



Selections: Contemporary Syrian Art Auction

Online Auction:
25-31 May 2021



Bidding Starts:

Tuesday 25 May at 10:00h GMT

Bidding ends:

Monday 31 May at 14:00h GMT

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Front cover: Hammoud Chantout lot 22
Opposite page: Ala' Hamameh lot 3
Back cover: Aktham Abdulhamid lot 2



Introduction

Welcome to 'Selections', the second iteration of Atassi Foundation auctions, organised in collaboration with our partner ArtScoops.

The beauty of the art world lies in the opportunity to constantly challenge norms and push boundaries. A very dear friend (who happens to be a renowned artist) once said *boldness* was "the willingness to take chances" and that therefore being bold was also a choice. As a non-profit initiative, organising auctions is not part of our original mandate, but after serious reflection, we felt that our role of promoting Syrian art and encouraging its appreciation required that we take a more active role in presenting our artists' works to audiences around the world. After all, these auctions do not follow the model of a typical commercial auction. Rather, they aim to transcend the idea of commercial value and focus more on the artists, whose individual works weave a story of Syrian art today.

Through our first auction we hoped to address some of the difficult realities of the pandemic and the tough economic circumstances endured by Syrian artists (both in Syria and beyond). While it has been more than a year since the first wave of lockdowns around the world, their ramifications remain present. The continuing state of restrictions and lockdowns in various parts of the world has created an environment of isolation and disconnection between artists and their audiences – a disconnect that Syrian artists specifically have been experiencing since 2011. As Syrians we share the desire to come together, to showcase our work and to celebrate each other. Atassi Foundation, with the help of our partners, wishes to provide the platform for such a celebration.



Our auction series is committed to showcasing artworks that represent a wide range of artists and media. We are also committed to presenting young collectors with works that are within their reach, hoping that they will become the patrons of tomorrow.

We are thankful to each and every participating artist. We are grateful to ArtScoops for being our partner. 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
May 2021

Lot 1

ADI ATASSI (B. 1962)

Lives in Cyprus

“My approach when creating is a construct-demolish-repair process, and during this struggle I find a brutal yet honest identity [in] my subjects.” says Adi Atassi.

Born in Homs, Adi Atassi (1962) entered the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, at the age of 18. In his mid-20s, he moved to Cyprus, where he lived and worked in semi-isolation, which he credits as being important to his artistic development at that time. Much of Atassi’s work revolves around expressively painted abstracts, figures and landscapes. Using an intense colour range, in many of his works the hues blend and flow together.

Atassi has held various exhibitions in Nicosia and has participated in group shows in Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Romania, Germany and Spain. In 2006, he won first prize in an art competition for a work for the new Supreme Court building in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Interaction with Vivaldi’s 4 Seasons Symphony

2021

Ink on Art Matte Paper
70 x 50 cm

\$1,300 - \$2,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 2

AKTHAM ABDULHAMID (B. 1955)

Lives in Syria

Working in wood and stone sculpture, Aktham Abdulhamid's work is influenced by regional ancient civilisations instead of the Western model of Greek and Roman sculpture that he studied at university. He explains that his work has helped develop "the process of dealing with heritage topics and mythological symbols in a way that serves modern art" in Syria.

Born in Jabla, Aktham Abdulhamid (1955) graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 1981. He taught at – and was later appointed the head of – the Institute of Applied Arts in Damascus. Afterwards, Abdulhamid moved to Spain, where he became the Director of the Syrian Cultural Centre in Madrid.

Stemming from a long artistic study of Syrian mythology and traditional art, Abdulhamid forms his sculptures using modernist techniques. Minimalist and abstracted, his work condenses the human body into rich visual symbols that have ancient references. Abdulhamid has participated in exhibitions and symposiums in Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, Spain, France, Germany, the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain and Hungary. His works have been acquired by the Syrian Ministry of Culture, the National Museum in Damascus, and are within private collections internationally.

Portrait

2020

Marble

24 x 25x 20 cm

\$7,000 - \$8,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 3

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.

