

DESIGN SECTION

The Great Design Disaster (Milan - Italy) :

The Great Design Disaster was founded in 2019 by Joy Herro and Gregory Gatslerelia in Milan.

Their design studio has become a one-stop-solution for anyone looking to create never-seen-before design-led experiences. Their work is about sustainability. Is about luxury.

The Great Design Disaster implies with a bellowing voice that the disaster of singularity, the failing of simply making one thing for one person.

- Gregory Gatslerelia :

Renowned for his glamorous and impeccably layered interiors, Gregory Gatslerelia has been envisioning one-of-a-kind spaces globally since 1985. His latest endeavour, The Great Design Disaster studio in Milan, has become a one-stop-solution for anyone looking to create never-seen-before design-led experiences.

Post-Disaster Room is a moment in time that has been left suspended forever in the aftermath of an unexpected accident. A poetic and soul-stirring tribute to the Beirut Port blasts, it is a reminder to make the most of every living moment and extract joy from every situation.

“Having looked ahead, following all the well-conceived advice - looking twice before crossing the street, never stepping on the cracks, brushing after meals, a month’s supply of water and canned goods ready for the Apocalypse, strategically positioned clubs and hammers, gigantic boxes of batteries and all that toilet paper. Yet, the propensity for vigilance springs from the propensity for destruction snaking through our thoughts, a crouching monkey spying on the tiger’s waterhole, most of our impressive means based on fire, explosions, faucet-bursts, the spark igniting the explosion and the subsequent indifference of entropy. The heart of disaster is unexpectedness, ill-preparedness, those stupid final thoughts we wish hopelessly to revise once thought. Accidents only happen when we don’t expect them and the musing that follows human folly hardly arrests the beheading of our progress as it perches on time-bombs waiting to explode, inexcusably designed to explode, cracking our carbon back to the Earth. The chandelier unstrung but still bright, the meal unfinished, never to be digested, drinks spilled and left where they fell, phones still ringing, of course, never to be answered - nobody’s home, not even home itself, homeless unbodies, nothing more than ash from that surprising fire, vague dust fluttering through the far-off sunlight, peeking through some luckier other’s window.”

Atelier Nadeen x jihad khairallah architects (Beirut - Lebanon)

- Nadine Roufael :

Nadine Roufael founder of Atelier Nadeen is an interior designer who completes herself as an artist based in Beirut, Lebanon creating art with paint and ceramic. Working with European designers in the furniture industry for many years led to an

uprising interest in ceramic art.

She explores through her work a different perspective that allows people to grasp a

fresh angle over design.

The sculptures featured represent a collection of a daring work of colours.

The created shapes turn the fixed pieces into life, offering them a sense of movement almost to the likes of plants. Any angle will speak its own truth and convey its own thoughts. Shapes and colours wouldn't do justice to the uniqueness of each piece, and that is why a third physical trait presents itself: texture.

- Jihad Khairallah

Jihad Khairallah founder of jihad khairallah architects is an architect and designer

based in Beirut and Dubai who's work influences residential, corporate, and commercial spaces in the Gulf and the Middle East. His minimalistic modern style with an oriental hint has been a trademark of many of his works.

Versatile is an ensemble of intricately designed pieces built with a multitude of materials that flourish into a bouquet of shapes, colors and sounds which you experience by entering its space.

The Product :

Kōzō is a wooden structure made for you to create with. Whether it's an artistic piece that merges color and light or a bookshelf in your living space, the expansive flexibility it offers will let you turn it into one of a kind.

Kumo is a wooden structure made for you to create with. Whether it's a bench with multiple random legs that form a solid unit - module with a completely customizable shape - on top of which sit three or more circular poufs, or a solid surface that renders it as a table, the expansive flexibility it offers will let you turn it into one of a kind.

Everything I want Studio (Venice - Italy) :

“ Everything I Want is a multidisciplinary art, design and craft studio/gallery driven by the idea that art is a vehicle to connect people and open a path for positive change in society. We have a collaborative and holistic approach to our mission to create a space for thinking, producing, living and collecting.

The brainchild of artistic director, producer and social change champion Nadja Romain, Everything I Want Studio specialises in merging ancient craft practices with innovative art and design, and works to bring new relevance to a field that possesses extraordinary possibilities for the future, empowering the new generation to take part. “

- **Flavie Audi :**

Flavie Audi (French, Lebanese) (b.1986) graduated from the Architectural Association in 2011 and completed a MA at the Royal College of Arts in 2014, where she specialized in glass. Her practice has expanded into various media and collaborative projects with fashion, jewelry and furniture. Her work has been widely exhibited in Europe and US (Venus Over Manhattan, Corning Museum, Tristan Hoare, Nilufar, Soneva Fushi, Zaha Hadid gallery, David Gill, Stedelijk Museum Breda, Galerie Tanit, Karma International, Elisabetta Cipriani...).

Flavie Audi explores otherworlds in relation to her practice, working with the manipulation of glass. For the artist, glass provides a point of departure for making visible the invisible, highlighting the concrescence between physical and immaterial worlds. Glass plays a crucial part, for the artist, in contemplating a speculative utopian future world where humans create cosmic fragments and new types of landscape formations. Using the physical properties of glass, Flavie highlights the duality between the real and virtual worlds.

Through its omnipresence in nearly all contemporary forms of digital devices, glass becomes a signifier of the tension between the realms of the tangible and the digital, as well as a facilitator of the disappearance of physical objects.

The digital atmosphere that surrounds us threatens the definition and perception of reality. In an era of technological innovation that has seen the creation of flawless, synthetic diamonds, undetectable by man or machine, Audi's questions how we experience the real. Audi creates fragments emanating from a mass production landscape where gemmology aligns with geology in this synthetic new nature.

She pursues ways of expressing sensuality and luminosity creating dazzled encounters with wonder and the sublime.

Her works translate the mechanism of life and light and resemble fragments of an ethereal landscape or geology. The forms and gestures found in it capture a fleeting, living energy and suggest a certain mystery, expressing the energy and essence of existence, a sense of life, hovering between digital screen and celestial body. In a dematerialised world where all is virtual and generic, her work seeks to define a new type of aesthetic and physical materiality and invites the mind to expand in the cosmological infinite.

- **Osman Yousefzada :**

Osman Yousefzada is a British born multidisciplinary-artist who's practice revolves around modes of storytelling, merging autobiography with fiction and ritual. His works is concerned with the representation and rupture of the migrational experience and makes reference to socio-political issues of today. These themes are explored through moving image, installations, text works, sculptures, garment making and performance.

