



ATASSI
Foundation

Contemporary Syrian Art

Online Auction:

From Tuesday 6 October at 10:00h GMT

Bidding ends on Monday 12 October, at 14:00h GMT

ArtScoops.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Atassi Foundation for Art and Culture's first ***Contemporary Syrian Art Auction***, organised in collaboration with our partners at ArtScoops.

Atassi Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to creating knowledge around Syrian art, preserving its artistic heritage and supporting its artists. We meet these goals by organising various types of events, issuing publications and building accessible archives.

Ever since our launch in 2016, at the height of the conflict and division in our home country, we have envisaged a Syrian art scene in which its different protagonists come together as partners. Today, we believe the time is ripe for all to harmoniously work together: artist, collector, auction house and non-profit organisation. As we all struggle to come to terms with the new global realities of the pandemic, the explosion in Beirut, the ongoing plight of the Syrian diaspora and loss of life as we know it, this hand-in-hand stand only speaks of our determination to create a vibrant and united Syrian art community and celebrate its place in the world.

This is not intended to be an auction in the traditional sense. We wish to transcend the idea of the commercial art market, with its obscure forces of supply and demand and unreasonably soaring prices, and instead focus on artists as humans with struggles and aspirations, and with frustrations and dreams. This is why prices of artworks in this Auction have been set in such a way that renders these artworks accessible to all collectors, particularly young ones.



This auction focuses mainly on emerging and middle career Syrian artists with a few well-established names in the mix. Although scattered around the world, each and every one of them contributes to the illustrative story of Syrian art today. This is a story of who we are.

We are very excited and thankful to be working with each participating artist. We are grateful to ArtScoops, and in particular, its founder May Mamarbachi, for being so generous and showing us the way. And we thank you, our supporters, for your ongoing faith in our work and in the artists. We hope you find your new art acquisition in this Auction.

Mouna and Shireen Atassi
September 2020

Lot 1

ABDULLAH MURAD (B. 1944)

Lives in Syria

Painting by layering different styles, brushstrokes and even collaging mixed media onto his canvases, artist Abdullah Murad is considered to be one of the pioneers of abstract expressionist Arab Art. In an interview, he talks about his philosophy of spontaneous expression and playful enthusiasm, saying: "Art is like a dance. You keep moving and moving to whatever is going on."

Born in Homs, Abdullah Murad (1944) graduated from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University; in 1970. Inspired by the rhythm of the Arabesque lines, Murad's works are deeply influenced by fauvist colours and the Abstract Expressionist movement. The energy in his work, moves between frantic and condensed to calm and sparse, with asymmetrical compositions that allow the gaze to flow through the work. Exploring the tension between balance and imbalance, Murad's technique varies from thick slabs of paint to thin translucent layers, playing with textures and surfaces, adding collages composed of newspaper clippings or other media.

Murad's work has been in international exhibitions and at auctions and is housed in private collections and public institutions such as the Sharjah Museum, National Museum of Damascus, Dalloul Art Foundation and the Syrian Ministry of Culture.

Untitled

2018

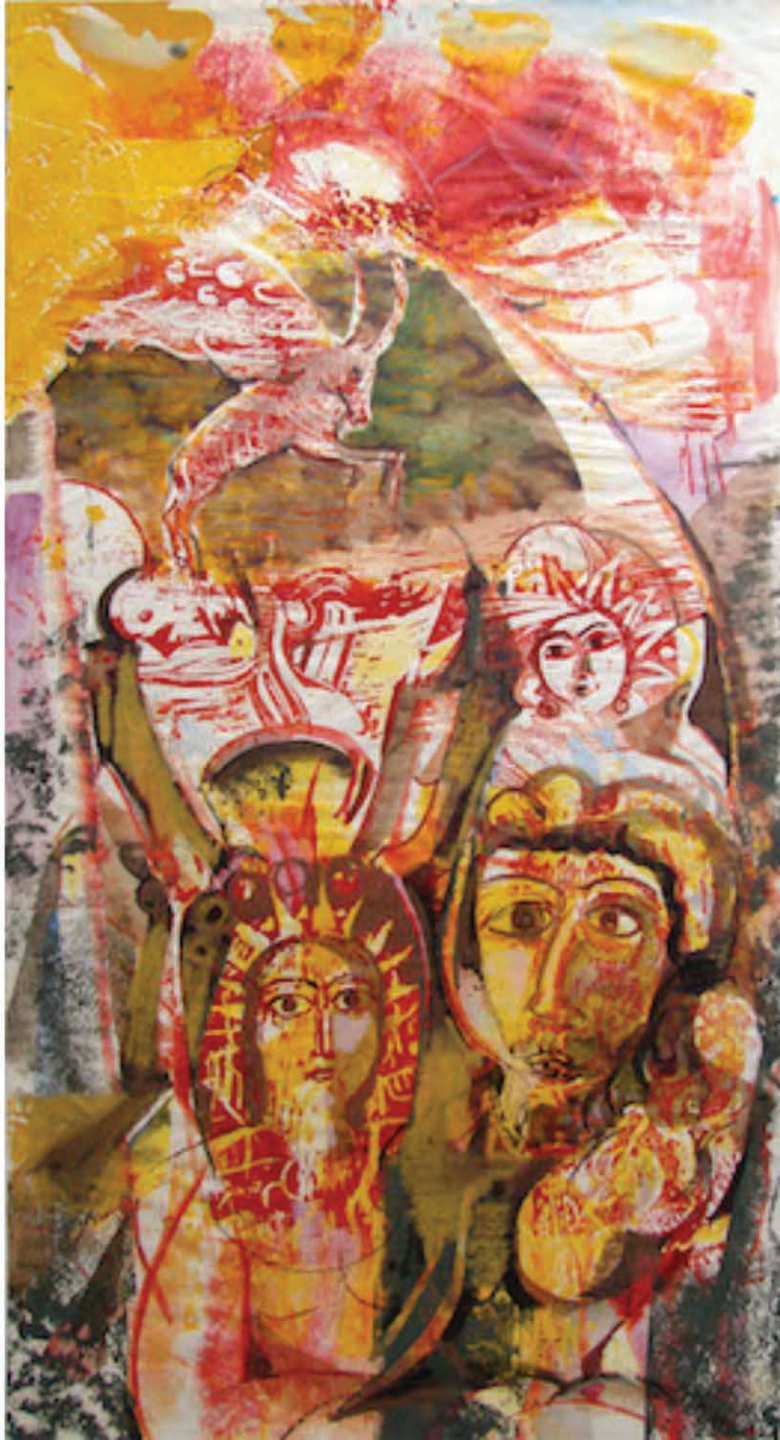
Acrylic on Canvas

60 x 60 cm

\$3,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 2

AHMAD MADOUN (1941-1983)

Inspired by his ancestral village, Ahmad Madoun once wrote: "For me, Palmyra is the main source of nature, good taste, and the original Palmyrene arts; especially at its peak, it enriches my artistic sensibilities".

Born in Palmyra, Ahmad Madoun (1941–1983) drew from a young age. Using his friends and family as models, he practiced drawing figures from various positions and angles. Later in life, he studied abroad in Egypt and came back to Syria to work in various fine arts institutions. After years of creating artworks, he began to exhibit his pieces in 1976. Interested in the cultural heritage of Palmyra, which he intertwined with the reality of his village, Madoun created figurative works which incorporated the imagery of ancient ruins. With his distinct style and symbology, the works form a series on the past and present of this ancient city.

Ahmad Madoun has work in the National Museum of Damascus, the Museum of Modern Art in Damascus, and private collections in Syria, Egypt, Germany, the US, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, India, Kuwait, Mexico and Belgium.

Sunset in Palmyra

Undated

Etching and Mixed Media on Paper
67 x 36 cm

\$4,500 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist estate

Lot 3

ALAA ABOU SHAHEEN (B. 1982)

Lives in France



Satire and irony play into the work of Alaa Abou Shaheen, taking the form of figures and animals, or even common Arab tropes, drawing on caricature figures from popular culture and recognisable allegorical references, such as the donkey as a sign of stubbornness. His caricaturist pieces portray social concerns or criticism and his sarcasm is apparent when he is quoted as saying "if wisdom and knowledge were quantitative, then the enormity of the donkey's head would have become a symbol of philosophy."

Born in Damascus, Alaa Abou Shaheen (1982) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2006 and worked for a number of years in Aleppo as a Fine Arts Professor. Driving his artworks is the burning need to express the contradictions and ridiculousness of life. His childish figures and animals are often distorted and exaggerated. Known for working in a variety of media, Abou Shaheen creates his characters in soft sculpture, metal, painting, collage and mixed media.

Abou Shaheen has exhibited his work in Beirut, Amman, Bahrain, London, Paris and throughout Syria. He was awarded the first national symposium prize for young sculptors at the Palmyra Festival in Homs and the third prize in sculpture at the Kamel gallery. His artwork has been acquired by the Yinchuan Museum of Contemporary Art in China.

Untitled

2020

Collage on Canvas

97 x 130 cm

\$4,200 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 4

ALA' HAMAMEH (B. 1983)

Lives in Germany

"In my childhood, a raft of vibrant colours took over my dreams" recalls artist Ala' Hamameh, whose intense interest in colour has been a constant presence throughout his life.

Born in Masyaf, Hama, Ala' Hamameh (1983) received his BA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2005. During this time, he researched the perception of colour in everyday life and its 10 million variations to the human eye. For Hamameh, certain bright colors felt overwhelming, and he later used them in his work to insinuate a certain violence from the war. In subject matter, his figures and objects are laden with symbolism, such as the empty suitcases and scattered belongings of all the people who fled their homes. Their faces appear absent of features as if they've been erased.

Hamameh's work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Syria, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Lebanon, Turkey, Switzerland, Germany and notably the Venice Biennale. His film *Memory of a Bag* was shown at the opening of the new National Museum Malta and the Mercator Foundation in Berlin.

Waiting For Dolls

2019

Mixed Media on Canvas
120 x 100 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 5

ALAA SHARABI (B. 1988)

Lives in the UAE

Twisting and combining figures, the expressionist work of Alaa Sharabi has a poetic and dream-like quality. He describes his work as “a state of dialogue between consciousness and the unconscious... a balancing process between symbols and visual visions.”

Born in Damascus, Alaa Sharabi (1988) studied printmaking at Damascus University, where he later worked as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts. His work combines alternately colourful or dark palettes with energetic lines and complex compositions. His crowded, fleshy figures and animals are composed of grouped forms, outlined in black and rendered flat with a gestural hand.

Sharabi has participated in numerous exhibitions and taught printmaking workshops in Syria, as well as internationally, including at the Beirut Contemporary Art Fair; Contemporary Global Art Fair Fabriano, Italy; Sharjah Art Foundation; Singapore Art Fair; National Historical Museum, Tirana, Albania; Printmaking Biennale, Russia; and a group exhibition travelling throughout Canada.