A Suitcase Memory

2017

Mixed Media on Canvas

100 x 120 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,000

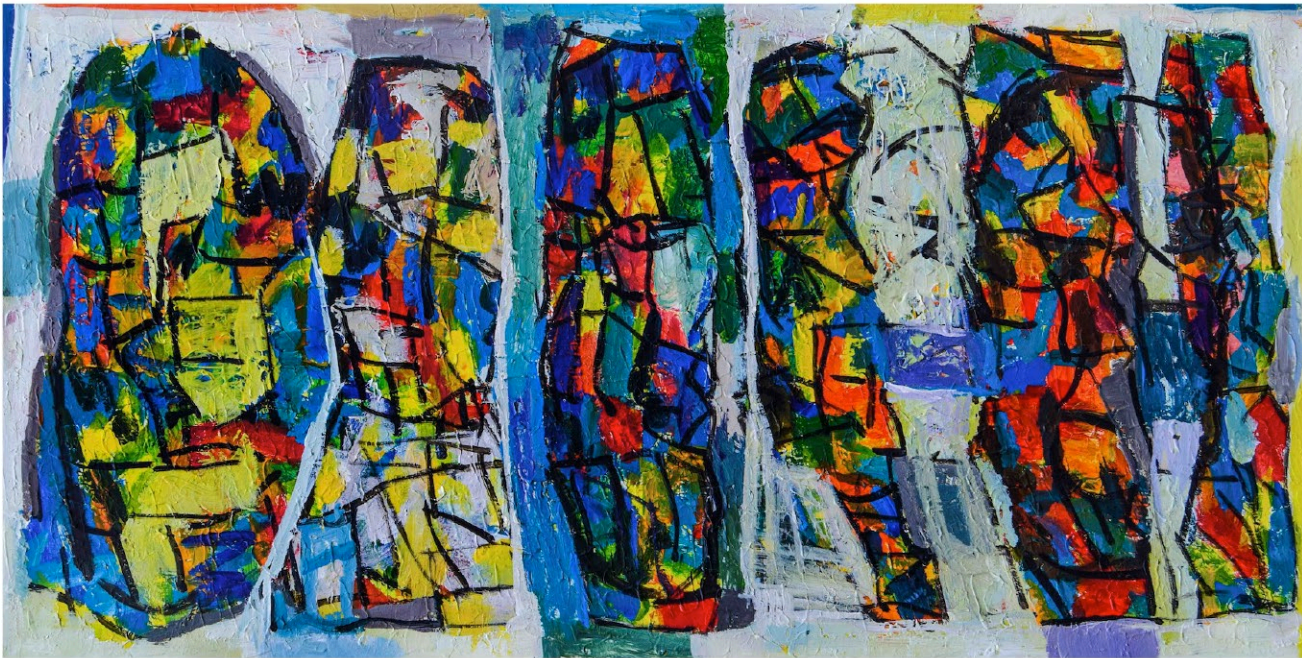
Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 4

ANAS HOMSI (B. 1987)

Lives in Germany



When describing his work, artist Anas Homsy explains: “I try to capture the atmosphere of a memory, not a particular moment. Through the way I paint, I try to get back to that state of childhood – a bit spontaneous, without thinking about the result.”

Born in Damascus, Anas Homsy (1987) received a BA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and a degree in Visual Communications from the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam. Utilising a vibrant palette, Homsy uses gestural lines coupled with a lively application of paint to create scenes, portraits and abstract compositions. “My paintings are highly textured splashes and daubs of bright, almost luminous colours topped with roughly sketched figures... each painting is from a different daydream. I feel that the more layers I add, the more I give the painting an artistic value from my imagination and memory.”

Homsy has exhibited in Germany, Lebanon, the UAE, UK, Italy and Singapore at venues such as the Second Biennale of Modern Art in Santorini and the Fondazione Cini in Venice.

Celebration

2020

Acrylic on Canvas
75 x 150 cm

\$3,800 - \$4,800

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 5

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.

Closer

2020

Oil on Canvas

130 x 92 cm

\$3,000 - \$4,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 6

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.

Syrian Eagle

2014

Digital Print on Polyester

70 x 70 cm

\$1,500 - \$2,400

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 7

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.

Under the Vine Leaves

2021

Acrylic on Canvas

90 x 100 cm

\$1,800 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 8

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

2021

Leather and Mixed Media

80 x 107 cm

\$7,000- \$8,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 9

GHASSAN JADID (B. 1946)

Lives in Syria

"When I draw the city of Tartous, I draw inspiration from a world of intertwined elements: where water, humidity and light mingle with architecture and history; where the solid strength of the city's walls, which have withstood the test of time, still stand to this day; where the reflections in the water are still the same as they have always been," recounts artist Ghassan Jadid.

Born in Tartous, Ghassan Jadid (1946) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 1971 and served as the director of the Tartous Arts Council from 1982–1986. Fascinated by the ancient seaside city, Jadid depicts Tartous's landmarks and houses in his paintings. Using vibrant colours, he imbues the landscape with a light-hearted spirit.

Jadid has exhibited throughout Syria as well as in France, Germany, Lebanon, Kuwait, Tunisia and the UAE.

Apsidal from Tartous

2017

Acrylic on Paper
90 x 74 cm

\$2,500- \$3,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 10

GUEVARA NAMER (B. 1984)

Lives in Germany

Syrian photographer and documentary filmmaker, Guevara Namer reflects on themes of “identity, belonging and borders” while highlighting young female protagonists in her narrative-based, occasionally auto-biographical, work.

Born in Damascus, Guevara Namer (1984) holds a degree in photography from the Applied Arts Institute, Damascus and studied drama at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus. In 2018, she was selected by Magnum Foundation as a Photography and Social Justice Fellow. Her more recent exhibition – in Berlin – entitled *Existing Elsewhere*, showcased photos that are an intimate introspection of her past.

Working in documentary films, Namer has been as a line producer and assistant director as well as the director of her own films. Her film, *Morning Fears, Night Chants* (co-directed with Diana El-Jeiroudi), premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in 2012 and was broadcast on Alarabiya and ARTE. She is also a co-founder and board member of Berlin-based DOX BOX eV, an association to support documentary filmmakers from the Arab world.