He has exhibited at Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio, Lahore Museum, Pakistan, Design Museum, London, Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka, Mendes Wood, Brussels, Whitechapel, London, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.

The pieces presented at MENART are part of a series presented in his solo show "What is Seen and What is Not" at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London

- **Tarek Shamma :**

Cairo and London-based architect Tarek Shamma started his career under Zaha Hadid and David Chipperfield, and has gone on to design and build concept stores, retail spaces and private residences across Europe. His frequent collaborators include Christian Louboutin, for whom Shamma has created both boutiques, elaborate retail displays and showstopping home spaces. His sense of geometry, seamless lines and graphic purity reflect his Egyptian heritage, projected outwards onto a world of aesthetic possibility.

Musk and Amber (Tunis - Tunisia)

Located in Les Berges du Lac, Tunis, Musk and Amber Gallery is a place of connection, where design, art and fashion from around the world mingle and relate to one another, through prestigious international and local brands rigorously handpicked and narrated by founder Lamia Bousnina Ben Ayed.

In this modern light-filled space, Lamia, keen traveler and Contemporary Art enthusiast, shares a few of the treasures she has found along the way. Each object is an actor in this sophisticated and trendy mise en scène which serves as an invitation into the personal and personalized world of M&A, transcending the shopping experience in favor of more meaningful and inspirational encounters for visitors.

- Mohegh

Mohammad Hossein Ghaderi is a self-educated designer-artist. He was born in Shiraz, the city of poets, culture and contemporary arts of Iran. With over 15 years of career about furniture design and production, in his designs, he combines:
practicality, form, painting, Iranian traditional crafts and adornment!

"It is not my intention to limit myself to any specific ISM! "

Le lab (Cairo - Egypt) :

Le LAB is a contemporary and collectible design gallery founded by Egyptian art and design collector Rasheed Kamel. With his deep understanding of the past and aspirations for the future of the Egyptian and regional art and design scene, Kamel feels a cultural obligation to support and develop its remarkable store of talent. His vision for Le LAB is an ambitious one: to explore the way in which collectible design is interpreted in our region today and ignite a movement questioning the boundaries between art, design, and architecture. In this Le LAB is unique; no other gallery takes a holistic view of the region. At Le LAB, contemporary and collectible design is a language; it tells a story of our shared historic past and examines major societal events and the way in which they were perceived. It is a means to understanding our common humanity, allowing us to ask questions of our present and plan for our future.

It is also a place to experiment, discover, and explore the grey areas found today in our quest to identify and differentiate between the three fields of art, design, and architecture. Le LAB's multi-disciplinary approach— collaborating with some of the region's greatest and brightest artists, designers, craftsmen, and architects— promises to challenge our understanding of the contemporary design scene both locally and regionally, promoting an enriching exchange of ideas and influences. Serving as a petri dish of creativity and discovery, Le LAB hopes to challenge pre-conceived notions and standards, shedding a fresh and courageous light on contemporary and collective design, its meaning and its possibilities and allowing us to reformulate our personal understanding of art in a more inclusive and liberating way.

- Omar Chakil

Omar CHAKIL is a French Egyptian Lebanese former singer/songwriter, creative consultant, interior designer, product designer, and artist. He briefly studied design at Milan's DOMUS academy but defines himself as a "self-taught"

natural aesthete who tries to bridge a variety of cultural gaps through his creative practice. After decorating private homes around the globe for nearly two decades, Chakil started experimenting with limited-edition objects and furniture. His first series, exclusively made from raw Egyptian alabaster blocks, sold out at Over the Counter Gallery during Beirut's 2018 Design Week and travelled with similar success to France, the KSA, Italy, and the USA. His work has been increasingly solicited by architects and galleries around the globe ever since.

Known for introducing the concept of collectible design to Egypt, one of his homelands, Chakil is regularly associated with Egyptian alabaster which he often but not exclusively chooses as his medium of expression. His pieces have been featured in numerous exhibitions around the globe including Dubai Expo 2020; prestigious French auction house Piasa; Parisian gallery Boon; travelling collectible fair Nomad; Athens Carwan; and Le LAB in Cairo. In 2022, Architectural Digest selected Chakil in their referential AD50 list for the Middle East's brightest talents in architecture and design.

- **Bahaa Amer (1977 -)**

Known for his poetic treatments and distinctive expressive style verging on surrealism, Amer rid himself of the constraints of perceptual realism and in so doing created a realm rich in nuances of fantasy. Early stages represent his response to socio-political turmoil and hardships of the period. Figures both human and animal in a metaphysical pictorial space convey his vision. Amer explains that his resistance to authority and accepted conventions, gives how his subconscious and imagination influenced his perception. Questioning reality, he places to the forefront of the viewer compositions that seem out of place or dream-like.

Bahaa Amer , Egyptian artist, born in Cairo - 1977, achieved a Bachelor's degree in Art Education ,2000. A masters degree in Restoration from the University of Cairo, 2009 in addition to several years of further studies in artistic criticism at the Academy of Arts in Cairo. He was assigned instructor of conservation of archeological sites by the American Research Centre in Egypt (ARCE) The Aga Khan Foundation (AKDN). Hence his extensive knowledge in Egyptian history ; including prehistoric pharaonic, coptic, islamic and modern art , his own work speaks of his familiarity with ancient techniques.

Bahaa's work has been presented on numerous solo and group exhibitions at respected museums and galleries as well as private acquisitions in Egypt and abroad. To date, six features in the Bonhams auction since 2014.

Amer releases in his art , the colors, scent and emotions of his dreams ; mythical creatures cocooned , others tiptoeing or flying freely without boundaries between earth and sky , exposing their vulnerability in the wilderness. A mature period where he expresses many thoughts that we do not have the courage to acknowledge.

ART SECTION

Ayn Gallery (Paris - France)

AYN GALLERY, a space born from the desire to bring together in the same place young talents with already recognized artists from the MENA region and sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, AYN Gallery cultivates a spirit of international openness to artists from diverse geographical, cultural and aesthetic backgrounds.

The gallery's objective is to offer artists national and international visibility through multidisciplinary exhibitions as well as art fairs. A program mixing painting, sculpture, design, ceramics, photography... Yasmine Azzi-Kohlhepp, its founder, wished that her gallery becomes a place of meetings, exchanges, where in the same space dialogue complementary domains, experimenting a common desire, the research of an aesthetic, a questioning through the works.

- **Marion Boehm**

Marion Boehm was born in Duisburg, Germany. She lives and works in Germany and France.