Conflict

2020
Mixed Media on Canvas
150 x 300 cm

\$4,200 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 6

ALI MOKAWAS (B. 1955)

Lives in Syria

Reappearing continuously throughout Ali Mokawas' work is the central image of the tree. Alluding to its allegorical nature, he describes it as "an unusual but an epic legend that has to do with the rural man, his rituals, the collective imagination, the cosmic void and the existentialism of the artist..."

Born in Latakia, Syria, Ali Mokawas (1955) graduated from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts at the Damascus University in 1978. He became a well-respected professor of the visual arts, teaching in Algeria, the UAE, Oman and Syria. Painting in warm earthy colors, his expressionist work often portrays people gathering around a tree. Focused on the collective nature of humanity, he chooses not to individualise their facial features but, rather, leaves them ambiguous.

Mokawas' work has been auctioned at Christie's Dubai and is in the collections of the British Museum, the Doha Museum, Museum of Modern Art in Syria among others.

Mulberry Tree in Rural Memory

2019

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
90 x 100 cm

\$6,000 - \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





"A 24 x 24 cm enneptych, composed of nine stickers, sent to you in a mailing envelope. Each sticker is 8x8 cm and could be stuck and displayed on the glass or metal bar of a traffic light in a street somewhere, on a table in a far-away coffee shop, on your travel bag, or on a rusty container in a cargo ship, loaded with furniture which was destroyed by scud missiles. If you could, you could stick them behind a rope wrapped inside an inflatable boat transporting refugees away from the borders of their homeland, but you could also stick them on the walls of a fine arts museum in a European country. I beg of you not to cry or complain about you suffering on your white victim canvas, as beauty is born from the womb of pain!" – Ammar Al-Beik

Lot 7

AMMAR AL BEIK (B. 1972)

Lives in Germany and France

Working in a variety of media, Ammar Al Beik creates narratives through subtle nuances often alluding to sociopolitical issues. Inspired by his surroundings, Al Beik seeks to reveal the complexities of human relationships.

Born in Damascus, Ammar Al Beik (1972) developed an early passion for photography, later branching out to work with cinematography and installation. He is currently working on his integrated PhD in the Philosophy of Art, researching thus far across Tokyo, Berlin and Rolle. In many of his projects, he has focused on Syria, including the instability of society under political repression, the popular resistance that led up to the war and the subject of exile. His photographic works are recognisable for their frequently shocking or unsettling narrative-based subject matter and their experimental lens.

Exhibiting and screening his work, Al Beik has produced and directed 10 films, participated in more than 50 international film festivals and been awarded a number of prizes. His works are housed in private and public collections such as the Centre Pompidou; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA; and Museum of Modern Art, MoMA, New York; Collections Arte, Strasbourg, France; BBC, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris and The Samawi Collection, Dubai.

Me on White - Risky Poem

Ed. 1/99

2017

Glossy Sticker

24 x 24 cm

\$72 - \$500

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 8

AMR FAHED (B. 1982)

Lives in Syria

Shifting his focus to the plight of children in the Syrian war, Amr Fahed explains: "In 2014, I decided to go back to Syria to stay side-by-side, next to the children in the refugee camps. I decided to go back and capture the sadness in their eyes, and send it to the world through images, and photos of their faces."

Born in Soueida, Amr Fahed (1982) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2007. Influenced the conflict in Syria, in his depictions of scenes from the war, he aims to explore "the expression of any experience, or of any aspect of the human condition." By reworking his photographs, Fahed adds layers of meaning to them. The resulting black and white images are scratched, outlined and redrawn. In the process, sometimes the faces disappear or are highlighted; children turn into angels or birds transform into planes.

Fahed has exhibited his work in group and solo exhibitions at venues such as 4 Walls Art Gallery in Dubai and the Alfa Gallery, Dommar Culture Center and Al Keshle Gallery in Damascus and the Sharjah Islamic Art Festival.

Angels of Camps

Ed. 1/2

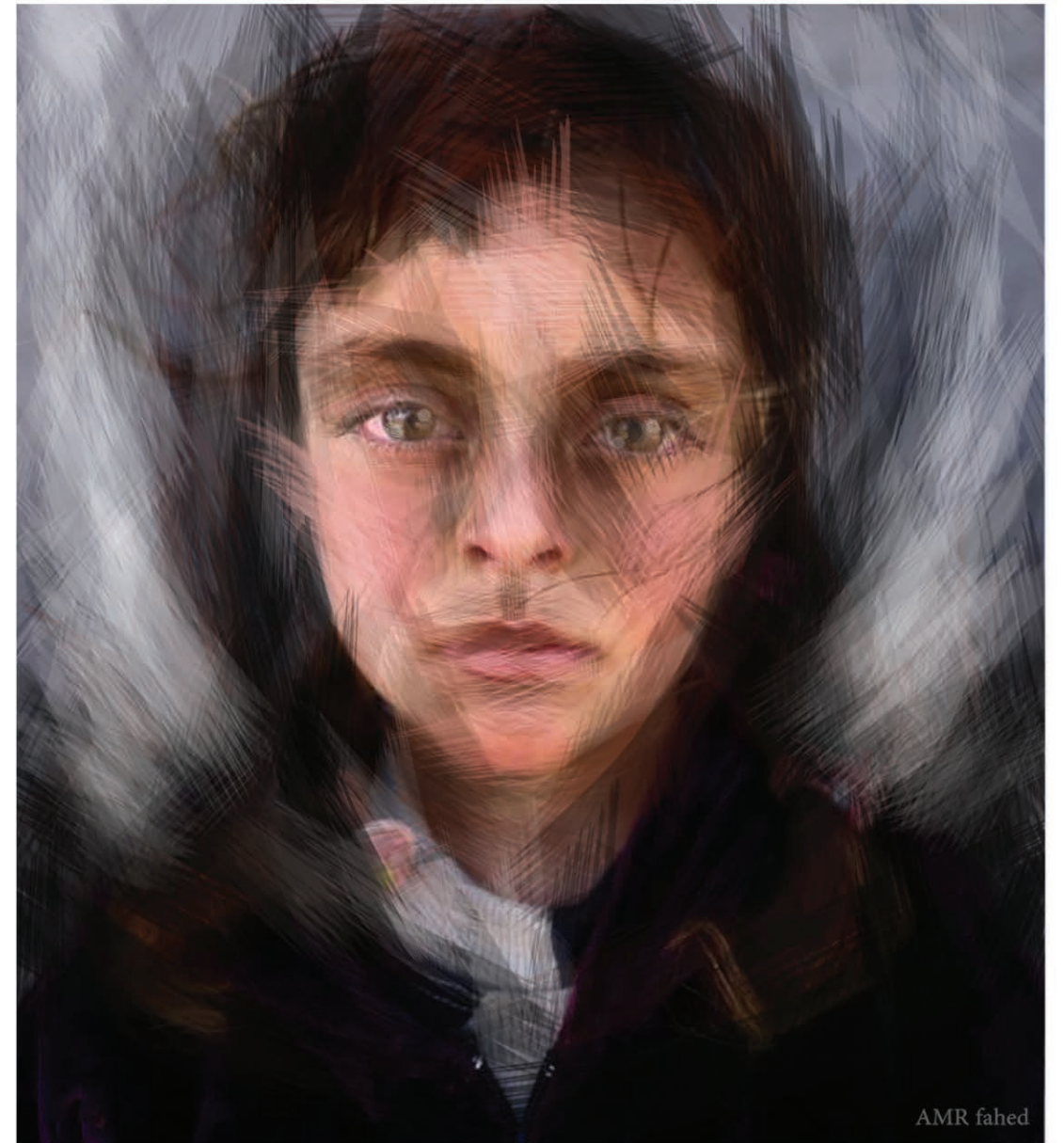
2016

Digital Art on Canvas

30 x 33 cm

\$700 - \$1,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist.



AMR fahed



Lot 9

ANAS ALBRAEHE (B. 1991)

Lives in Lebanon

In an interview, Anas Albraehe shows a painting of a young boy and a woman connected by a thread, explaining "That is me... holding on to the last thread that relates me to my mother. She was a tailor, you know".

Born in Soueida, Anas Albraehe (1991) obtained a BA in painting and drawing from the Fine Arts Faculty, Damascus University and a Master's degree in Psychology and Art Therapy from the Lebanese University. Embedded with psychological aspects, his various series of portraiture depict mostly images of women: his mother, neighbour, women manual labourers as well as male refugee roommates whose only vulnerable moment is when they are sound asleep. Sometimes large scale and sometimes intimate, his oil paintings range from the lusciously colourful to those with an earthy palette.

Anas Albraehe has had solo exhibitions in Beirut and Jordan. His work has been selected for group exhibitions at venues including the Middle East Institute Gallery, Washington DC; Contemporary Art Platform CAP Kuwait (organised by *Selections Magazine*); Albareh Gallery, Bahrain; and he has held an artist workshop as part of the Sharjah Art Biennial.

Mother Earth

2020

Oil on Canvas

40 x 30 cm

\$2,000 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist.

Lot 10

AZZA ABO REBIEH (B. 1980)

Lives in Lebanon

"There is a saying that 'history is written by the winners.' If everybody documented the truth then we can change this statement," declares Syrian artist Azza Abo Rebieh, known for her activist drawings of fellow prisoners during a short period of the Syrian war. Capturing these memories in her mind like a camera, her subsequent etchings and drawings continue to document her memories of life in Syria after her release and exile.

Born in Hama, Azza Abo Rebieh (1980) obtained her degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, in 2002. Engraving on copper plates, Abo Rebieh uses a printing press to imprint the inked plates onto paper. Primarily monochrome, her prints are influenced by the great printmaker Goya who used printing as way to circulate and reproduce images for a wider audience during the revolution in Spain.

Abo Rebieh's work has been exhibited in Damascus, Beirut, Paris, Rome, Istanbul, Sofia, Uzice, Barcelona, Vaasa, London, Oslo, New York and Chicago. Her work is in private collections and public institutions such as The British Museum.

Between Life and Absence

2019

Tulle and Thread on Canvas

100 x 100 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 11

BASSEL SAADI (B. 1971)

Lives in Italy

Rethinking traditional materials so prevalent in Arab sculptural practice, such as marble, wood and bronze, is because, Bassel Saadi explains, he “wanted to create works that were technically good, but made out of a ‘poor’ material with great potential...It was very much about questioning how we, in the Arab world, value an artwork.”

Born in Beirut, Syrian artist Bassel Saadi (1971) studied at the Institute of Applied Arts in Damascus. Originally modelled in paper, his sculptural origami-like forms are then transposed into steel. Under the weight of the metal, they still carry the lightness of the original paper medium. Saadi uses primary shapes, colours and even playful polka dots to break the flatness and stillness of the work. Arranging the shapes as assemblages, he plays with their composition and colour, sometimes even enlarging them to become monumental public sculptures.

Bassel Saadi has shown his work in Amman, Berlin, Damascus, Dubai, Enschede and Paris. He has given sculpting workshops internationally and is the recipient of numerous awards from art festivals.