35° 45°

2009

Photograph Printed on Fine Art Paper

84.1 x 59.4 cm each

\$2,000- \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 11

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.

Dinner of Angels

2018

Mixed Media on Canvas

89 x 116 cm

\$4,000 - \$6,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 12

HOUDA TERJUMAN (B. 1970)

Lives in Morocco

“The history of my practice is overwhelmingly informed by my status as hybrid migrant, a condition associated to second generation migrants,” explains artist Houda Terjuman. “My father is Syrian, my mother is Swiss and I was born in Morocco...I cherished the status of hybridity which, to me, offers a rich mix of backgrounds, voices, and belongings.”

Born in Tangier, Morocco, Houda Terjuman (1970) is an artist whose practice recalls the language of Surrealism through dream-like paintings and floating sculptures. Exploring ideas of identity and displacement, she uses common items and natural elements as symbols in her work and then juxtaposes them against a particular setting.

Terjuman has exhibited in museums and institutions such as the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Musée d’Art Contemporain Mohammed VI, Rabat; Aga Kahn Museum, Toronto; Imago Mundi, Luciano Benetton Foundation, Treviso; and Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc, Rabat.

Drifting Destinies

2021

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
75 x 60 cm

\$2,000 - \$3,200

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 13

HOUMAM ALSAYED (B. 1981)

Lives in Lebanon

Known for the ubiquitous figures that populate his large-scale paintings, Houmam Alsayed explains the idea behind their creation by saying: "The characters that I illustrate are examples of the people who have been living in this region for centuries. What I am trying to show through my work is not confined to our current situation. This is about what has happened to us over many hundreds of years."

Born in Masyaf, Houmam Alsayed (1981) graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Institute of Applied Arts in Damascus in 2003. In his work, he depicts the recurring figure of a stooped man with a bulbous nose and wide set eyes wearing a cloth cap. Putting the character in a variety of situations, his facial expressions depict nuanced, emotive states such as self-reflection, bewilderment and stoicism. This figure conveys, in our era, "the failure of all political, social and religious legends... You can find symbols referring to these legendary figures in my work. These figures are not only nostalgic about the past but also fearful about the future," says the artist.

Alsayed has exhibited at venues such the British Museum, London; Agial Art Gallery, Beirut; BOX Freiraum, Berlin; Mark Hachem Gallery, Paris; White Box Projects, New York; Anima Gallery, Doha; Ashkal Alwan, Beirut and Showcase Gallery, Dubai.

Moulaya (Abo Elzlouf Daughter)

2011

Oil on Canvas

150 x 150 cm

\$9,000 - \$12,000

Note: A Certificate of Authenticity will be provided upon acquisition.



Lot 14

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; the 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.

Soaring 8

2016

Photograph Printed on Archival Matte Cotton Paper

100 x 150 cm

\$2,500 - \$4,000

Courtesy of the Artist and Green Art Gallery



Lot 15

JOHNNY SEMAAN (B. 1983)

Lives in Lebanon

Similar to a theatrical stage, the carefully coloured backgrounds in Johnny Semaan's paintings support the characters that evolve on them, giving them a set and props to use as a foundation for their performance. He uses colour to express meaning and also as an emotional layer, which he emphatically declares as: "Colour remains my third lung, the one that saves me and keeps me alive."

Born in Lattakia, Johnny Semaan (1983) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and received a Master's degree in Plastic Arts from the Lebanese University in 2019. He worked as an instructor at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tishreen University and is the founder of Zografov workshop for children. In his work, Semaan conveys narratives through figural posturing and symbolism rather than direct facial expressions, making references to love, absence, grief and even politics.

In 2019, Semaan received the Boghossian Foundation Prize and has exhibited throughout Syria and Lebanon.