After studying and working as an interior designer in Europe, Marion Boehm moved to South Africa in 2010 with her husband and two daughters. While living in Johannesburg, she discovered the places that inspired her, including the Bolo Community Center in Kliptown (Soweto), which she attended as an active member for community projects. It was also there that she began making art related to recycling materials, mentored by renowned South African artist Kay Hassan.

Her beautiful collages reveal what she calls "the natural beauty" of women, men and children from different continents such as North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The portraits she has captured or chosen in collaboration with renowned photographers, are always seen from an ennobling angle - the expression of her characters invites the observer to enter into an inner dialogue with them. In this new series, captivating portraits by renowned Lebanese photographer Roger Moukarzel from an exhibition entitled "Jamal" explore oriental beauty.

As a European, Marion's work brings a fresh vision, her depiction of free women and men, respectful of their bodies and human dignity, her work emphasizes the value of intercultural exchange.

Marion Boehm reveals her deep respect for each culture she embraces and identifies with in her colorful collages using selected materials. She examines the relationships between the different cultures of other continents and the West in history from the past to the present. The texts in English or Arabic that scroll across the faces of her characters celebrate the personality of each of them and repeat themselves, decoding the intent of the work while leaving room for reflection and interpretation by the viewer.

The artist's work is collected internationally and has been shown in exhibitions and art fairs in France, Germany, Lithuania, Morocco, Spain, UAE, Portugal, Luxembourg, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and the US.

- **Roger Moukarzel**

Roger Moukarzel is a world-renowned photographer who has been working in the image world since the age of 15. In the early 1980s, he began working as a war photographer for Sygma and Reuters agencies. His work has been published in various newspapers and magazines around the world, including the Washington Post, Newsweek and the cover of Paris Match for its 40th anniversary. Initially, his subject matter was his war-torn homeland of Beirut and the surrounding Middle East region, capturing the impacts of the conflicts, a harsh reality that he captured with integrity and emotion.

A man of many visions, experiences and lives, he moved to Paris in the early 1990's and his career expanded and progressed into the world of fashion and advertising, documentary and fine art photography.

Messages of acceptance, tolerance, preservation, respect, freedom and diversity are the common thread in Moukarzel's work.

His passion for heritage and roots has led him to travel the world to explore, celebrate and embrace a diversity of cultures through the power of the image. What began as a journey and personal study has become exhibitions, books and international creations in Europe, Asia and throughout the Arab world. Launched 15 years ago, Moukarzel's production company, Mimime, has become one of the

most trusted and respected in the Middle East. Whether it is through film, photography or art direction, it can be said today that Mourkarzel is a veteran in the field of narrative images and multimedia.

- **Amina Zoubir**

Amina Zoubir is an Algerian visual artist and videomaker who works on the notion of the body and its interactions in public spaces to question and analyse social and historical thoughts in North Africa. Through her installations, photo-collages and performances, she makes reference to the behavioral transfer of the individuals' unconscious when they evolve in predetermined spaces by socio-political norms and cultural codifications, while her intention seeks to create a distortion in order to thwart the established order. Through her poetic artistry to view the human/animal/object body, she pushes us to reflect on the established rules of our contemporary society. Her artworks provide constructive statements on the decolonization of contemporary thoughts.

She graduated Master of Theory and practice of contemporary art and new media from University Paris 8 (2009, France) and a DESA graphic design obtained at the Fine Arts School in Algiers (2006, Algeria). Her works has been exhibited in biennials such as Lahore Biennale (2020), Venice Biennale at first Algerian Pavilion (2019), BISO Sculpture Biennale Ouagadougou (2019), Cairo Biennale (2019), Dakar Biennale (2018), Lagos Biennale (2017), Lagos Photo Festival (2017), Casablanca Biennale (2016), Addis FotoFest (2014), Biennale BY14 Yakutsk Russia (2014), Pontevedra Biennale (2008) ; shown in group exhibitions at museums such as MAXXI Museum Rome Italy, MUSAC Leon Spain, CAAM Las Palmas in Canaries Islands, Torrance Art Museum California USA ; at Galleries as Primo Marella Gallery, PasaJist Gallery, Pink Gallery, Vovatanya Gallery, Photon Center for Contemporary Photography, Artos Foundation, TAC, Leonardo Palazzo d'Arte contemporanea. She curated video programs at the French Institute of Dakar, Casablanca, Algiers and Stockholm. She was grantholder in residency at Konstnärnsnämnden with iaspis the international artists studio program in Stockholm (2020, Sweden), Mbassy in Hamburg (2021, Germany), the Bag Factory in Johannesburg (2019, South Africa), Cité Internationale des arts in Paris (2014, France), Cinémathèque Tanger (2013, Morocco), Vidéochroniques Aflam in Marseille (2010, France), Fondation Michelangelo Pistoletto in Bari (2008, Italy). She was awarded the prize Varenne FIGRA France in 2013 with a special motion for her performances Take your place done during the web documentary A Summer in Algiers (2012, Algeria). Her artworks have been included in public and private collections at Sharjah Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE), CAAM Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno (Las Palmas, Spain), MARKK Museum (Hamburg, Germany), Etnografiska Museet (Stockholm, Sweden), Fondation Donwahi (Abidjan, Ivory Coast), FRAC Occitanie Fond Régional D'Art Contemporain, Les Abattoirs (Toulouse, France), African Artists for Development (Paris, France).

Baronian (Brussels - Belgium) :

Renowned as the oldest gallery in Brussels, the gallery Baronian has entered its fiftieth year of activity in 2022, a date that will be celebrated next year in a very special way. Albert will extend his eclectic and sensitive exhibition programme, with the same passion that has carried him since his beginnings, and supported by the contribution of Roland de Lathuy, who will be in charge of Private Sales at the gallery.

Albert Baronian opened his first gallery in 1973 and immediately enjoyed international success thanks to the presentation of *Arte Povera* artists Alighiero e Boetti, Mario Merz, Giulio Paolini, Gilberto Zorio. Later, as the president of the Galleries' Association, the Brussels Art fair took a more international turn whilst

under his direction. He sees the responsibility of the gallery as three folds: to work for the long term development of each artists' career, acting as a liaison to international galleries and museums as well as placing works in collections; to create an historical archive for each artist; and to act as an accessible public space in which the exhibitions become an exemplary gesture of the power of subjectivity to the audience at large. The program is dedicated to contemporary art as well as important artistic movements and artists that have defined the last forty years.

