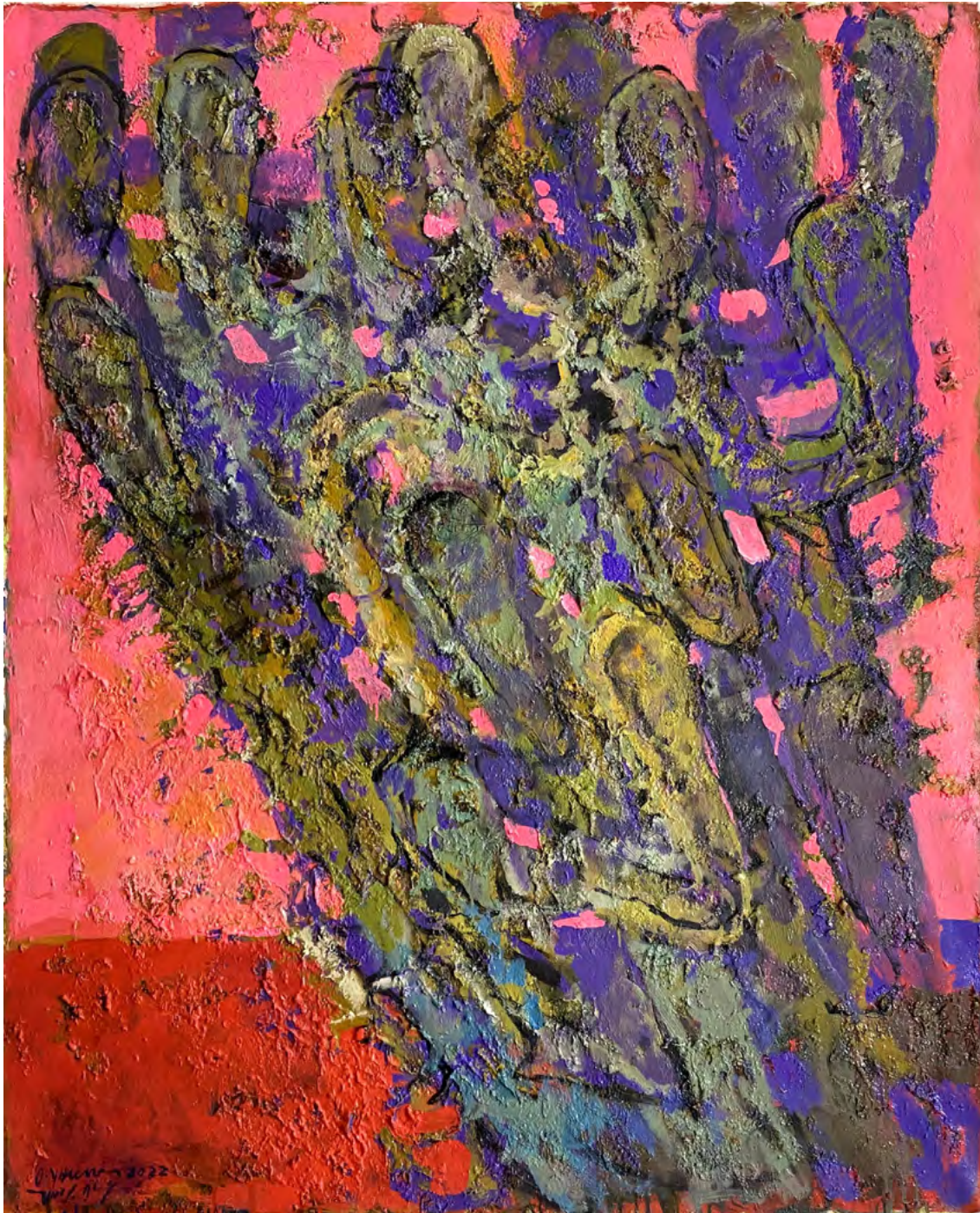


Houssam Ballan, *A Game of Hide 'n Seek* | لعبة الإختباء
2022, oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm
USD 9,000

OMRAN YOUNES

Since the late 1990s, Syrian painter Omran Younes (b. 1971) has probed the psychological undercurrents of expressionist painting, building on a rich tradition of Syrian modernism that began when artists such as Fateh Moudarres used painting as a way of visualizing the unseen but palpable shifts in Syrian society in the mid twentieth century. Younes is steeped in this history yet remains committed to ongoing experimentation, actively pushing the boundaries of painting in search of ways to communicate the complexity of the human psyche and the physical responses that reveal its fragility, such as instances of fear and pain. This emphasis on the human condition makes works that were inspired by his surroundings in war-torn Syria categorically universal, resonating with viewers from the U.S. to the Middle East. His rich palette, characterized by shades of vermilion, sunburnt orange, lapis, and black, white, and grey, contrasts the warmth of the earth with the vastness of the sky, grounding his scenes in reality. In his most recent works, distinguished by thick, loose brushwork, prickly pear cacti stand in for the anonymous figures of earlier works, anthropomorphic representations of weathered yet resilient protagonists.

Younes received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Damascus' Faculty of Fine Arts in 1998 and 2000, respectively, and was the first prize recipient of the 3rd Annual Youth Competition in Damascus, among other awards. He has exhibited at galleries and art spaces across the Middle East, the United States, and Europe, including the Virginia Commonwealth University Gallery in Doha, Qatar, while his paintings are held in the collections of institutions and organizations such as the Atassi Foundation.



Omran Younes, Untitled
2022, mixed media on canvas, 162 x 132 cm
USD 13,300



Omran Younes, Untitled
2022, mixed media on canvas, 180 x 70 cm
USD 7,500



Omran Younes, Untitled
2020, mixed media on canvas, 80 x 60 cm
USD 2,800

About Fann À Porter®

Fann À Porter is a contemporary art gallery at The Workshop Dubai that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists.

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 eight curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media.

Fann À Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

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

Founded in 2006 by Ghada Kunash, Fann À Porter is based at The Workshop, a unique inter-disciplinary community space consisting of an art gallery, a sustainable store, design studio, and a cafe. The Workshop aims to engage the audiences, and support the development of Dubai's arts scene through its extensive programs, educational initiatives, and community projects.



Fann À Porter

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