Untitled

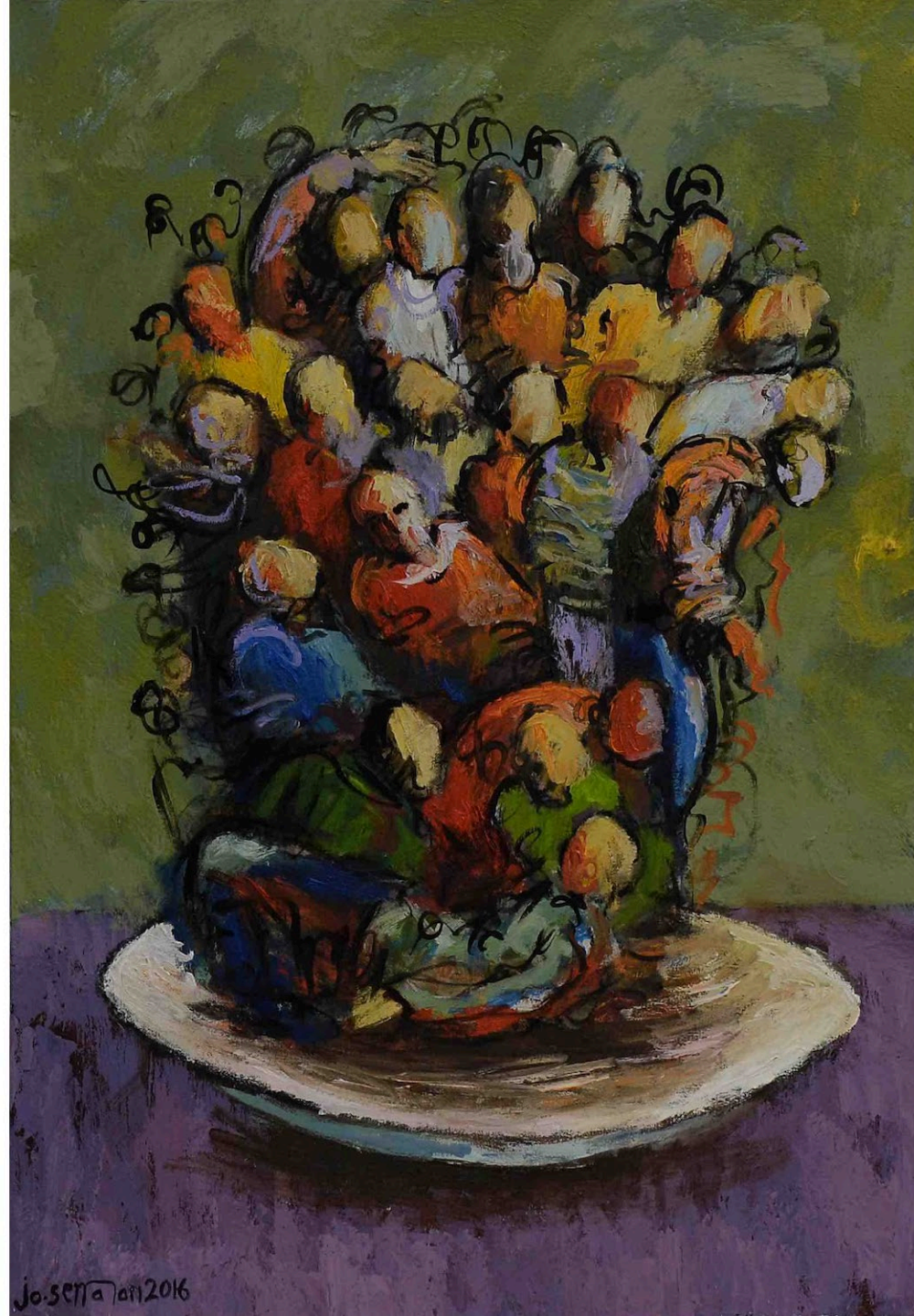
2016

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas

60 x 40 cm

\$1,000- \$2,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 16

KHALED ALKHANI (B. 1975)

Lives in France

At the age of seven, artist Khaled Alkhani lost his father in the Hama Massacre. Greatly influencing his work, he explains “My paintings are closely related to my memories of what happened in Hama, they come from my childhood, what I witnessed daily, memories of the Hama massacre. Such events leave a deep-cut memory in me that is hard to remove. I believe, in my artistic process, these memories are visible in my paintings. It has something to do with how I see women. The woman is the most essential and present figure, she is the hero of my paintings.”

Born in Hama, Khaled Alkhani (1975) graduated with his Master’s degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2000. Focused on the figure in his work, particularly the sole female figure, he obscures their facial features in darkness, or paints them delicately with their eyes closed. Conversely, their clothes are painted with a wide and passionate brushstroke, using lively colors, against a muted background.

Alkhani has exhibited in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Canada, France and the US at institutions such as Museum of Bayt Lothan in Kuwait City; Cité internationale des arts in Paris; Kunsthalle zu Kiel in Kiel, and Bardo National Museum of Tunisia in Tunis.

Untitled

2020

Acrylic on Canvas

110 x 85 cm

\$4,000 - \$5,400

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 17

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.