Untitled

2016

Iron

160 x 100 x 17 cm

\$4,500 - \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 12

DINO AHMAD ALI (B. 1985)

Lives in France

Dedicated to the creation of optical illusion through installations and digital artworks, DINO Ahmad Ali uses it “to remind people that each reality can have several points of view. The best way to convey visual information is to make the viewers an essential part of the work. From a simple spectator, (the viewer) becomes an actor...”

Born in Syria, DINO Ahmad Ali (1985) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. He obtained a Master's degree focusing on the subject of 'Digital: Issues and Technology' from the University of Paris VIII where he later defended his PhD with the thesis 'The conception of visual information and the spectator's role in an interactive optical illusion installation'. DINO's work highlights the relationship between black and white to produce visual movements that can capture attention and evoke sensual references in viewers.

DINO has exhibited interactive installations and digital art in Europe and Syria at institutions, festivals and biennales, including at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; National Museum of Damascus; Horizons Festival, Manchester; Oslo World Festival; Santorini Biennale and the Venice Biennale.

Invisible

2019

Print on Canvas

Diameter 100 cm

\$3,800 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 13

EDWARD SHAHDA (B. 1952)

Lives in Syria

"I've always been obsessed with drawing... the shape of the human body fascinates me; I work with it in my painting... Colour is my greatest passion... a small spot of colour can have an enormous richness of drama and expression; and create a visual tension," replies Edward Shahda when asked about his life's work.

Born in Damascus, Edward Shahda (1952) studied at the Suhail Ahdab Center in Hama and the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Damascus University, before undertaking a residency at the Anatoli Klankov Atelier in Russia. Inspired by folk tales, myths, and local icons, Shahda's almost spiritual themes range from Assyrian figures and Palmyrian sculptures to the lives of poets to even Islamic ornaments.

Edward Shahda has had work exhibited at international solo and group exhibitions in Syria, Russia, Lebanon, Egypt, Dubai, Turkey, the US, Canada, France, Switzerland and China. Notable international exhibitions include the Alexandria Biennale, two editions of the International Biennale Beijing and the Institut du Monde Arabe exhibition in Paris.

Danae

2019

Acrylic and Collage on Canvas

115.5 x 81 cm

\$5,000 - \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 14

ELIAS AYOUB (B. 1986)

Lives in Russia

Elias Ayoub's painted figures are embedded in either realistic or dream-like landscapes and depict relationships or emotions. "I work in an expressive symbolic style... dominated by abstract spaces," he explains.

Born in Damascus, Elias Ayoub (1986) graduated from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and obtained a Master's degree at Kursk State University, Russia. He is currently working on a PhD in the history and philosophy of art at the Surikov Art Institute in Moscow. Working in different styles, his expressive figures and scenes have emotive colours and organic flowing shapes while other works have an angular and geometric approach, or even a combination of both styles together.

Elias Ayoub has participated in group and solo exhibitions and art fairs throughout the Middle East, including the Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon. Further afield, Dubrovnik City Museum, Croatia; Museum of Contemporary Art, Rostov-on-Don, Russia; Annual Photography Forum in Opole, Bologna; among others. His work is in public and private collections in the UAE, Egypt, Sweden, France, Denmark, the USA and The Netherlands, Syria, Russia and Croatia.

Quarantine Impressions

2020
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 230 cm

\$4,000 - \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 15

FADI AL HAMWI (B. 1986)

Lives in Germany

Translating the experience of the Syrian war in his work, Fadi Al Hamwi explores the lack of humanity and extreme violence in the conflict. "We are witnessing something unreal in Syria... I find my salvation in art by depicting the feelings I can't explain of a view too ugly to absorb."

Born in Damascus, Fadi Al Hamwi (1986) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2010. Known for his x-ray series, Al Hamwi dissects the concept of cruelty in humans by comparing it with animals, exposing people down to their bones. Using his dark humour, he inserts the characters into everyday situations to criticise society and address tragic realities.

Fadi Al Hamwi has shown his work internationally in exhibitions, festivals and art fairs at institutions such as Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; CPH:DOX film festival, Copenhagen; CAA Gallery, Berlin; Beirut Art Fair; the Venice Biennale; Bucharest Art Week; Contemporary Art Platform CAP, Kuwait; 48h Neukölln Festival, Berlin; CAA Gallery, Berlin; De Warande Expo, Turnhout, Belgium and The Others Art Fair, Turin, Italy.

Bathroom Mirror

2014

Mixed Media on Canvas

150 x 150 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 16

FADI YAZIGI (B. 1966)

Lives in Syria

Describing the foundations of his long career, Syrian artist Fadi Yazigi explains, "I try to explore new materials in my work, to experiment with a very wide variety of means and forms... Each new material gives a particular feeling... whether painting on canvas, cardboard, textiles or papers, using acrylic, oil and ink, I depict people and human emotions."

Born in Latakia, Fadi Yazigi (1966) studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University. Primarily, a figurative painter, Yazigi's work revolves around human emotions with a sensitivity towards the individuals that he encounters and depicts in his work. A strong facet of his career is experimenting with materials and techniques, allowing him to continuously recreate his figures in new ways.

Fadi Yazigi's work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions internationally at such venues as the Art Paris art fair; Galerie Tanit, Beirut; The Mosaic Rooms, London; Sharjah Biennale, UAE; and is in private and public collections including The Delfina Foundation, London; A.M. Qattan Foundation; the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, and the Kaleemat Foundation.

Untitled

2019

Mixed Media on Wood

28 x 9.5 x 10 cm each

\$3,500 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 17

GHYLAN SAFADI (B. 1977)

Lives in Lebanon

Primarily known for figurative work, Ghylan Safadi explains: "My painting is in constant development... my experience[s] are becoming more and more clear, and I have been inclined for some time to black and white because they represent depression."

Born in Soueida, Ghylan Safadi (1977) graduated from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2002. While Safadi's styles have evolved throughout his career, his dedication to the figure – whether portraits or groups – has remained constant. His prominent linework in almost monochromatic colours renders bleak characters, and even 'party' scenes take on a serious or ominous atmosphere. Based on people he has encountered, or famous figures, they become narrative vignettes, symbolic of Safadi's perception of current socio-political realities.

Safadi's works have been shown in international solo and group exhibitions including the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Lighthouse Mobile Gallery in London, Paris, Germany and Japan; and Bahrain Art Fair. His works are housed in collections in Syria, Lebanon, France, the UK, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and the US.

The Lives of Others 2

2020

Acrylic on Canvas

109 x 108 cm

\$4,700 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 18

HAMMOUD CHANTOUT (B. 1956)

Lives in France

Recalling his childhood, Syrian artist Hammoud Chantout narrates: "Bedridden for a long time in our mud house... I used to stare at the wall to see pictures [of] battles, horses, trees and faces; and every day the scene on the wall change[d] and this was my sole amusement when I was young."

Coming from a rural background, Hammoud Chantout (1956) was born in Al-Sfera near Aleppo. He went on to graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus and obtained his Master's degree from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris in 1984. Using symbolism in his work, Chantout is known for creating mystical paintings on various themes, including age-old legends or myths; nature as the all-giving mother and the sense of loss and isolation concerning his homeland. Working with different brushstrokes and textures, he paints using multiple translucent layers, dabs of pigment or lays on thick layers with a knife.

Hammoud Chantout has had over 40 solo exhibitions around the world, including Montreal, Paris, Washington, Beirut, Amman, Damascus and Kuwait. His work has been collected by individuals, galleries, museums and institutions.

Citrus Aurantium Tree

2016 -2020

Mixed Media on Canvas

79 x 143 cm

\$4,000 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 19

HIBA AL ANSARI (B. 1983)

Lives in Germany

"In wake of the Syrian revolution, I was forced to leave my country and travel to Germany, which created a distance between me, my real world and all my feelings and emotions I carry within [me] towards Syria," Hiba Al Ansari reflects "Maybe the exile helped me reproduce and describe the pictures in my imagination."

Born in Bani Walid, Libya, Hiba Al Ansari (1983) attended the Walid Ezzat Institute and Adham Ismail Center for Fine Arts and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University. In 2017, she received a Master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. After witnessing the devastation of explosions, she created various series on coffins and corpses; performances and installations of the bombings; and mixed media works that ironically decorate the executioner-style masks worn by ISIS men.

Al Ansari has exhibited her work widely in the Middle East and Europe with solo and group exhibitions at venues such as Shedhalle, Rote Fabrik, Zurich; Ashkal Alwan, Beirut; Einstein Kultur, Munich; CAA Berlin; Salon Dahlmann, Berlin; Altes Gefängnis in Freising, Munich; Gut Altenkamp Museum, Papenburg; SMAC Gallery, Berlin; and Imago Mundi, La Biennale di Venezia, Italy.

Monsters of the Woods

2014

Fabric, Iron and Beads

50 x 50 cm

\$4,750 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 20

HOUSSAM BALLAN (B. 1983)

Lives in Syria

"I love to watch people and capture them on my canvas. I am interested in the timeless condition of humanity" explains Syrian artist Houssam Ballan.

Born in Soueida, Houssam Ballan (1983) received his degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2005. Focusing on the figure, Ballan's work is inspired by classical paintings, ancient societies, biblical stories and literature. Gesturally drawn with his signature style, his figures generally form a group where one flows into the other to portray a narrative. Typically placed in the centre with a flat background, the characters give insights into the daily lives of people in Syria as well as the general human condition, simultaneously capturing both happiness and tragedy.

Houssam Ballan has participated in solo and group exhibitions including at BBA Gallery, Berlin; Hafez Gallery, Jeddah; Atelier Stories, Paris; Fann A Porter, Dubai; Marc Hachem Gallery, Beirut and Ayyam Gallery, Damascus. His works can be found in numerous private and public collections.

Gemini

2019

Oil on Canvas

100 x 100 cm

\$4,500 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 21

IMAN HASBANI (B. 1979)

Lives in Germany

“To remember is a complex and multilayered process, which, difficult to grasp, can cross decades in seconds... Time stands still at the moment of remembering, space becomes increasingly abstract, there is no clear beginning, nor a discernible end. Everything seems different than before, as if the morphology of things and objects had changed and become jelly-like. At this point we can manipulate and form them, even change them”, writes artist Iman Hasbani about her work.

Born in Soueida (1979), Iman Hasbani graduated with a BA and MA from the Fine Arts Faculty at Damascus University. Through various media such as video, installation, performance and drawing, Hasbani explores the themes of memory, dreams, transience and traces. Her work mixes reality and fiction together to create poetic narratives, which can often be surreal.

Iman Hasbani is the recipient of numerous awards, both inside and outside Syria, including the first prize for small works at the Canada Biennial in 2008. She has participated in exhibitions in Syria, Jordan, Denmark, France, Canada, Italy, Egypt, Qatar, the UAE, Lebanon and Germany and has work in numerous public and private collections in the Middle East and Europe.

