



HOUSSAM BALLAN
AT EGYPT INT'L ART FAIR 2022

EGYPT
INT'L
ART
FAIR

Houssam Ballan (b. 1983 , Syria)

Figurative painter Houssam Ballan's canvases are informed by his accomplished technical abilities and through his extensive academic and research endeavour. As an artist, Ballan's frequent experimentation informs the growth in his work as he works intuitively. In his earlier paintings, Ballan's young protagonists are executed with close attention to detail, a form of realism that relies on painterly effects and meticulous line work to create a sculptural sense of figuration. As the bodies of his subjects are given dimensionality, the artist renders their clothes as lines, patterns, and evident brushstrokes with a stylisation that alludes to the passage of time and the presence of an ongoing narrative.

At the centre of his work is the idea that representation cannot solely be based on what one sees, but the understanding of what one is seeing and the feelings it invokes in a person - be it through looking at it from different angles, touching it, allowing it to move you subconsciously, as well as other experiential interactions. Drawing upon the idea that when one tries to remember a person or a specific incident, that person or incident is not remembered in concrete shapes and lines and colours, but blurred into an overall multi-dimensional feeling, the artist minimalises the detail in his work.



Ballan's paintings are reminiscent of icons - the figures are usually situated in the centre of the canvas, adding light to his work without painting any shadows on their faces. The artist minimalises the size of the figures bodies, ignoring original dimensions, also characteristic of icons. Ballan explains that 'when painting an icon, Christian painters didn't care more about the sacred story or idea than other aspects of the work. I like this spontaneity in painting.'

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 (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, *Cactus*, 2021, oil on canvas, 190 x 175 cm
EGP 157,000 | USD 10,000 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, *Mirror and Scissors*, 2021, oil on canvas, 140 x 140 cm
EGP 107,000 | USD 6,800 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, *The Trumpet*, 2021, oil on canvas, 120 x 140 cm
EGP 97,500 | USD 6,200 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, *Crutches*, 2021, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm
EGP 97,500 | USD 6,200 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015,
mixed media on paper, 20 x 29 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015,
mixed media on paper, 21 x 33 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015,
mixed media on paper, 20 x 29 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015,
mixed media on paper, 21 x 29 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, mixed media on paper, 32 x 21.5 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, mixed media on paper, 29 x 20 cm
EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)



Houssam Ballan, Untitled, 2015, mixed media on paper, 32 x 21.5 cm

EGP 6,300 | USD400 (+ 14% VAT)

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.



Dubai Head Office

Villa 45, Street 23B, Jumeirah 2, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
fann@theworkshopdubai.com
+971 4 341 2595
P.O. Box 215457 Dubai, United Arab Emirates
www.fannaporter.com

Amman Branch

Manara Arts and Culture, Dirar Ben Al-Azwar, St. 56, Amman, Jordan
amman@fannaporter.com
+962 79 716 7022

  FannAPorter

The
WORKSHOP
Engage: Art, Design & Intellect