The Light

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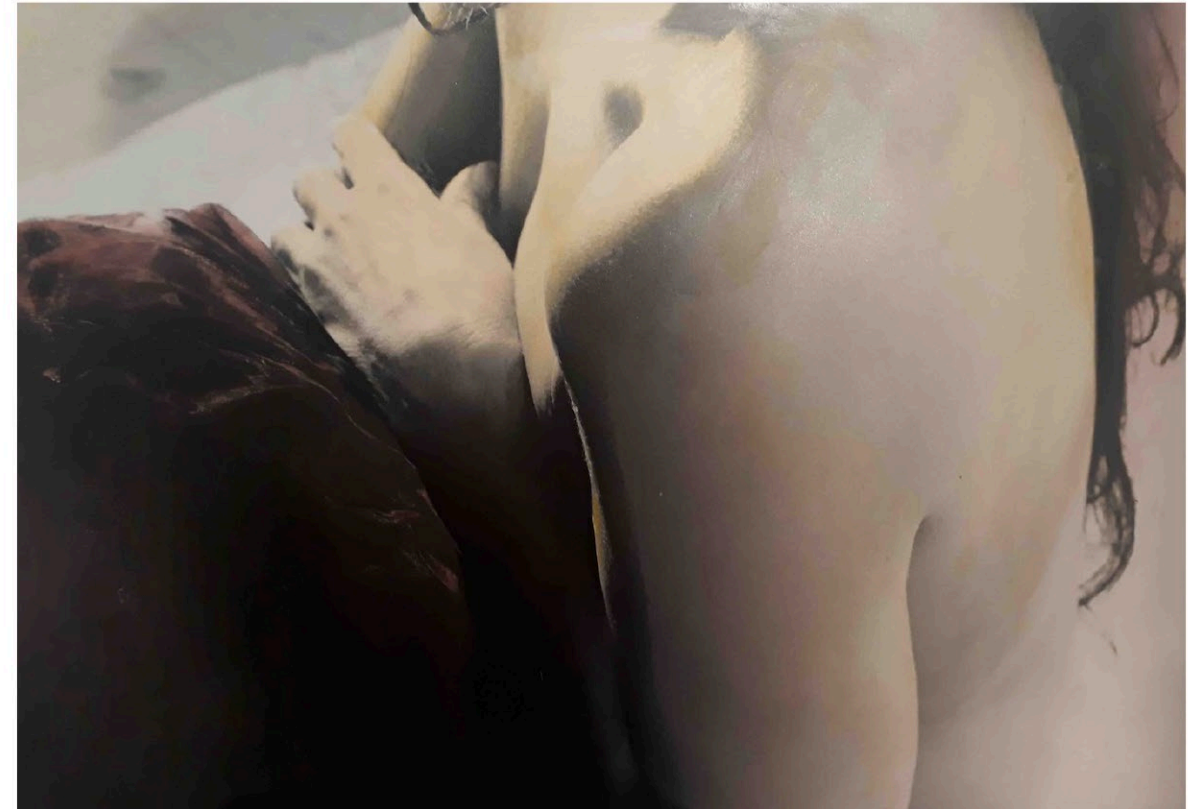
2018

Painted Photo

28.5 x 40 cm

\$1,800 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 18

LINA AL SMOUDI (B. 1987)

Lives in France

Influenced by her studies in psychology, Lina Al Smoudi paints people from her memory and dreams. Naively rendered using simplistic shapes and hues, she creates portraits or scenes that symbolically depict emotion or tell a story. Ranging from people in agitated conversations, solo figures crying, or different worlds filled with female characters, her works have a sense of intimacy and introspection.

Born in Jeddah, Syrian artist Lina Al Smoudi (1987) studied psychology at Damascus University and fine arts at Adham Ismail Institute in Damascus. In Paris, she is studying at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts.

Theater

2018

Acrylic on Paper
50 x 65 cm

\$500 - \$1,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 19

MAYSAN SALMAN (B. 1984)

Lives in Russia

Sculpting mostly in bronze or occasionally in resin, artist Maysan Salman explains the psychology behind his work, in which the human being and emotions the focus: "I've always worked on exposing the inner world of the individual, paying attention to the perception of the human body, trying to convey the aesthetic aspects of the strongest emotions. Projecting the sadness, weakness, fears, incapability and sometimes even the ugliness and perversity of mankind."

Born in Tartous, Maysan Salman (1984) received his BA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and his MA from the Russian Academy of Arts.

While Salman's work displays the musculature of the human body, he also hints at the figure's psychological state, displaying contortions in the posture and face indicating a tension or possible suffering.

In addition to numerous exhibitions in Syria and Russia, his work has been shown in Lebanon, Singapore, the UAE and Slovakia.

Eagerness

2020

Glass and Epoxy

31 x 10 x 15 cm

\$2,200 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 20

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.

A Woman Leading People

2021

Acrylic on Canvas

120 x 100 cm

\$3,500 - \$4,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 21

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.

Untitled

2021

Acrylic on Canvas

60 x 80 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 22

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.

Cities of Dead Birds

2020

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas

150 x 100 cm

\$6,000 - \$7,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 23

NOOR 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.

Circulation of Rhythm

2020

Acrylic on Canvas

120 x 120 cm

\$2,000 - \$3,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 24

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.