A Stoat in Bed

2020

Wood Pastel and Pencil on Carton
50 x 70 cm

\$2,000 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 22

JABER AL AZMEH (B. 1973)

Lives in Germany and Qatar

Known for his work on the Syrian revolution and its effect on the social landscape of the country, Al Azmeh explains: "I was like an activist, showing the suffering that is going on, telling a story and exploring certain ideas, but in a way that was also artistic. I was creating a counterpoint to the media, which only shows you the extremists..."

Born in Damascus, Jaber Al Azmeh (1973) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, in 1996. Creating work as a form of resistance and activism towards the repressive regime, Al Azmeh conceived different collaborative and innovative projects to serve as a protest and awareness campaigns for the situation.

Jaber Al Azmeh has exhibited his works in various solo and group shows in Dubai, Berlin, Paris, London, Brussels, Venice, Doha, Beirut and São Paulo at institutions such as Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo; The Boghossian Foundation, Brussels; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris and The Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris. His works have been acquired by notable collections including Deutsche Bank, the Barjeel Art Foundation, the Staatliche Museum in Berlin, and the British Museum.

Nationalism 2

Ed. 3/5

2016

Photograph Printed on Cotton Rag Fine Art Archival Paper

60 x 90 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 23

JUHAYDA AL BITTAR (B. 1991)

Lives in the UAE



"War inside the human being shows its repercussions internally. Sometimes in the heart of happiness there is sadness and vice versa," explains Juhayda Al Bittar, who sees her paintings as a "state of escape" allowing her to work through her emotions on canvas.

Born in Damascus, Juhayda Al Bittar (1991) completed her BA and Master's degree at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University. Working in abstraction, she uses thick energetic brushwork with contrasting bright colours and black lines. Each canvas is brimming with frenetic movement, depicting various hyper emotions. She feels that this lyricism conveys her philosophy of achieving self-transcendence through tapping into one's subconscious and listening to our senses.

Juhayda Al Bittar has had solo and group exhibitions at venues such as: Art House Art Gallery, Damascus; George Kamel Gallery, Damascus; Qode gallery, Amman; Opera House for Women, Damascus; Rainbow Art Gallery, Beirut; Gallery Ward, Dubai; Fann A porter, Dubai; Fabriano Exhibition, Venice and Palais des Congrès, National Historical Museum, Tirana, Albania.

Self Freedom

2019

Acrylic on Canvas

140 x 300 cm

\$4,200 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 24

KHADIJA BAKER (B. 1973)

Lives in Canada

As a witness to traumatic events in her childhood, Kurdish-Syrian artist Khadija Baker reflects on their influence in her work. "I always saw the border in the Kurdish region of Northern Syria where I was born as a tool to divide and stop the fluency of daily activities," she says. "I have always had uncomfortable feelings about home; these feelings were related to the borders that surrounded our 'home' in Syria."

Born in Amuda, Khadija Baker (1973) completed her MFA at Concordia University. Her multidisciplinary and performative works investigate sociopolitical themes that centre on the uncertainty of home as it relates to persecution, identity, displacement and memory. Using participative storytelling, she aims to create active spaces for greater understanding.

Baker has held solo exhibitions at galleries and institutions across Canada and internationally including: Istanbul International Triennial; DocuAsia Forum, Vancouver; International Exile Film Festival, Gothenburg; Instant Video festival, Marseille; CONTACT Photo Festival, Toronto; Biennale of Sydney; OFTTA festival, Montréal; International Diaspora Film Festival, Toronto; Festival Les Instants Vidéo, Marseille; Festival Accès Asie, Montreal, Canada and the London Kurdish Film Festival.

Home Skin

2010

C-Print on Special Paper

43 x 56 cm

\$1,500 - \$3000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 25

KHALED BARAKEH (B. 1976)

Lives in Germany

Conceptual artist and activist Khaled Barakeh's work is based on reframing moments of dissonance, and often outright injustice in political and social structures. Many of his projects have investigated the media's portrayal of victims of conflict and the dynamics of refugee integration. Connected to his art practice is his activist cultural work which brought him to create the non-profit coculture.de with programs including a Syrian Artist Index and a roaming Syrian Biennale. He explains "I thought, 'How can we reconnect these dispersed communities and this cultural fabric, which is not even visible?... I hope that with these small initiatives we can show a different image of ourselves, because we (are) portrayed so poorly in the media.'"

Born in Damascus, Khaled Barakeh (1976) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus and received his MFA from Funen Art Academy in Odense, Denmark. In 2013, he completed a Meisterschuler study at the Städelschule Art Academy in Frankfurt. He founded coculture.de, which addresses the challenges faced by displaced cultural producers. A conceptual artist and cultural activist, Barakeh's practice is based on reframing moments of dissonance, and often outright injustice in political and social structures. Many of his projects have investigated the media's portrayal of victims of conflict and the dynamics of refugee integration.

Barakeh has exhibited at numerous institutions such as: Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Shanghai Biennale, Salt Istanbul, The Frankfurter Kunstverein, Artspace New Zealand, The Busan Biennale and The Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg and Smack Mellon, New York.

I Haven't Slept Since Ages

Ed. 2/5 + 1 AP

2018

Digital Print on Special Paper

200 x 139.5 cm

\$6,500 - \$7,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 26

KHALED TAKRETI (B. 1964)

Lives in France

"The East has always been depicted as a woman in my work, through her eyes, her soul and her stillness. The West is more about colour, frame and motion. I think my paintings are definitely influenced by both cultures," replies Syrian artist Khaled Takreti when asked about the subject matter in his work.

Born in Beirut, Khaled Takreti (1964) trained to be an architect but soon became known as a painter. Recognized for his innovative approach to portraiture, his figures have a graphic nature, yet portray realistic features. They are painted either monochromatically or with brilliant flat colours, appearing almost like cutouts against plain backgrounds, similar to Pop art's appropriation of advertising imagery. The clean lines and geometry found in the background of many his works are derived from his architectural studies.

Takreti has exhibited at institutions such as the Musée de la Palmeraie, Marrakech; the Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea; Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris and La Villa Emerige, Paris. His works are housed in the Syrian National Museum, the Jordanian National Gallery of Fine Arts and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, among other private and public collections.

New Beginning

2016

Ink on Paper

50 x 65 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 27

KEVORK MOURAD (B. 1970)

Lives in the USA

In an interview, Syrian-Armenian artist Kevork Mourad explains: "The tenor of my work is often political; I seek to explore themes and subjects that I find troubling or vital."

Born in Qamishli, Kevork Mourad (1970), studied in Aleppo and received his Master's degree from the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts in Armenia. Creating monotypes and drawings, Mourad builds his work on the themes of collective memory, biblical allegories, binding communities and his dual Syrian and Armenian heritage. He is known for large-scale immersive works and visual performances in which he collaborates with musicians to spontaneously create pieces in front of a live audience.

Mourad has performed in many institutions, such as the Brooklyn Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Le Festival du Monde Arabe in Montreal, The Nara Museum in Japan, Art Institute of Chicago, Rubin Museum of Art and The Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art in Yerevan.

The Gate

2018
Acrylic on paper
66 x 51 cm

\$2,500 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 28

LAILA MURAYWID (B. 1956)

Lives in France

"My work questions the programmed social reactions facing taboos. It explores the relationship of: oneself to others; illusion and desire; cultural fears and anxieties repressed in the complexities and paradoxes of social conventions. The sphere of intimacy is a starting point that allows the passage of the singular to the universal. The woman's body is taken hostage in the trap of religion, politics and society," writes Syrian artist Laila Muraywid.

Born in Damascus, Laila Muraywid (1956) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, and continued her higher education at the École Nationale Supérieure Des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Muraywid creates sculptures, jewellery and photography, articulating themes of female marginality, fragility, desire, freedom, objectification and even violence.

Laila Muraywid's work is in the collections of the British Museum, London; Galliera Museum, Paris; Institut du monde Arabe, Paris; Al Mansouria Foundation, Jeddah; the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts; Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman; Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut and the Musée Caudresien des Dentelles et Broderies as well as in private collections around the world.

Because White is the Color of Patience

Ed. 4/5

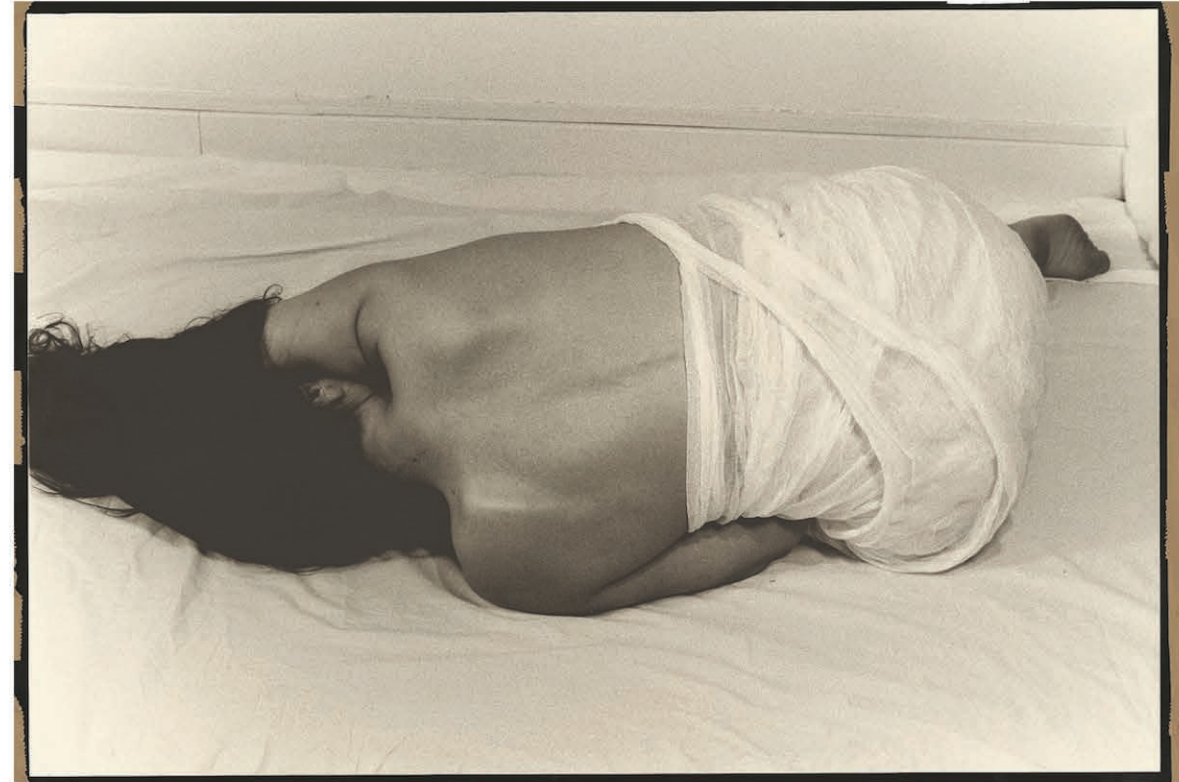
2008

Digital Photo Print on Cotton Paper

84 x 123 cm

\$1,800 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 29

MOHAMAD KHAYATA (B. 1985)

Lives in Lebanon

Addressing the issues of Syrians living in Lebanon, artist Mohamad Khayata examines “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...”