- **Mekhitar Garabedian**

Mekhitar Garabedian (b.1977, Aleppo) lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

Deploying a variety of media such as drawing, video, photography and installations, many of Mekhitar Garabedian's works draw from his experience as an immigrant and play on the humour and poetic qualities he finds between languages, cultures and histories. Just as his personal diasporic history is layered, his work echoes with a multiplicity of references to literature, music, philosophy and visual arts.

His work has appeared in group exhibitions such as *Shaping Light* - curated by Albert Baronian, Fondation CAB Brussels (2018), *Art and Alphabet*, Hamburger Kunsthalle (2017), *The Absent Museum*, Wiels (2017), *Kum Kapi*, Gulbenkian Museum (2016), *Armenity/ Hayoutioun*, National Pavilion of The Republic of Armenia, Venice Biennale (2015), *Between the Pessimism of the Intellect and the Optimism of the Will*, Thessaloniki Biennale (2015) and *Here and Elsewhere*, New Museum (2014).

- **Toufan Hosseiny :**

Toufan Hosseiny's work is defined by repetitions of patterns and movements. Working mainly with textile as a medium in her work, she transforms what represents fear and anxiety into something playful and poetic. "The process is slow. I repeat the same movement again and again. A way for me to reconcile with the subject, reshaping the ugly into something beautiful."

Uncontrolled Bodies illustrates the lost of connection between our bodies and minds. She illustrates the *Clouds*, thoughts, appearing and disappearing during her meditative process. "We create our own reality. Just look at the clouds passing by." Each piece of the same fabric takes a different color. A color that will be interpreted differently by each of us.

- **Achraf Touloub**

Achraf Touloub (born in 1986 in Casablanca, Morocco, lives and works in Paris, France) investigates the links between tradition and modernity in our globalized world.

Working in a variety of mediums, he opposes the ancient oriental motifs and ideas he depicts to the contemporary aesthetic of his compositions. Take, for instance, his copper ink drawings.

Oscillating between abstraction and figuration, they consist of repeated Sequences (2015) painstakingly traced on paper. While from afar, the undulating

lines coalesce and appear as monochromatic planes of color, up close, they become legible as a multitude of calligraphic signs.

Achraf Touloub graduated from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris in 2013. Recent exhibitions include Baltic Triennial 13 - Give Up The Ghost Viva Arte, Viva – the 57th Venice Biennale, and a group exhibition at the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah (AE). In 2017, Achraf Touloub was included in Artsy's list of "20 Artists to Watch at the Armory Show" and of "14 Artists You'll Be Talking about Long after the Venice Biennale".

Lalalande Gallery (Paris - France)

The gallery was founded in 2019. After three years in the 14th arrondissement, it moved to the feet of the Pompidou Center, in the heart of the rue Quincampoix in Paris. The gallery puts forward artists from the MENA region, with poetic and political works. Their common points are wandering, exile, and quest. Questions and questioning of identities, genres, norms, departures. For common points, there are in sum narrative figurations and a societal art. Musicalities in waves which swing between the deformed or symmetrical forms.

The gallery is thus part of the new wave, which aspires to deconstruct and put forward alternative reflections, from between the two shores and through. The primary aspiration remains that of reaching out to people, and making art accessible - making it part of a dialogue. The gallery's artists question and dissect "dominant norms-"through their work, redefining malleable and evolving identities, free from prejudice.

- Aïcha Snoussi

Born in 1989 in Tunis, Aïcha Snoussi lives and works in Paris.

Aïcha Snoussi's work questions notions of identity and the validity of norms and classifications through drawings and installations that mix fictions and archives. By blurring the tracks of reality to show the vestiges or traces of a history that she has reinvented, the artist develops a personal mythology that refers to episodes of our contemporary history while convening a cluster of intimate references. Her work questions the relationship between drawing and the object to history, memories, ruins, and what remains, in organic and poetic arrangements in dialogue with the places invested in situ.

She is the winner of the Sam 2020 Prize for Contemporary Art and the first prize of the Rambourg Foundation of the same year, for her project “underwater” archaeological fiction around an ancient civilization rediscovered on the African coast.

- **Slimen El kamel**

Born 1983 in Mazouna in the region of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia, Slimen El Kamel lives and works in Tunis.

A craftsman of magical realism, not unlike a magician, Slimen El Kamel intertwines materials and techniques to shape a prodigious, magical world. His art begins with writing and leaps from paper to canvas, recalling the many tales and poems of his childhood. Evocative myths are mixed with memories of sloughed land, plains, and mountains - slices of a life sometimes peaceful, sometimes hard and laborious. Slimen El Kamel paints portraits of lovers who move in an unwavering nature. He constructs intense social introspections which raise eternal questions, inseparable from his creations.

In 2022, his work was the subject of a major retrospective at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris.

- **Elham Etemadi**

Elham Etemadi is an Iranian artist born in Shiraz in 1983. She pursues art studies in Teheran and then a Master specialized in plastic arts at the Strasbourg University which she completes in 2011. This period of studies allowed her to develop other techniques such as photography or video, which will then enrich her paintwork. This young artist, inspired as well by a long Iranian artistic tradition as by an ever-changing contemporary art, unveils in her works a universe of onirical games.

She has Doctorat, Arts Plastiques, Université de Strasbourg. France.

- **Nada Elkalaawy**

Nada Elkalaawy (b.1995) is an Egyptian artist living and working in London. She holds an MFA in Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art (2018) and BA in Fine Art from Kingston University (2016). She is predominantly a painter, but also works with drawing, animation and tapestry. Elkalaawy recently had solo shows at Taymour Grahne Projects (London), Galerie DuflonRacz (Bern) and Gypsum Gallery (Cairo) with forthcoming at L'appartement 22 (Rabat).

She participated in group shows in numerous venues including: Marlborough Gallery (London); Svetova1 (Prague); Kunstraum Dreiviertel (Bern); KINO DER KUNST (Munich); Sharjah Art Gallery (Cairo); Shubbak Festival (London); Southwark Park Galleries (London); Kunsthalle am Hamburger Platz (Berlin); Nahim Isaias Museum (Guayaquil) and Refugees Museum (Thessaloniki) amongst others. Her work has been shortlisted for the Sainsbury Scholarship for the British School at Rome, the Waverton Art Prize, the ACS Studio Prize, Contemporary British Painting Prize, the Dentons Art Prize, and the Sarabande Emerging Art fund.