Cerf

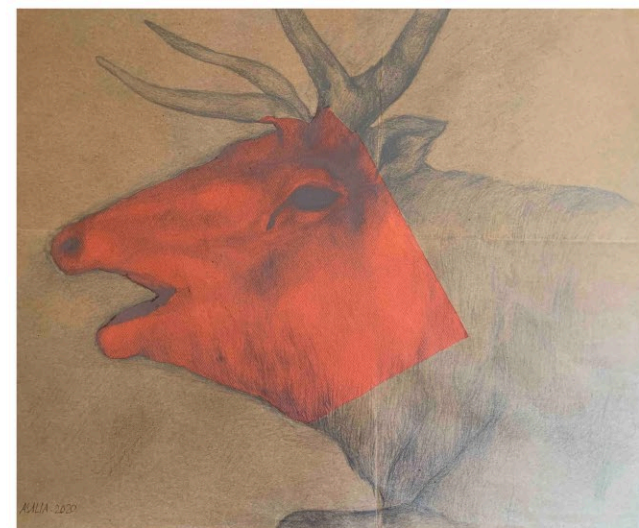
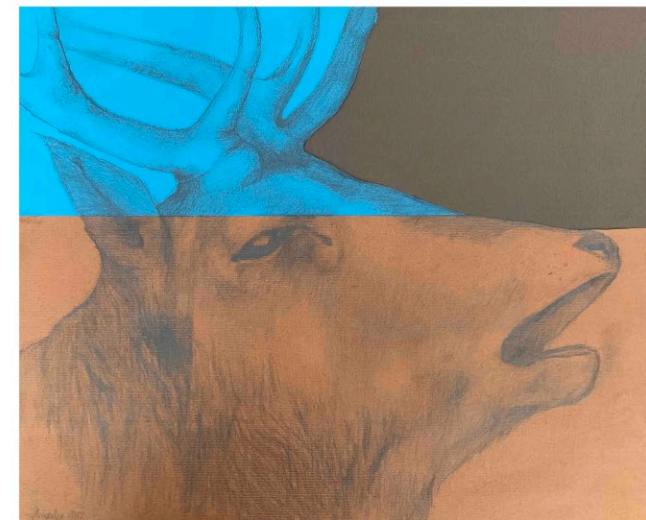
2019-2020

Pencil on Paper

40 x 50 cm each

\$1,000 - \$1,800

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 25

ORUBAH DIEB (B. 1968)

Lives in France

"I express myself through my works, my personality, my emotions, and the feelings that I experience. You see feelings of sadness in the sculpture if my psychological state tends towards sadness, and the same is the case if I feel happy," says artist Oroubah Dieb. "My work is an expression of me, in my depths."

Born in Damascus, Oroubah Dieb (1968) graduated from the Adham Ismail Institute for Plastic Arts in 1989 and the Institute of Applied Arts in 1991. Initially known for sculptures in bronze and wood, she began drawing and collage after leaving Syria. Focused on emotional states, her work expresses her inner feelings and relationships with others using themes such as friendship, sadness and loss. Since her exile, she has depicted aspects of migration using her own experience as well as stories from others.

Dieb has participated in exhibitions in Kuwait, the US, Canada, France, Syria and Lebanon. Her works have been acquired by the Syrian Ministry of Culture and can be found in private collections.

Forced Exile

2020
Acrylic, Collage and Sand on Canvas
80 x 100 cm

\$1,500 - \$2,500

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 26

RABEE KIWAN (B. 1984)

Lives in Syria

"The main element of my work is the human in all its states and manifestations," states artist Rabee Kiwan. "Over time, the presence of the figure started to decay, until it turned into a group of symbols or parts of its remains... [At times,] the human presence has been replaced by the remnants of his things..." In this work, he explains that "the tree is a representation of nature while the rope is the human trace or remnant that impacts nature."

Born in Soueida, Rabee Kiwan (1984) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2008. Inspired by observations from his environment, Kiwan paints expressively with occasional collaged elements. He builds up his canvases through layers, using colour as an emotive element which is affected by outside influences such as the conflict in Syria.

Kiwan has exhibited his work in Paris, London, Beirut, Amman, Washington DC and Damascus.

Tree

2020
Mixed Media on Canvas
130 x 140 cm

\$3,200 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 27

SABHAN ADAM (B. 1972)

Lives in Syria

Challenging notions of beauty and ugliness, Sabhan Adam paints portraits of misshapen creatures often clothed in glamorous attire against plain backgrounds. While distorted and monstrous, the figures hold a complex set of emotions based on Adam's own psychology. He states: "The figures I paint have so many things in common with me – they look like me, they have the same head and the same Asian eyes as me. I draw myself with everything that exists inside – the sadness, the misery, the shocking things I have faced, the isolation, and the feeling of not belonging to this world."

Born in Hassaka, Sabhan Adam (1972) is a self-taught artist who creates works in relative isolation from the art world. A prolific artist, he has built up his career in both traditional and independent ways through exhibiting with galleries but also independently marketing and self-funding work and publications.

Adam has exhibited at institutions such as the Uffizi Gallery, the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris and the Venice Biennale. His work has been acquired by the British Museum, Jalanbo Collection, Barjeel Art Foundation, and is in many private collections.

Untitled (Masked Head)

2009

Mixed Media on Canvas

162 x 181 cm

\$3,000 - \$5,000

Provenance: Acquired directly from the artist by present owner

Lot 28

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.

Dove 2

2017

Iron and Copper

33 x 21 x 52 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 29

SAOUD ABDALLAH (B. 1976)

Lives in Lebanon

Using a minimalist style with Eastern influences, Saoud Abdallah creates large figural paintings that have a certain stillness to them, exuding calm. Philosophically, he talks about his work, saying “I love to keep the invisible [a] secret, perhaps it will stimulate my desire to meditate. I cannot see everything at once, so I [am] always [in] doubt.”

Born in Hassaka, Saoud Abdallah (1976) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University and received his postgraduate diploma in 2006. Experimenting with materials sourced from nature, Abdallah uses ground rocks and sand in his works – similar to the elements of a Zen garden. Imbued with hints of Chinese and Japanese design, these abstracted works often portray the curvy outline of the nude female body yet, notably, without facial features.