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 multi-layered 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.

Mohamad Khayata has shown his work in solo and group exhibitions across Europe and the Middle East, including at 392rmeil393, Beirut; Journeys Festival International, Leicester; VC & Oxfam, London; British Council, London and Brussels; and the Beirut Art Fair.

Oblation

2018

Acrylic and Ink on Wood

42 x 30 cm each

\$1,500 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 30

MOHAMED AL MUFTI (B. 1976)

Lives in Lebanon

Thinking about the aspects of Arab society that Syrian artist Mohamed Al Mufti depicts in his work, he states: "In the process of rebuilding our memory, there should be fundamental questions that we must ask: What are the forms of our collective memory? What are its values and symbols today? What remains of it?"

Born in Damascus, Mohamed Al Mufti (1976) graduated with a degree in architecture from the École Nationale Supérieure D'Architecture de Versailles. In 2012, he moved to Beirut, where his work began to depict themes and reflections on Damascus and Beirut's political and social scenes. His criticism and questioning is evident in his symbolic structures and objects, while his background in architecture features heavily in his paintings. Buildings and interiors are prevalent, as well as cityscapes, with elements incorporated that are reminiscent of the war, violence or absurdity.

Mohamed Al Mufti's work has been featured in galleries and museums in France, Italy, Finland, Serbia Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and the UAE, including at venues such as the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Supa Salon, Istanbul; Arteconte Gallery, Paris and the Guggenheim Helsinki Architectural Competition.

Reign on the Sixth

2019

Oil on Canvas

130 x 130 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 31

MOHAMMAD OMRAN (B. 1979)

Lives in France

Far from the classical models, the figures in Syrian artist Mohamad Omran's work represent another side of humanity, riddled with flaws, sometimes monstrous, with mundane nuances and the realness of time on the body.

Born in Damascus, Mohamad Omran (1979) graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University; in 2000. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Lyon and a PhD in art history from the University of Lyon II. Working in sculpture, painting, and sometimes video art, the motif of the tortured human being has been Omran's central theme. He is able to evoke empathy, disgust, anger and dark humour in his work with a directness and cynicism that fluctuates between violence and lightness.

Mohamad Omran has held solo exhibitions in Lyon, Paris, and Damascus. He has also participated in group shows in France, England, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. His work is part of numerous private and public collections including the Royal Museum in Jordan and the British Museum in London.

35 Instances of Disturbed Memory

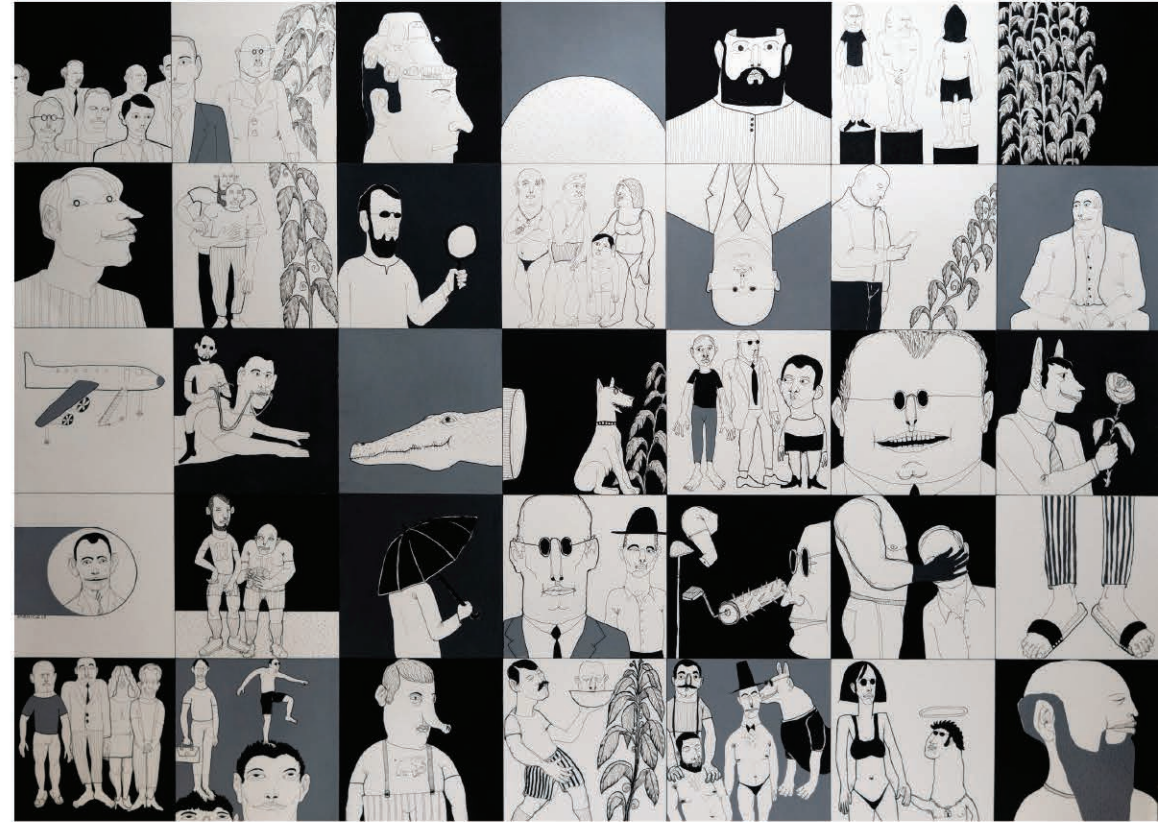
2019

Ink and Acrylic on Paper

70 x 98 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 32

MOHANNAD ORABI (B. 1977)

Lives in the UAE

"Family photos are present in all of our homes... but after travelling and after years [having] passed, we feel nostalgic when we look at them..." explains the Syrian artist Mohannad Orabi about the feeling of displacement and separation from his homeland and loved ones; and how this feeling influences his work.

Born in Damascus, Mohannad Orabi (1977) studied art at the University of Arts in Damascus. Initially inspired by the sense of freedom found in children's drawings, Orabi reflects on his own experience of exile, which has led him to consider the ways in which social media has become a substitute for the tangible photograph. In response to these influences, Orabi's stylistic portraits focus on the subject's large faces, particularly through heavily outlined eyes, nose and mouth. Their bodies are almost forgotten amidst the motifs and patterns of their clothes.

Mohannad Orabi has exhibited at venues such as Ayyam Gallery in Dubai, Beirut, London, Jeddah, and Damascus; Den Gallery, Kuwait; Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice; Zara Gallery, Amman and Ishtar Gallery, Damascus.

Self Portrait

2020

Acrylic on Canvas

100 x 80 cm

\$5,000 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 33

MOUNEER AL SHAARANI (B. 1952)

Lives in Syria

"My contemporary work draws its essence from the roots of Arabic calligraphy," says Mouneer Al Shaarani. "I shed light on our calligraphic heritage by adding a critical look to it, to free it from its golden cage. Its inertia and the conventions [of calligraphy] have limited it to sacred texts, isolating it from all other social life. I thus seek," he adds, "to consolidate the position of calligraphy within the fine arts."

Born in Salamiyah, Mouneer Al Shaarani (1952) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and studied under the great Syrian calligrapher, Badawi Al Dirany. Working as an artist, writer and book designer, he has also designed several new Arabic fonts. As a result, Al Shaarani is highly regarded internationally for introducing uniquely innovative calligraphic styles, striving to bring the ancient tradition of Arabic lettering into a modern context.

Mouneer Al Shaarani's calligraphy is in numerous museum collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, Cairo; Museum of Arabic Calligraphy, UAE; The Museum of Arab Art, Alexandria; Museum of Islamic Art, Malaysia; Museum of Islamic Art (Pergamon), Berlin; Reitberg Museum, Zurich and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tunisia.

Your Best Is He Who Opened His Hand And Closed His Mouth

2017

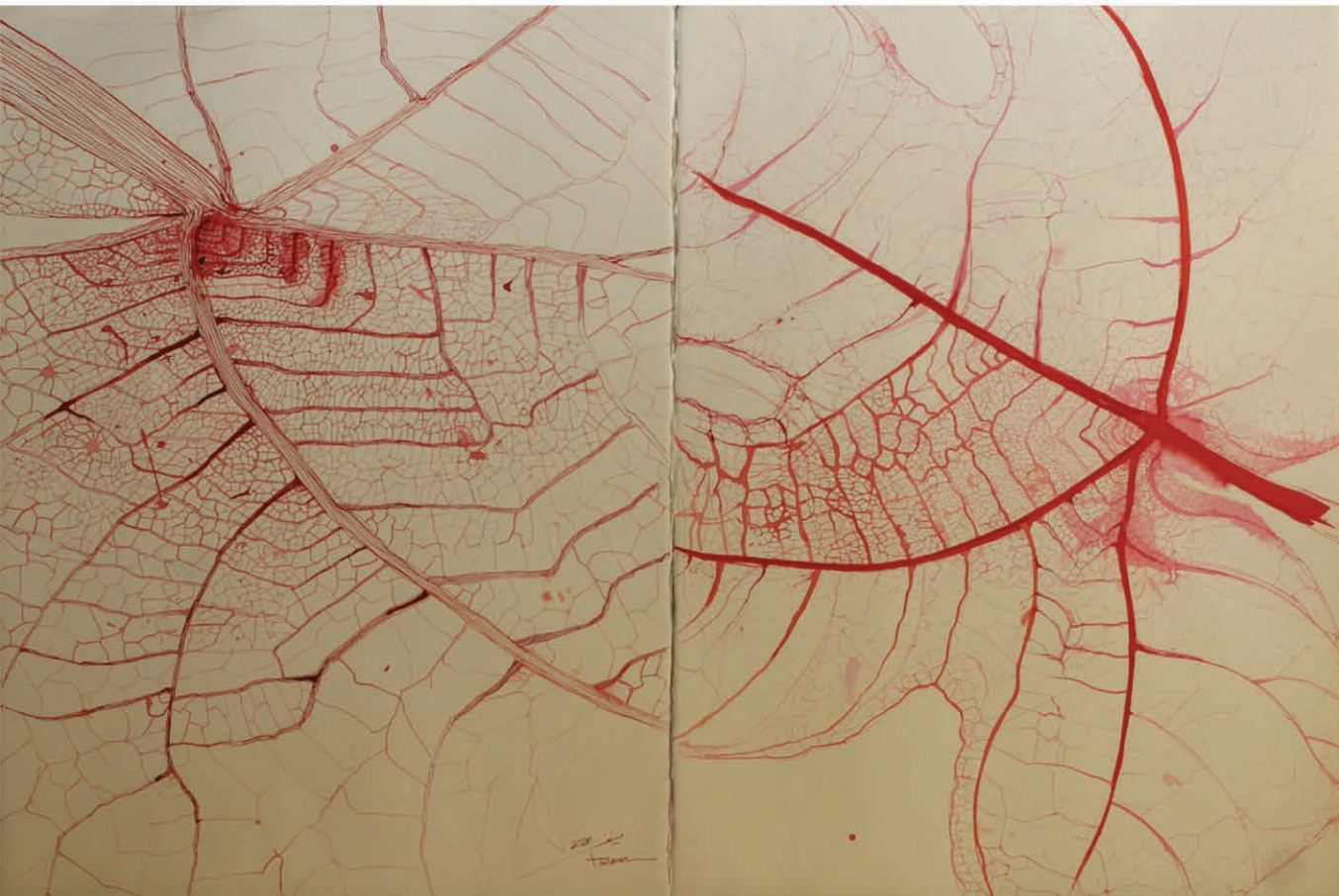
Gouache and Acrylic on Fine Art Paper

70 x 70 cm

\$5,000 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist.