It has also been published in Vogue Arabia, the Evening Standard, Sky News Arabia and Jdeed magazine. Last year, Elkalaawy completed the Pro Helvetia Studio Residency, PROGR (Bern) and has forthcoming residencies at Montresso Art Foundation (Marrakech) and L'appartement 22 (Rabat). Her work is included in the X Museum collection (Beijing), Soho House collection (London) and private collections worldwide.

Bessières (Chatou - France)

Galerie Bessières Art Contemporain has been presenting its exhibition and events program for several years now, featuring artists from many different countries. Ideally located just outside Paris, the 450 square meters of our exhibition rooms overlook the Seine River, on the Impressionists' Island in Chatou.

Committed to fostering creative collaborations in a place deeply rooted in the history of artistic innovation, the gallery's artists often represent new discoveries in France, because whether young artists in the making, re-emerging art personalities, or locally established artists, they rarely benefit from gallery representation in Paris.

- Hala Schoukair :

Lebanese artist born in 1957, obtained her Master's degree in Film Studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. She has been painting since her graduation in 1981.

Hala Schoukair offers a vibrant framework of organic shapes, as long explored in traditional Middle Eastern art. She expands, revisits, and deepens this theme through the infinite repetition of a single motif, which has an unsettling effect on us about the painterly or organic nature of the picture plane.

- Serge Najjar

Serge Najjar is a Lebanese photographer born in Beyrouth in 1973.

He proceeds like a goldsmith of cities as he shows their manifold geometric potential. He casts his photographer's eye on our interaction with materials and their correlation with the history of modern art and geometric abstraction. His approach may be instinctive, but his views allow us to reconsider our contemporary surroundings on a human scale. People's presence makes utopian, at times overwhelming architectural structures appear more human. Najjar's work thus examines the interrelationship between painting and photography.

Dar D'art (Tangier - Morocco) :

Opened in April of 2008 in Tanger, Dar D'art gallery is dedicated to contemporary art from the MENA region.

Exhibiting photography, painting or drawing, the gallery is actively participating in artistic and cultural promotion in the inner city of Detroit.

- **Mahi Binebine :**

Painter, sculptor and writer, born in Marrakech, he left for Paris in 1980 to continue his studies in mathematics, which he taught for eight years. Then, he dedicated himself to writing and painting. He has written several novels, which have been translated into a dozen languages. He moved to New York between 1994 and 1999. In 2002, he returned to Marrakech where he currently lives and works.

His pictorial work, focused on the human figure, evokes the violence and tensions of the Eastern and Western world and the tragic situation of human beings. A major painter of his generation, Mahi Binebine constantly explores the question of humanity and extreme conditions. His characters, reduced to silhouettes, bodies that entwine and clash, enclosed but unsubmissive, inhabit a threatening and disturbing world. Binebine's work is rich in plastic beauty, tension and confrontation, and evokes solitude and despair, but also harmony and joy.

His paintings are part of the permanent collection of the Guggenheim Museum in New York, as well as numerous public and private collections.

- **Mohamed Melehi :**

Mohamed Melehi is a painter, designer, photographer, muralist and cultural activist. Born in Asilah, he graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Tetouan, Morocco, in 1955 and continued his studies abroad.

He is known as one of the leading modernists in Morocco. Since the 1960s, he has developed a corpus of work around the recurring motif of waves. The paintings are consistently hard optical abstractions - the lines are sharp, the color is clearly delineated, and the brushstrokes and movements of the brush are not visible.

In 1969, Melehi held the first open-air group exhibition in the Jamaa el-Fna square in the medina of Marrakech, Morocco. This exhibition was highly acclaimed by the public and art critics and radicalized the country's contemporary art scene.

His works are included in the collections of international museums such as the Centre Georges Pompidou, Beaubourg, Paris, the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, MoMA, New York, and the Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha.

- **Farid Belkahia :**

Farid Belkahia was born in Marrakech. After spending five years at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1954 to 1959, he left for Prague for a period of three

years. It was there that he acquired his maturity. Indeed, the obsession with the circle and the arrow already appears as a kind of personal alphabet which, throughout his work, will function as a necessary for the expression of a particular conception of being...

Farid Belkahlia's work took a completely different direction when he returned to Morocco in 1952 and was asked to direct the School of Fine Arts in Casablanca. His great interest in memory and the path of man through tradition, which never ceased to grow, soon led him to create workshops for the teaching of the history of Moroccan crafts, from carpet work and silver jewelry to ceramics and pottery.

- **Mohamed Ataallah**

Mohamed Ataallah, also known as Romain Atala, is a French-Moroccan painter whose work bears the imprint of a cultural in-between. He was one of the first students of the Tetouan School of Fine Arts, although his style is more related to the Casablanca School. Ataallah's pictorial vocabulary is totally oriented towards form and geometry.

His work bears witness to a creative universe strongly influenced by Western modernism and in particular by the constructivist and conceptual currents. His work reflects the specific language of the artist, who invents geometric modules at will, the assembly of which produces a vibrant harmony. Mohamed Ataallah imagines, through all his works, a new abstraction which is probably based on his identity and cultural references, whose graphics and layout he reappropriates.

- **Mohamed Chebaa**

Mohamed Chebaa has devoted his life to plastic art since his early days as a student at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Tétouan. He continued his career by studying art in Rome at the Academy of Fine Arts after obtaining a merit scholarship. At the end of the 1950s, he returned to Morocco with an artistic project. He joined the Union of Moroccan Writers in 1968. Between 1994 and 1998, he was director of the National Institute of Fine Arts in Tetouan.

Fann A Porter (Dubai - United Arab Emirates)

Founded in 2006, Fann A Porter is a contemporary art gallery at The Workshop Dubai that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists.

The gallery aims to nurture the burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through quality exhibitions, non-profit events, auctions, and an active community program.

The gallery's exhibition program includes eight curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media.

Fann A Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, museums, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its

commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

- **Omran Younis :**

Omran Younis was born in 1971 at Al-Hasakah, Syria. He has been active in the Arab art scene since the late 1990s. After graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1998, he went on to obtain a Masters degree in Fine Arts in 2000. Having been featured in exhibitions throughout the Middle East and in the US, he is the recipient of several awards, notably the first prize recipient of the 3rd Annual Youth Competition in Damascus

Today his work is housed in collections across the Arab world. Omran Younes' large canvases are distinguished by detailed investigations into human subjects. His continual explorations of various styles of expressionist painting have culminated in a noticeable pursuit of elevating his art to its highest form. He has demonstrated this versatility throughout his career and frequently works within a specific theme, with each series dedicated to particular experiments and breakthroughs in art.