Abdallah has exhibited his work in Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, the UK and Italy.

Woman and Cat

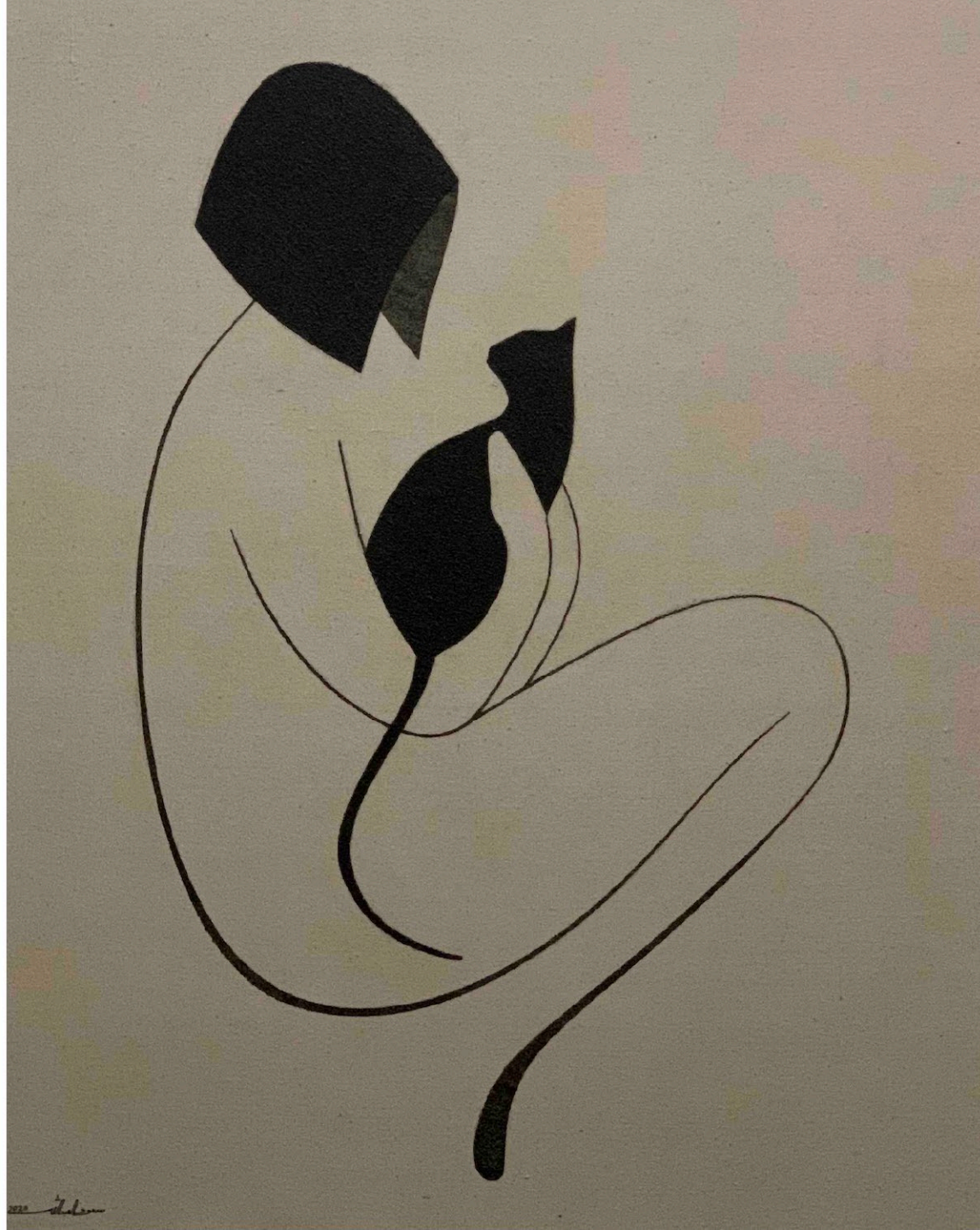
2020

Natural Sand and Glue on Canvas

100x 80 cm

\$3,100 - \$4,200

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 30

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.

Blond Boy

2021

Acrylic on Canvas

100 x 100 cm

\$3,500 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Lot 31

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.

Cocoon

2017

Mixed Media on Paper

50 x 65 cm

\$1,100 - \$1,800

Provenance: Directly from the artist

Lot 32

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.

Icarus

2021

Bronze

15 x 12 x 13 cm

\$1,000 - \$1,800

Provenance: Directly from the artist



Lot 33

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, the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Amman Museum of Modern Art and the National Museum of Kuwait.