Lot 34

MONIF AJAJ (B. 1968)

Lives in France

Before the Syrian war, Monif Ajaj was depicting political events in the Arab world in his *oeuvre*. In Syria, he focused on peoples' fear of the repressive regime which later metamorphosed into images of violence, which he describes as "canvases filled with victims ... and [I] put them face-to-face with their aggressors, the sons of those in power and the military."

Born in Deir Ezzour, Monif Ajaj (1968) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, Belarus in 1995. In much of his work, Ajaj addresses controversial subjects and problematic political structures, even using the images of Arab rulers. His style mixes realism with expressionism using caricature to highlight the psychological traits of the figures he portrays.

Ajaj has held solo exhibitions in Amman, Paris, Marseille, Brussels, Oslo, Dubai and Damascus. His artworks are part of the collections of the British Museum; Darat Al Funun, Jordan; and the Ministry of Culture, Damascus.

Figures

2020
Ink on Paper
76 x 114 cm

\$5,000 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 35

NAGHAM HODAIFA (B. 1981)

Lives in France

“My work relates to the human condition through the representation of the body. More recently the action of dancing – sometimes taken as a full or fragmented action – has continued to manifest in my pictorial universe as the body-landscape, sometimes without a head or face. It is anonymous, hidden by a sheet that becomes one with a gesture,” explains Syrian artist Nagham Hodaifa about her work.

Born in Soueida, Nagham Hodaifa (1981) graduated from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and received her PhD degree in contemporary art history from the Paris-Sorbonne University. Her expressive works in drawing and painting flow and curve in a sensual way using a brilliant palette of contrasting colours to shape and shade the visible anatomy of the figure.

Nagham Hodaifa’s works have been acquired by the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, Claude Le Mans, and by private collectors in London, Paris, Vienna, Beirut, Buenos Aires, Brac, Berlin and Milan.

La sortie du miroir 2

2017

Mixed Media on Paper

40.9 x 30.8 cm

\$2,000 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 36

NAIRY SHAHINIAN (B. 1984)

Lives in Armenia

Heavily influenced by her family profession, Syrian-Armenian artist Nairy Shahinian states: “My late father was one of the best professional photographers in the region and his career and photographic equipment fascinated me since I was a child.”

Born in Damascus, Nairy Shahinian (1984) trained at an early age in photography with her father and later received her Professional Photography Diploma from the New York Institute of Photography. As her father’s assistant, she worked with him on many projects, including a lengthy documentation of major Syrian historical sites. Shahinian’s artistic practice approaches contemporary photography as a never-ending process of discovery, employing experimental techniques as investigative tools, allowing her to intimately document her immediate surroundings and experiences.

Nairy Shahinian has participated in exhibitions throughout the Arab world, Europe, and the US at such venues as the Art Dubai fair; The Creative Center at MTC, United States; Art Sawa, UAE; International Fair for Contemporary Artists, Switzerland; Galerie Oberkampf, France; the French Cultural Centre, Syria; the British Council, Syria and the Goethe Institute, Syria.

Untitled

(Alienation Series) ed. 3/5 + 2AP

2009 - 2011

C41 Photography- Giclee Print on Archival Cotton Paper

100 x 100 cm

\$2,000 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 37

NASSER HUSSEIN (B. 1971)

Lives in Germany

Figuring deep in the work of Nasser Hussein is the idea of loneliness or the alleviation of it. He depicts the solitary individual experiences in life, even in the passing moments of the day that one hardly remembers. His works impart the emotional sensation of being completely alone and when on occasion there are two figures, it feels as if they were living in their own bubble, in unison together.

Born in Aleppo, Nasser Hussein (1971) received his degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and studied at the Siegen University, Düsseldorf Academy of Art and received a scholarship from KAAD (Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst).

Nasser Hussein has had solo and group exhibitions in venues such as: Art-Lab, Berlin; Museum of Bad Berleburg, Germany; Hilbert Raum, Berlin; Meem Gallery, Dubai; Galerie Tanit, Beirut; Agial Art Gallery, Beirut; Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo; among others in Aleppo, Amman, Bonn, Brussels, Damascus, Düsseldorf, Cologne, and Istanbul. He has also participated in the Cairo Biennial, Egypt and the Latakia Biennial, Syria.

Love

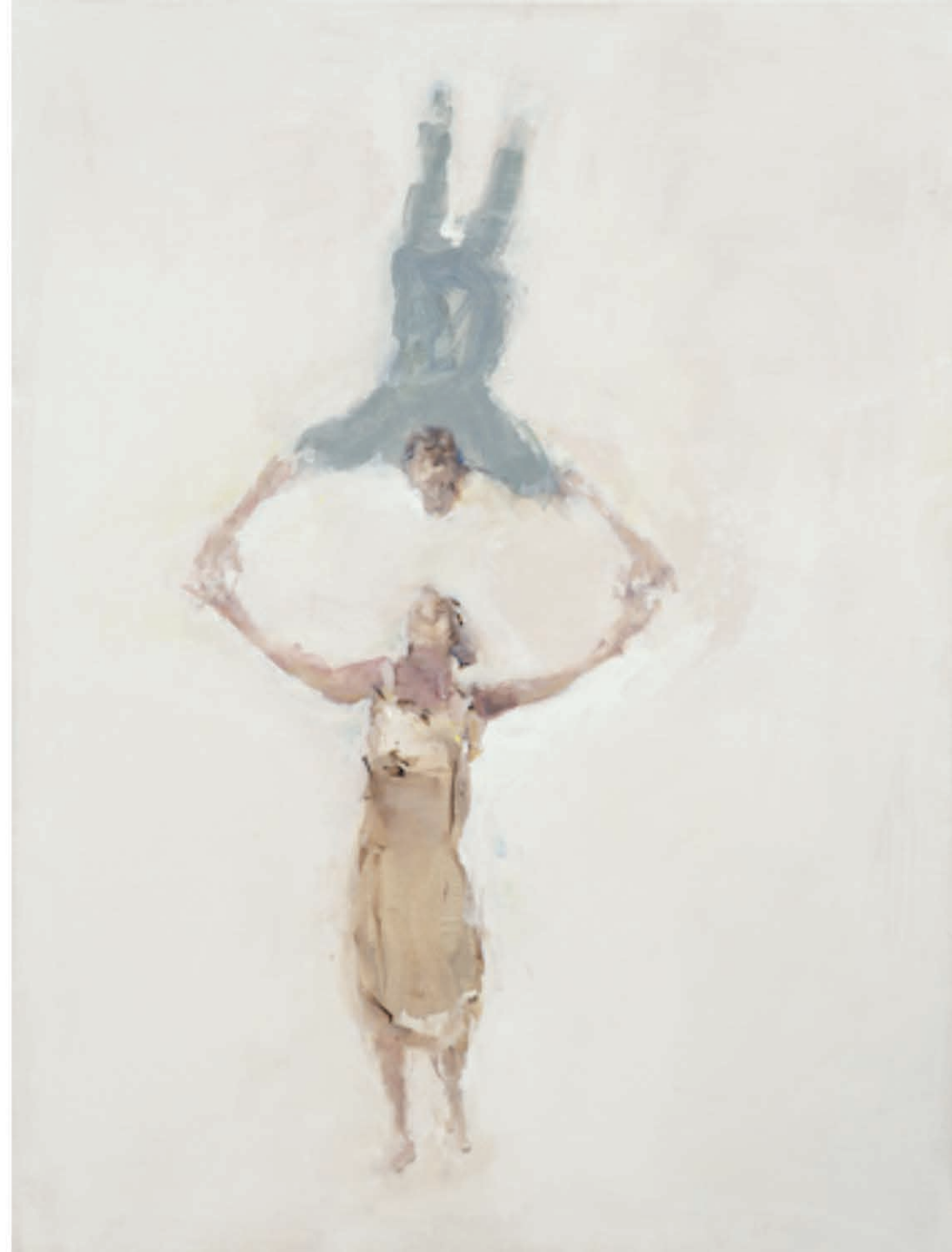
2020

Acrylic on Canvas

80 x 60 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 38

NIZAR SABOUR (B. 1958)

Lives in Syria

Attached to the earth of Syria, artist Nizar Sabour uses natural materials to create his paintings. "I was very marked by my childhood memories," he explains. "They are all linked to the earth. I often went for a walk in the forest. I remember the smell of burnt wood from the barbecue. My visual and taste memory wakes up in this way."

Born in Latakia, Nizar Sabour (1958) graduated from the Fine Arts Faculty, Damascus University, and obtained a PhD in Art Philosophy from the Strugunov Academy of Industrial & Applied Arts, Moscow, Russia. Influenced by the gamut of ancient history to present day realities of the region, Sabour's cityscapes and narrative scenes often appear archaic, like old manuscripts. His minimal palette is created in part from the natural materials that he makes himself and utilises as paint – including burnt olive pits to make a black pigment – giving a tactile experience to his work.

Nizar Sabour's work is in public and private collections all over the world including the National Museum and the People's Palace, Damascus; National Museum of Jordan; Museum of Bahrain; Sharjah Museum and the Museum of Eastern Peoples Arts, Moscow.

Qalamoun - Maaloula

2015

Oil on MDF Board

Diameter 80 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 39

NOUR ASALIA (B. 1984)

Lives in France

Focusing on the bodies of humans and animals, Syrian sculptor Nour Asalia explores the dynamics of static and moving objects. She explains: "My father had embalmed several small creatures, scorpions, locusts, beetles... Simply, I consider that I imitate my father; I mummify the face [and] I may go beyond that to mummify the moment."

Born in Hama, Nour Asalia (1984) graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2005. She obtained a Master's degree in aesthetics and contemporary art history from the University of Paris VIII. Capturing or preserving, whether real or illusionary, the different disembodied parts of the body is what the artist calls "the conversation with death". In the moment of the object's fragility or vulnerability, this stillness can contain a reference to violence, a theme that underlies many of her pieces.

Nour Asalia's work is in public and private collections and has shown in exhibitions at venues such as: Atassi Foundation, La maison des arts, centre d'art contemporain de Malakoff, Galerie Tanit, Biennale de Sculpture de Yerres and is a member of the Syrian Cultural Caravan.