Belonging to a group of artists that emerged amidst the legacy of Syrian modernism, Omran Younes has sought to further the accomplishments of his predecessors while fashioning his own path through the visual language of contemporary art. The result has been a brand of painting that mixes bold social commentary with an acute sense of observation and a confident command of medium and technique.

- **Houssam Ballan :**

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

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

Ballan's paintings are reminiscent of icons - the figures are usually situated in the centre of the canvas, adding light to his work without painting any shadows on their faces. The artist minimalises the size of the figures bodies, ignoring original

dimensions, also characteristic of icons. Ballan explains that ‘when painting an icon, Christian painters didn’t care more about the sacred story or idea than other aspects of the work. I like this spontaneity in painting.’

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

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

Françoise Livinec (Paris, Huelgoat - France)

The Françoise Livinec galleries open a dialogue between French, Chinese, Korean, Iranian and Japanese artists. The exhibited works bear within them, beyond the singularity of their aesthetics and their anchoring in history of civilizations, a universal questioning. The programming is deployed between the Parisian gallerie and a 2000 m² Art space called "l'école des filles" in Brittany.

- Georges Hanna Sabbagh

(1887, Alexandria, Egypt -1951)

Former student of Maurice Denis and Paul Sérusier at the Académie Ranson, he discovered Perros-Guirec in 1916 after his marriage with Agnès Humbert, he will frequent this region until 1936. This Egyptian painter discovered avant-garde painting with his friends Yves Alix, Conrad Kickert, Henri de Waroquier, Jules-Emile Zingg. He learnt from the experience of Nabis, Fauves and Cubists in his La Clarté studio in Ploumanac'h. His two main themes are family and Brittany and then Egypte where he moved to from 1936. Sabbagh painted portraits in which the psychology supplants the physical reality, his cubists like portraits with dark tints and his sculptural bathers with opulent plumpness are characteristics of his art.

Thanks to Brittany he discovered his path : "it is where the real rest is" he said. His painting is modelled on the granitic earth : grave, voluntary, robust, troubled. He created thick paintings, with big touches in diagonal, personal vision of country he made his own.

Influenced by the intimism of Maurine Denis and sweeping nudes of Félix Vallotton, Sabbagh built his work with well-established knowledge giving a monumental aspect to the subject. Georges Hanna Sabbagh was influenced by

cubism before evolving during the interwar years to an expressionist realism with a contrasting palette. His Eastern origins show through the decorative effect of his landscapes compositions, his nudes and his still life.

This "Breton Cubism", coming from the fertile ground of his summers in Ploumanac'h in the years 1908-1920, fed of the decorative spirit of Nabis at which the Cubist novelty was added then followed by the Expressionism developing in the thirties with his evocation power and his intensified realism.

Going from the particular to the general to express the essential, looking at nature and painting "with souls" landscapes, trying to find the spirit behind the subject, these are the preoccupations of the artists of this interwar generation, a little forgotten and rediscovered for some time.

Gaya Art (Paris - France)

Gaya-Art is an initiative dedicated to the revelation and promotion of artists from the Arab and Persian world such as their diaspora.

Built on a passion and dedication for the Algerian art scene, Gaya Art is part of a desire to make the rest of the world discover the richness and talent of artists from this region.

- Baya (1931 - 1998) :

Born in Algeria in a Kabyle region crushed by poverty, orphaned at the age of five, Baya lived at the age of twelve with Marguerite Caminat, a French painter living in Algiers. She made gouaches and also sculpted clay. It was the sculptor Jean Peyrissac, to whom Marguerite had given some of the young artist's works, who showed her attempts to Aimé Maeght, who was visiting Algiers.

He organised an exhibition in his gallery in 1947, which attracted the attention of the Surrealists. In 1948, Baya produced pottery and ceramics at the Madoura studio in Vallauris, where she met Picasso. She then switched to watercolours on paper. Girls in flowers, multicoloured birds, confusion of dresses and feathers: these are the recurring motifs of her work. The softness of the forms and their intermingling, the exuberance of the colours, the effects of repetition from one painting to the next give her work the prevalence and the dreamlike quality of the marvellous. Since then, Baya's signature has been associated in orientalist discourse with the Arab "mystery", and in art history with the categories of "naive", "primitivism" and "art brut".

- Mehdi Djelil (1985-) :

Mehdi Djelil, known as Bardi, is an Algerian painter born in 1985 in Makouda, Algeria. He graduated from the Ecole supérieure des Beaux-arts d'Alger. He is part of a new generation of Algerian artists who are free to express themselves

and who do not hesitate to challenge visual codes. His works are progressively revealed through his colourful characters coming straight from a fantastic world, and are revealing of a tormented and emotional life. The reflection of reality in his works is so subtle that one finds oneself immersed in this illusory and sarcastic universe. About his works, the artist says: "Man troubles me, frightens me, fascinates me, and I cannot model or reproduce him, I sublimate him into fantastic beings. I free him from his condition so that he becomes a dream, a poem.

- **Bahman Dadkhah (1941-) :**

Bahman Dadkhah is a Iranian, french naturalized citizen painter, sculptor, decorator and illustrator.

Bahman Dadkhah's inspiration is torment.

Pain and dread that corrode the hindered forces, to the point of annihilation, and torment like a storm whose impulse and sovereign drive encompass and carry away everything. The movement is exacerbated, infinite.

The gaze plunging into the abyss of an ecstasy. The vision that destroys the next forms, too limited by the possibilities of the real, represented body, to make others spring up, expressive, less material than spiritual.

Gery Art Gallery (Namur - Belgium)

- **Bilal Bahir:**

Graduated in 2008 at 'The Institute of Fine Arts', Baghdad, sculpture . His artistic research is interested in the diversity of cultures in a vast chronological

perspective. He develops a biographical and political dimension to end up with cycles of drawings and sketches with a dreamlike and poetic character.

It raises the question of the state of war and human existence through the many changes in Iraqi society, be it cultural, political or economic changes.

The pictorial elements express the artist's deep commitment to the great questions of our time: the place of the individual in the midst of the conflicts and changes that are shaking the world and touching the human being at the heart of his life.

The red line that runs through all his artistic work originates in the cradle of humanity: Mesopotamia. This is where the artist 's interrogation begins, an interrogation that he shows through a panorama of striking historical and cultural facts.

Through his drawings, Bahir, like a screenwriter, unfolds his reflections with the help of images of lived or dreamed events. On pages of ancient books, he unfolds his world, his dreams and the harsh reality.