Paint Tube

2019

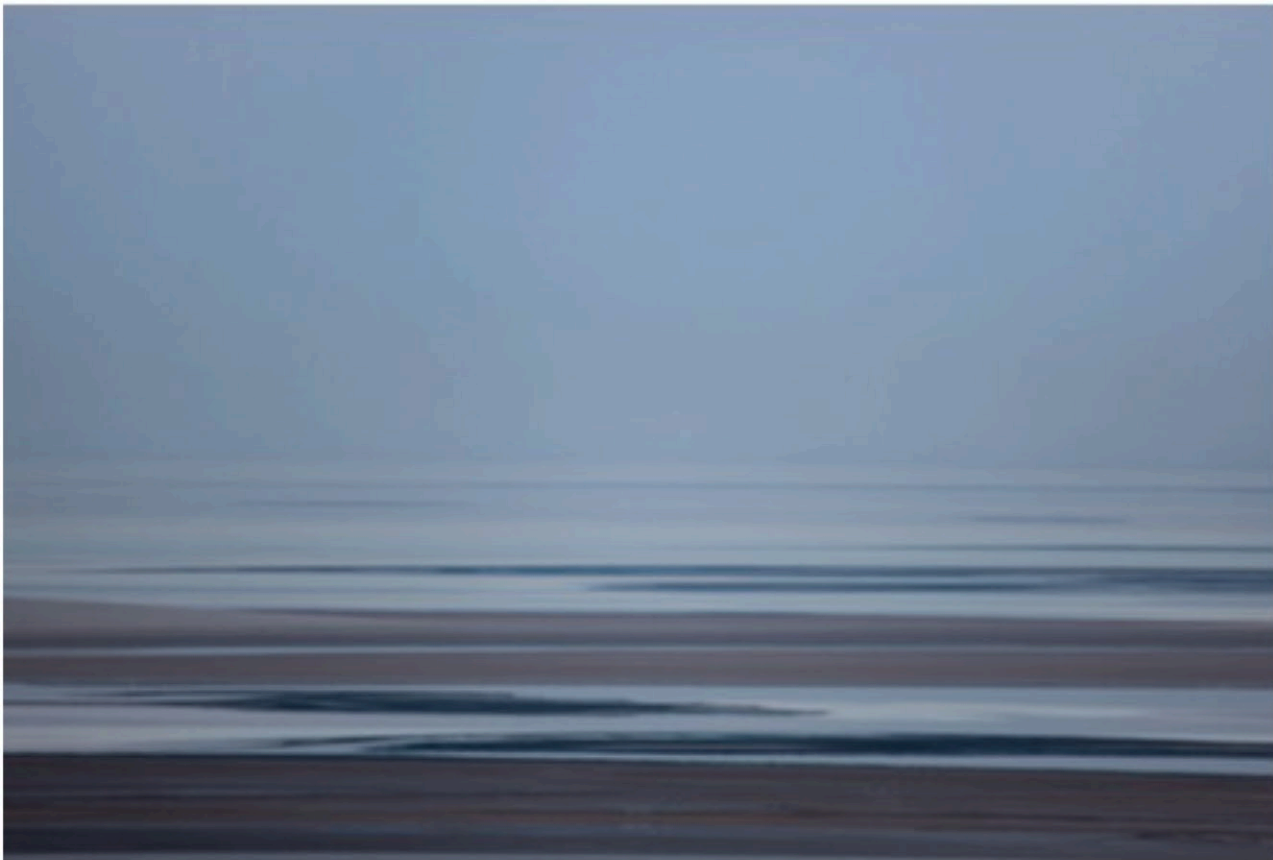
Charcoal on Paper

32.6 x 50 cm

\$3,700 - \$5,000

Provenance: Directly from the artist





Jaber Al Azmeh Lot 14

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When making a bid, a bidder is accepting personal liability to pay the purchase price including all applicable charges.

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Invoices are sent out to the Buyer by email after the auction. Successful bidders will pay the hammer price only.

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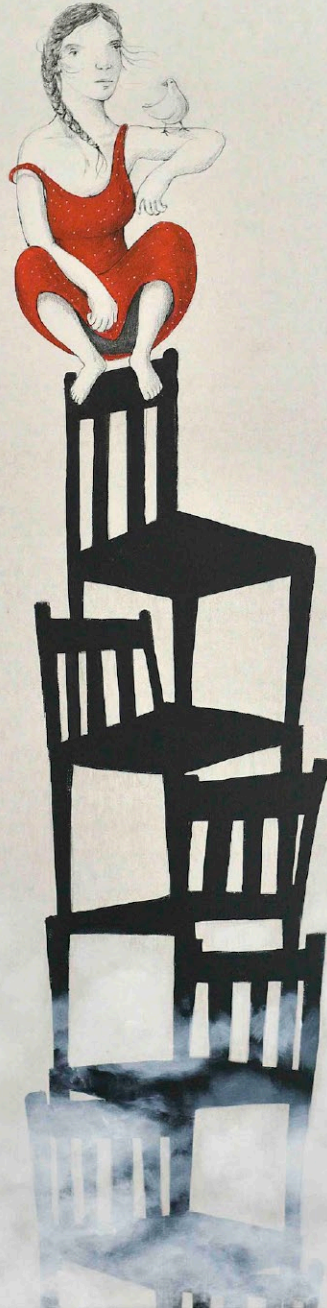
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Anas Homsy 11
Azza Abo Rebieh 13

D

Dino Ahmad Ali 15

E

Elias Ayoub 17

F

Fadi Yazigi 19

G

Ghassan Jadid 21
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