Eye

2016

Rice Paper, Resin, Crystal

50 x 40 cm

\$1,800 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 40

NOUR BAHJAT AL MASRI (B. 1991)

Lives in the UAE

The lively and playful work of Syrian artist Noor Bahjat contains people, objects and experiences from her life and imagination assembled on canvas together. Her complex and organic compositions allow her to process her experience, at times in an intuitive and non-linear fashion. When asked about how she remembers and then depicts experiences, she replies: "If it's still there, it'll come out." She laughs and continues, saying, "That's what my art is for. Even if it's something insignificant and silly, if I'm thinking about it, it will come out."

Born in Damascus, Noor Bahjat (1991) studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus. A prolific artist, she uses a rich palette with complex compositions, her dream-like paintings imbued with an optimism for life, expressively drawn, and her brushwork full of frenetic energy.

Noor Bahjat's work is housed in public and private collections throughout the Middle East, Asia and Europe. Solo and group exhibitions include at Ayyam Gallery, Dubai; Ward Gallery, Dubai; Galerie Stephanie, Manila; Art Space DA:MDAA, Seoul; Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah and Gli Acrobati Gallery, Turin as well as the Beirut Art Fair with *Selections* Magazine.

Mindfulness

2019

Acrylic on Canvas

150 x 120 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 41

OMRAN YOUNIS (B. 1971)

Lives in Syria

When the savagery of war became startlingly clear, Omran Younis began including the horrible reality around him in his work. He explains: "When art becomes a protest... In this human slaughterhouse, a protest against the pain, the invisible, the human moment of fear and death that develops into screams on this white cloth until it becomes painful and the black painted lines penetrate the body of the earth like a plough to make art a clear line of certainty... Its price is only life itself."

Born in Hassakah, Omran Younis (1971) received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University. With an intensity characteristic of his work, Younes clearly expresses Syrian suffering. Filled with horrific scenes of corpses and coffins, dismemberment, fear and panic, his work traces the symbols and the inhumanity of the war, in a way that evokes heart wrenching emotions.

Omran Younis has been featured in exhibitions throughout the Middle East and in the US at art spaces such as Ayyam Gallery, Beirut; Zara Gallery, Amman and Virginia Commonwealth University Gallery, Doha.

Pain

2020

Charcoal on Carton

65 x 95 cm

\$2,500 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 42

RANDA MADDAH (B. 1983)

Lives in France

Creating work about her village in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, Syrian artist Randa Maddah works with memory, exile and ideas of homeland, explaining: "Those in search of themselves often cannot remember what was there before their countries were destroyed. All that remains is brittle flakes of debris invading the lacunae of their memory."

Born in Majdal Shams, Randa Maddah (1983) studied at the Adham Ismail Center and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus University. She expresses herself through several media, from drawing and painting to film and video, frequently focusing on depictions of bodies and landscapes that have been warped by the weight of experience and are heavy with their psychological burdens.

Randa Maddah's solo and group shows have included exhibitions at Europa Gallery, Paris; Gallery One, Ramallah; Espace Communes, Paris; and Faux Mouvement Centre d'art contemporain, Metz. She has participated in Palest'In & Out Festival in Paris and Morocco. Maddah was named one of the A M Qattan Foundation's 12 Young Artists of the Year and was awarded the Prize for Excellence/International Grand Prize at The International TAKIFUJI Art Award, Tokyo.

Untitled

2019

Pencil on paper

51.5 x 72 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 43

REEM YASSOUF (B. 1983)

Lives in France

Only muted pigments cover Reem Yassouf's recent canvases. She says: "Unlike my last exhibition, I did not use aggressive colours, but those of the earth because it is from there that man came from and it is to this earth that he returns."

Born in Damascus (1979), Reem Yassouf graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus. She works in numerous media to create multilayered works that reflect the psychological complexity which she explores through her work. After the start of the Syrian revolution, Yassouf's art focused on the trauma that children have incurred from the war. Usually featuring silhouetted figures, buildings and animals, her works are composed of geometric forms and have many symbolic elements, such as flying kites and birds.

Reem Yassouf has participated in several individual and group exhibitions in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, England, France, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Andorra and the US. She obtained an honorary prize in visual arts from the Center for World Creativity in 2010.

A Dance For

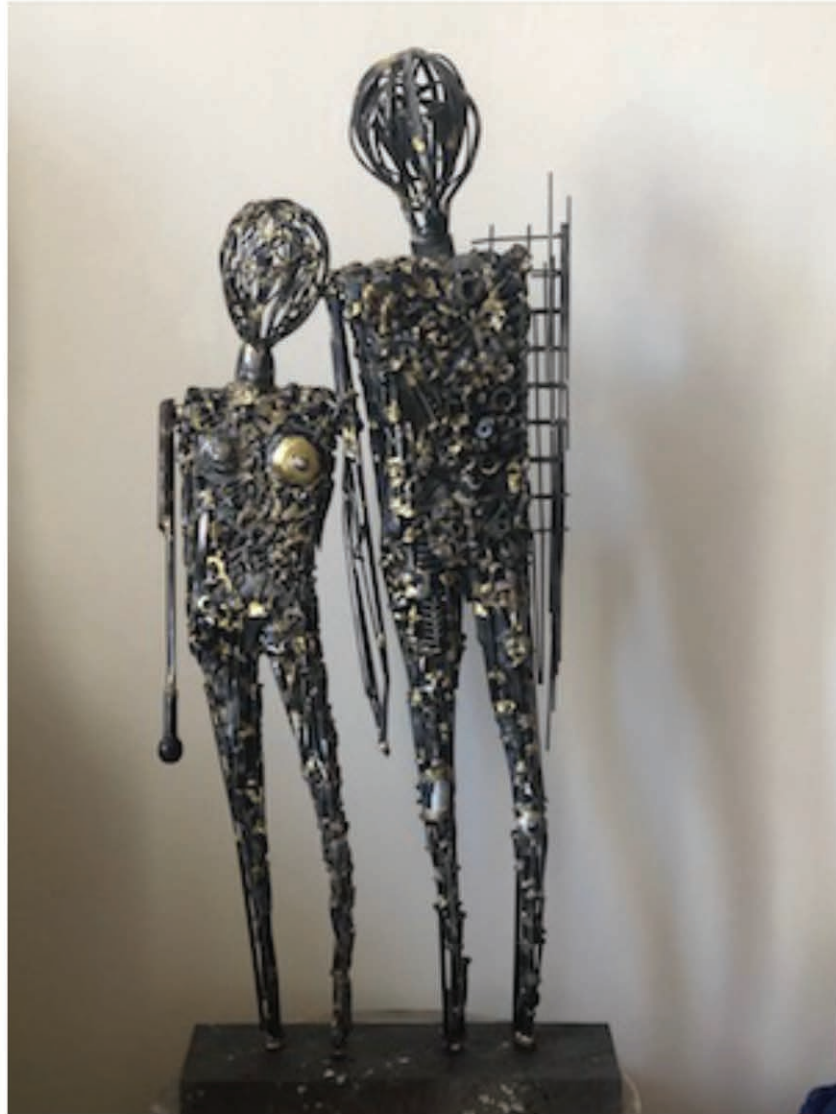
2017

Mixed Media on Canvas
100 x 100 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 44

SAFAA ALSET (B. 1974)

Lives in Syria

Collecting the metal debris left from bombings for her sculptural work, artist Safaa Alset talks about how she was influenced by her environment, “The sounds of the hammering copper in the hands of the Syrian craftsmen is still one of the nicest sounds... Throughout history the rhythm of these sounds has echoed life and creativity... [although] today, even while these sounds of hammering continue, I can only hear the sounds of death.”

Born in Homs, Safaa Alset (1974) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University in 1997. From photography to metallic sculptures, she uses a variety of media to create her artwork which explores tragedy, death and the struggles of women.

Coming from her identity as a woman, Al Set depicts the struggles of women and their children. In her later works, she went on to depict these vulnerable figures in sculptures, including her notable work of a small, wiry girl, wearing her mother’s over-sized shoes. Safaa Alset has held several solo exhibitions in Damascus and Manama, in addition to her participation in group workshops.

Untitled

2020

Iron and Copper

69 x 29 x 8 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 45

SHADI ABOUSADA (B. 1983)

Lives in Lebanon

In his work, Shadi Abousada depicts reality and his experiences in a symbolic fashion, using sarcasm or mystery to evoke emotions. He says: "I make walls for our shadows. What remains from our memories, inspires me – dreams, repetition of history and destruction of childhood... the hallucinations have become closer to reality."

Born in Soueida, Shadi Abousada (1983) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Damascus University in 2008. Working in painting, installation and video, he is known for urban scenes and figures that are paired with objects that take on hidden meanings. His highly textured backgrounds are overlayed with monochromatic figures that have a sense of action or movement.

Since 2006, Shadi Abousada's works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions in galleries in Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, the UK, Netherlands, the UAE, Qatar and Switzerland.

Untitled

2019

Mixed Media on Canvas

120x 70 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 46

SULAFHA HIJAZI (B. 1977)

Lives in Germany

Working as a director and artist, Sulafa Hijazi's work revolves around the impact of technology, violence, and conflict on humanity. "What has been important to me is to create work that resonates on both a local and a global level," she says. "No matter what our cultural identity or signifiers, ultimately, the same issues touch every human being."

Born in Damascus, Sulafa Hijazi (1977) studied at the Higher Institute of the Dramatic Arts in Syria, and at the Städelschule Fine Art Academy in Frankfurt Am Main, Germany. Seeking to break mass media's stereotypes while fighting against the normalisation of violence in the news, Hijazi works with illustration, animation and multimedia to give an alternate viewpoint on conflict. By using the medium of animation to explain or represent issues of violence, misinformation and repression, she hopes to utilise it as an educational tool not only for children, but for adults.

Sulafa Hijazi's artworks have been exhibited in galleries in Europe and featured in online platforms, newspapers and books. They have been acquired by public collections such as the British Museum, London; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah and International Media Support (IMS), Copenhagen.