In Situ - Fabienne Leclerc (Romainville - France)

Founded by Fabienne Leclerc in 2001, In Situ began in the 13th district of Paris alongside a group of galleries in rue Louise Weiss. After seven years on the 6th, the gallery moved to the Marais in November 2013, then to the Stalingrad district in January 2017.

Since October 2019, In Situ - fabienne leclerc has moved into a new space in Romainville, accompanied by Air de Paris, Jocelyn Wolff Gallery, Sator Gallery, the association Jeune Création, the FRAC Ile-de-France as well as the Fimincio Foundation.

- Joanna Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige

Filmmakers and artists Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige (b. 1969, Beirut) weave thematic, conceptual and formal links between photography, video installations, fiction and documentary films. Self-taught, they became filmmakers and visual artists by necessity in the aftermath of the Lebanese civil wars. Their very personal research leads them to explore the sphere of the visible and the absent, nourishing a fascinating back-and-forth between life and fiction. For more than 15 years, their films and works, produced from personal or political documents, have been elaborating narratives on stories kept secret from the dominant history.

Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige build their work on the production of knowledge, the rewriting of history, the construction of imaginary worlds, but also on the modalities of contemporary narration, based on the experience of their own country while going beyond its borders. The process of investigation to

which they resort, their questioning of the territory, both geographical and individual, gives their work a particular aesthetic.

Their works take into account the complexity of situations in order to shift the gaze and question both the division of today's world and the contemporary issues of the image.

- **RAMIN HAERIZADEH, ROKNI HAERIZADEH, HESAM RAHMANIAN**

Rokni Haerizadeh (b. 1978, Tehran), Ramin Haerizadeh (b. 1975, Tehran), and Hesam Rahmanian (b. 1980, Knoxville) have lived and worked together since 2009. Their work is the result of the energy generated by constantly evolving relationships: with each other, in their work and in their environment. New collaborators, materials and events come and go in this space. Their paintings, videos, objects and books offer just enough to pique curiosity about the conditions of their creation.

Nathalie Obadia (Paris, Brussels - France, Belgium)

Since the opening of the first gallery in Paris in 1993, followed by the one in Brussels in 2008 and a second space in Paris in 2013, Nathalie Obadia has exhibited emerging and established artists.

A second space in Paris in 2013, Nathalie Obadia has been exhibiting emerging and established artists of the international contemporary art scene. In the fall of 2021, Galerie Nathalie Obadia opened a new space in the Matignon-Saint-Honoré district of Paris.

For many years, the gallery has also participated in the rediscovery of deceased artists such as Martin Barré, Josep Grau-Garriga, or Seydou Keita.

The gallery's mission is also to promote artists into institutions in France and abroad. A few examples to highlight the importance of the artists' projects such as:

- Shirley Jaffe, solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou (France), 2022 ;
- Laure Prouvost, Deep See Blue Surrounding You, Vois Ce Bleu Profond Te Fondre, French Pavilion, 58th Biennale di Venezia, Venice (Italy) 2019;
- Martin Barré, solo exhibition MAMCO (Switzerland), 2019 and Centre Pompidou (France), 2020 ;
- Sarkis, Respiro, 56th Venice Biennale, Turkish Pavilion, Venice (Italy), 2015 ;
- Valérie Belin, travelling solo exhibition in Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu (China), 2017.

- **Hoda Kashiha :**

Hoda Kashiha studied painting at Tehran University in 2009 and at Boston University in the United States in 2014.

Her scholarships have earned her numerous awards including the MacDowell Colony Fellowship in Peterborough (USA) and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant from Vermont Studio Center (USA) in 2015, and the Esther B. and Albert S. Kahn Career Entry Award from Boston University College of Fine Arts (USA) in 2014. During the course of these grants, her figurative art practice has shifted to a more conceptual and abstract approach by developing a disturbed narrative. Kashiha's work has been widely exhibited in Iran, the United States and Europe in major group shows such as *City Prince / sses*. Dhaka, Lagos, Manila, Mexico City and Tehran at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (France, 2019) and *Condition humaine* at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Medical Center (USA, 2016). Her work is part of the collections of the Commonwealth Hotel in Boston (USA) and the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center in Boston (USA).

- **Shahpour Pouyan :**

He graduated from the Art University of Tehran (Iran, 2004-2007) where he studied painting, the Iranian Institute of Philosophy in Tehran (Iran, 2005) where he studied Neoplatonism, the Pratt Institute in New York (United States, 2012) in *Integrated Practices and New Forms*. He also holds a degree in mathematics and physics from the Elmieh School in Tehran (Iran). From 2007 to 2009, he taught art history and the history of Persian architecture at the University of Science and Culture in Tehran.

Shahpour Pouyan's works feature in many prestigious public collections: the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, USA), the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, United Kingdom), the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (Tehran, Iran), the British Museum (London, UK), the MFA, Houston (Houston, United States), the Cornell University Museum (New York, USA) and the Abby Weed Grey Collection of Modern Asian and Middle Eastern Art (New York, USA).

- **Sarkis :**

Sarkis studied French, painting and interior design before moving to Paris in 1964. In 1967, he won the Biennale of Paris Painting Prize. The same year, Sarkis exhibited *Connaissez- vous Joseph Beuys ?* at the Salon de Mai in reference to the German artist he considers to be the most important of our time. In 1969, he was invited by art critic Harald Szeemann to take part in the now famous exhibition *When attitudes become form* at the Kunsthalle of Bern. Since he also deeply cares about transfer of knowledge, he ran the art department of the School of Decorative Arts of Strasbourg from 1980 to 1990, and worked as a seminar director at the Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastiques (IHEAP) created by Pontus Hulten from 1988 to 1995.

Sarkis's works are featured in many internationally-renowned public collections, such as the Landes Museum (Germany), the Boijmans van Beuningen Museum (Netherlands), the MAMCO (Switzerland), the Museu Serralves (Portugal), the Istanbul Modern (Turkey), the ZKM (Germany); the Pompidou Center, the City of Paris Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of the Castle of the Dukes of Württemberg, the Museum of Modern Art of Saint-Étienne, the Museums of the City of Strasbourg, the CAPC of Bordeaux, the Museum of Contemporary Art of

Lyon, the MAC/VAL, the Fine Arts Museum of Nantes, the LAM, the Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire, the IAC of Villeurbanne/Rhône-Alpes, the FRAC of Loire, Poitou- Charentes, Brittany, Alsace, Auvergne, Lorraine, Aquitaine, Franche-Comté, Languedoc-Roussillon, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Ile-de-France, the CNAP as well as the Departmental Collection of Seine-Saint-Denis (France).