Mandala

Ed. 6 + 2AP

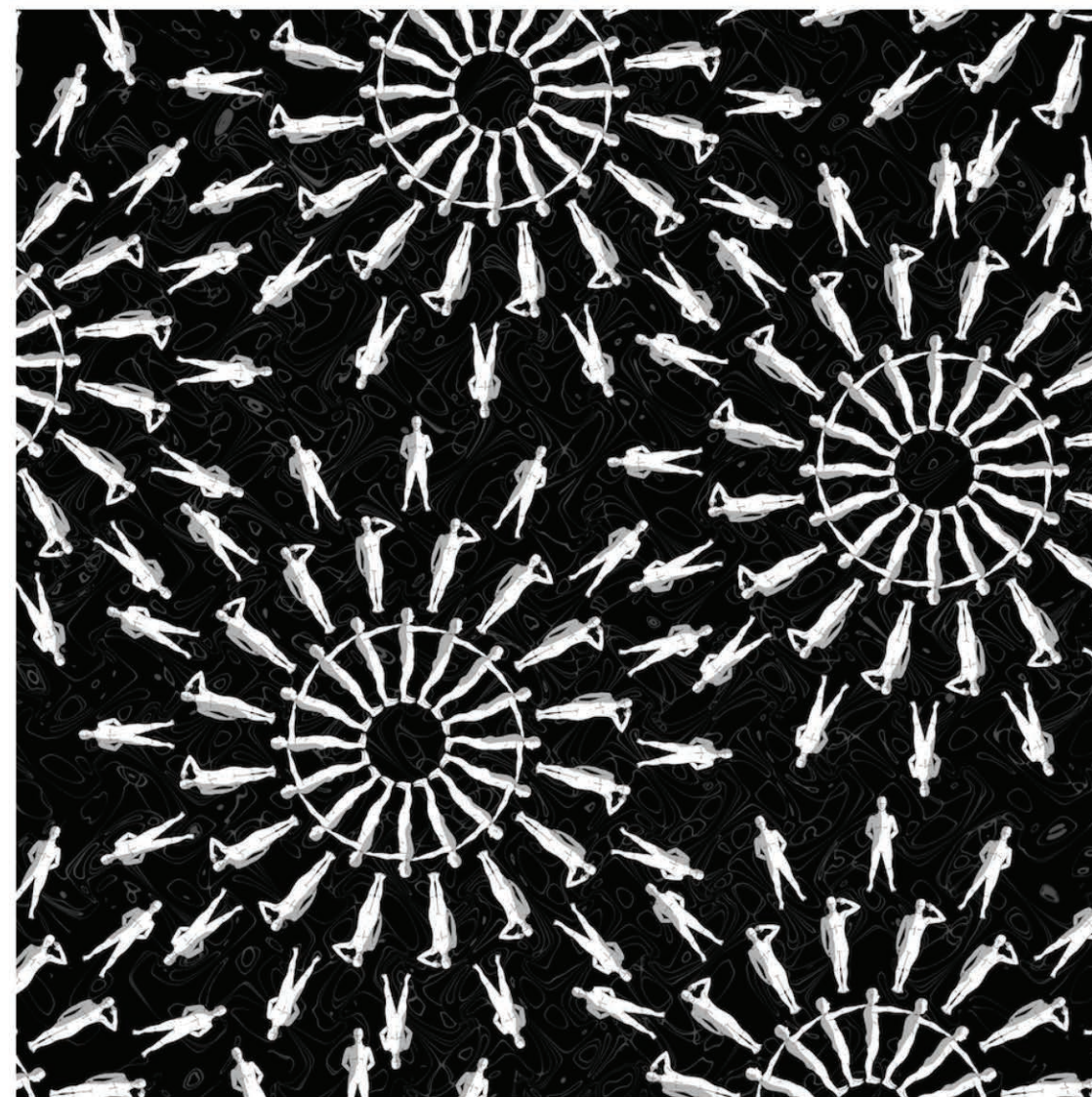
2016

Lenticular print

100 x 100 cm

\$2,000 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 47

TAMMAM AZZAM (B. 1980)

Lives in Germany

As an artist in exile, Tammam Azzam has seen much destruction solely through online photographs, including bombed out buildings that have been gutted to the core. "The emptiness made me feel so much fear," he says. "I want to talk about that."

Born in Damascus, Tammam Azzam (1980) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Painting, in Damascus, in 2001. Initially working in mixed media, Azzam found himself looking for new ways to create art and express his feelings about the loss of his home country. He began to focus on the depth and tragedy of the destroyed cityscape that used to be home to so many people.

Tammam Azzam has contributed to international exhibitions such as the FUU-Street Art Festival, Sarajevo; Vancouver Biennale; FotoFest Biennial, Houston; Dak'Art: Biennial of Contemporary African Art, Dakar; Alexandria Biennale; and the 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana; Museen in Sudtirol in Tirol, Italy; Haines Gallery, San Francisco; Ayyam Gallery, Dubai; Kornfeld Galerie, Berlin; Bienal del Sur, Caracas; Künstlerforum Bonn; For-Site Foundation, San Francisco; among others.

Untitled

2015

Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22.6 cm each

\$2,500 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 48

TAREK BUTAYHI (B. 1982)

Lives in Syria

When asked, “Where are your women, [now]?” Syrian artist Tarek Butayhi responds: “My women have become mothers with worries and children. Perhaps I influenced them; perhaps they influenced me.”

Born in Damascus, Syria, Tarek Butayhi (1982) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts Department of Painting in 2006. Known for his sensual depiction of women, Butayhi’s work is characterised by its expressive content and spontaneity. His brushwork and palette define the figures, while, stylistically, he breaks away from stereotypical poses and postures, celebrating the women’s bodies for their unique natural forms. Painting from life, his work has taken on new social dimensions, with different series evolving from his experiences, including seeing women in Lebanon who had plastic surgery where their features take on unnatural proportions. Even before he left Syria, the bodies of the dead were impressed in his mind and became the subject of many paintings.

Tarek Butayhi has shown his work in group and solo exhibitions in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Canada, Turkey, the UK, US and Kuwait.

The Daughter

2019

Acrylic on Canvas

100 x 100 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 49

WALAA DAKAK (B. 1978)

Lives in France

Living in fear of the repressive regime and always nervous of upcoming events whether political or not, Walaa Dakak paints these moments, saying: "I believe that everything is in suspension... The situations are continually dependent on each other, we live in a state of anticipation."

Born in Jarmana in the suburbs of Damascus, Walaa Dakak (1978) holds a degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts from the University of Damascus. Later on, he worked on his PhD from the Contemporary Art and New Media at the University of Paris, La Sorbonne. Revolving around four major subjects – repetition, fear, suspense and time – his simple yet effective painterly style is easily distinguishable and characteristic of his *oeuvre*.

Walaa Dakak has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in institutions including The HUB Gallery, Kuwait; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Biennale du Génie des Jardins, Paris; Cartoucherie, Paris; and The Palace of Fine Arts, Brussels; Paris. He is also one of the co-founders of the Caravane Culturelle Syrienne.

Les amis

2018

Acrylic on Canvas

130 x 97 cm

\$4,500 - \$6,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 50

WALID EL MASRI (B. 1979)

Lives in France

Through each series of paintings, artist Walid El Masri explores the infinite variations of a subject: "Every time you repeat a shape, you perceive it in a different way," he says. "You draw a series of circles, each slightly different from the previous one." His depictions are less about the objects themselves and more about the possibility of transformation or rebirth that comes from paying close attention to that object over time.

Born in Syria, Lebanese artist Walid El Masri (1979) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2005. After losing his father to a kidnapping and ransom, he stopped painting for some time. When he was able to restart again, he spontaneously painted a peacock, an homage to his father.

Walid El Masri's selected solo exhibitions include at Europa Gallery, Paris; Ayyam Gallery, London, Jeddah, Damascus and Dubai; Art Beijing Contemporary Art Fair; Art Hong Kong art fair; The Busan Museum of Art, South Korea and Samsung Blue Square, Seoul. He is also a member of the Caravane Culturelle Syrienne that creates cultural events across Europe.

Peacock

2020

Mixed Media on Canvas

100 x 81 cm

\$5,000 - \$7,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 51

YAMEN YOUSSEF (B. 1982)

Lives in Syria

"I was a little lonely, or maybe I was bored, but what I remember, at the age of 10, [is that] I tried to make some people, out of stones," recalls Syrian artist Yamen Youssef. This was the beginning of his exploration into sculptural materials, which was influenced by his environment of forested mountains. Playing with rocks, mud, clay and wood, he had discovered a way to imaginatively recreate the world around him.

Born in Tartous (1982), Yamen Yousef graduated with his BA and Master's degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Sculpture, Damascus University. In his distinct style, his figures have broad faces and heavily built bodies, carved from wood. Their postures and anatomy are rendered to be expressive, poetic and sometimes whimsical, giving them a sense of softness and even optimism.

Yamen Yousef's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Syria and Lebanon. It was also included in the 'Reconciliation Through the Arts' programme in Washington DC, New York, Texas and New Mexico, USA.

I Will Fly

2018

Resin, Stone and Wood

42 x 26 x 15.5 cm

\$2,500 - \$4,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 52

YASSER SAFI (B. 1976)

Lives in Germany

“I am always inspired by the streets and the social relationships in our communities, where complex interactions play a big role,” says Syrian artist Yasser Safi “Solitude is very rare in our communities, there’s always rich social interaction [and] that can often be exhausting. These complexities incite you to raise questions about the relationship with oneself and one’s relationship to others.”

Born in Qamishli, Yasser Safi (1976) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University; in 1997. His pictorial language appears naïve but is connected to the symbolism or contradictions found in childhood – profound meanings concealed behind simplicity. He draws parallels between worlds in his work, representing street life in Damascus and Berlin while drawing inspiration from ancient Oriental and Islamic art.

Yasser Safi’s works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions across the Middle East and Europe. They can also be found in many private collections and museums, including The National Museum in Damascus; British Museum, London; Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin and The National Museum, Jordan.

Worker

2014

Acrylic on Canvas

120 x 110 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 53

YOUSSEF ABDELKE (B. 1951)

Lives in Syria

From cynically drawn figures to symbolic still lifes many of Youssef Abdelke's series contain commentary about the conflict in Syria. During the war, he explained, "I think all the works in one way or another try to express the concerns and emotions of the ordinary Syrian citizen amid this huge river of blood."

Born in Qamishli, Youssef Abdelke (1951) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and received his PhD in Fine Arts from Paris XIII. Working in styles wither gestural or realistic, he uses different techniques such as printmaking – engraving on copper or zinc plates – or drawing with pastels or charcoal on paper to create works filled with symbolic elements that infer the violence of war.

Abdelke's works can be found in numerous private collections and museums, amongst which are the British Museum, Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Amman Museum of Modern Art and the National Museum of Kuwait.

Bird

2020

Charcoal on Paper

36 x 49.4 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 54

ZIAD DALLOUL (B. 1953)

Lives in France

"Painting a landscape on one's canvas is not an end in itself," says Syrian artist Ziad Dalloul "You have to step into the landscape to see it from the inside, deconstruct it in order to reconstruct it, in accordance with our fantasies and memory which is inseparable from the representation of any work of art."

Born in Soueida, Ziad Dalloul (1953) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1977, and from L'École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris in 1987. Using traditional materials, Dalloul creates landscapes and still lifes which are often recollections of his birthplace in Syria or tend to take on a symbolic significance.

Ziad Dalloul has exhibited around the world, and his work can be found in major public collections including those of the British Museum, London; Institut du Monde Arab, Paris; Khaled Shoman Foundation, Amman; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; La Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; The Jordan National Gallery, Amman; Al Mansouria Foundation, Jeddah; Fondazione Orestiadi, Italy and the Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende, Santiago, Chile among others.

Portrait pour une chaise

2015

Oil on Special Paper

65 x 50 cm

\$6,000 - \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

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