- **Youssef Nabil :**

Youssef Nabil draws inspiration from the concept of memory and the cinematic universe he grew up admiring in his native country, Egypt. His works' ethereal aesthetics take from the hand coloring photography technique of the technicolor films. The artist hand paints each of his black and white photographs, as editions become variations, each a unique version of the artist's labor.

Youssef Nabil's work is part of various international collections, among which: in the USA, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Pérez Art Museum in Miami (PAMM), the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, and the Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art (SCAD) in Savannah ; in France, the Fondation Louis Vuitton, the Collection François Pinault, and the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris ; in Switzerland, the Collection UBS Art in Zürich ; in the UK, the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London ; in Angola, the Sindika Dokolo Foundation in Luanda ; in Greece, the Photography Museum in Thessaloniki ; in Qatar, the Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha ; in the United Arab Emirates, the Guggenheim Museum in Abu Dhabi ; in Mexico, the Centro de la Imagen in Mexico City.

Saleh Barakat (Beirut - Lebanon)

After a quarter century of pioneering work in modern and contemporary Arab art, with Agial Art Gallery playing a central role in putting Beirut back on the map of Arab art, it was time to meet the new challenges, and reach out beyond regional arenas.

Three years of planning and creative architectural remodeling design work, and the new Saleh Barakat Gallery was born, to commemorate the XXV anniversary of Agial on 25 May 2016, in one of Beirut's emblematic historical cultural locations: The former Cinema Clemenceau – later Masrah Al-Madina, that is now

transformed into a truly modern art gallery by today's best professional standards.

- **Walid Sadek :**

Walid Sadek is an artist and writer. His early work from mid to late 1990s investigates the familial legacies of the Lebanese civil war. He later begins to posit, mostly in theoretical texts, ways of understanding the complexity of lingering civil strife in times of relative social and economic stability.

His later written work, between 2006 and 2016, proposes a theory for post war-society disinclined to resume normative living. During those years, his artworks seek a poetics for a sociality governed by the logic of protracted war and search for eruptive temporalities to challenge that same protractedness.

Around 2016, sensing a fundamental socio- political and intellectual change in the country, Sadek decided to conclude his post-war work which up until then grappled in various ways with the conditions of living in a protracted now.

In a text published in 2019 titled "A surfeit of Victims: A Time After Time", he begins to theorize the conditions of living in a time after the time of post war, during which the memories of war are reduced to empty ciphers that can no longer constate a shared history.

- **Azza Abo Rebieh**

Azza Abo Rebieh (Syria, b.1980) obtained her degree in printmaking from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Damascus University in 2002. Primarily interested in etching and engraving, Abo Rebieh extends her work to an array of other media and materials, including watercolors, threads, and tulle on canvas, Ink painting, and printing on leather.

She has won three awards and participated in more than fifteen group exhibitions. In 2018 and 2019, Abo Rebieh held her first solo exhibitions at 392 Rmeil, managed and curated by Nelsy Massoud. Her works "The Boot," "Accused of Homosexuality," and "Still Singing" became part of the British Museum collection in 2014. Following an online art residency organized by Coculture and Ettijahat & Martin Roth Initiative, Germany (2021), an art residency for one month under Artist Protection Fund fellow in the Bogliasco Foundation, Italy (2020), and the last residency of four months under Artist Protection Fund fellow in the American Academy in Rome, Italy (2019-2020), Abo Rebieh returns to Beirut with her show Yearning (2022) at the Saleh Barakat Gallery.

Amenor Contemporary x Simine Paris - Stavanger / Paris

Simine Paris is a virtual platform that highlights Iranian artists through exhibitions, interviews, podcasts, and reports.

Simine Paris exists thanks to the collaboration of a dynamic and dedicated team and the artistic expertise of Leila Varasteh (founding partner of Simine Paris) whose knowledge of Iranian art and artists is the result of her rich career as an advisor and curator to numerous galleries, museums and private collectors as well as her work representing these artists in Iran and Europe.

Amenor Contemporary Art is a contemporary art gallery in Stavanger, Norway, which regularly exhibits contemporary artists from all over the world and in particular Iranian artists.

- **Reza Derakshani :**

Painter and musician Reza Derakshani was born in 1952 in north-eastern Iran. He grew up in a big black tent on top of a mountain, among horses and fields of blue and yellow wild flowers. The light created by the moonlight shining through tiny holes in the tent fascinated him.

He studied mathematics in high school and then visual arts in Tehran and the United States.

Derakshani's long and winding road of artistic and geographic migration eventually propelled him to New York, where he has lived and worked for sixteen years. Reza Derakshani is one of Iran's contemporary artists in Iran and recognized worldwide. His work has been exhibited in public exhibitions and museums in Iran and abroad, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Two retrospectives of his work were works have been shown at the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and the Museum Gunzenhauser in Germany.

"Faces"

La série de tableaux Faces représente des visages de femmes qui semblent ensanglantés et nous rappelle étrangement le mouvement révolutionnaire en cours aujourd'hui en Iran.

"Every Maroon Day and Every Golden day"

Un tableau de la série Fig Trees, où une fois de plus, à sa manière poétique, Reza Derakshani explore la complexité du monde, à travers des thèmes de lumière et des ténèbres, du jour et de la nuit de l'envers et l'endroit. La question de la permanence du temps et de la répétition des instants apparaît comme le fil conducteur de ce grand artiste.

- **Roya Akhavan :**

From Iran, educated in Europe and the United States, Roya Akhavan paints the tumult and chaos of exile, while striving to build harmony and continuity in a universe where nothing and no one stays in their place. His works thus also compose a discourse between what is far away in space and time, and what is here and now.

This universal vision of a world where one can only rely on oneself is also the odyssey of a woman, forced to observe her surroundings: chaos and harmony.

At first glance, Roya Akhavan's works invite the viewer to be immersed in the viewer's gaze, in the pure beauty of geometric forms which seem to float beyond the frames of the canvas.

However, the viewer discovers soon that the ostensibly fluid repetitions are in fact organised in a determined algorithmic manner.

- **Ghasem Hajizadeh :**

Ghasem Hajizadeh introduces Pop Art to Iranian painting, which he masterfully integrates into his work.

He became one of the important artistic figures of Iranian society before the 1979 Revolution and his paintings were to be included in the most prestigious collections.

In the post-revolutionary Iranian society of 1979, it became increasingly difficult for Ghasem Hajizadeh to work freely, his work representing images and characters from a time that the Islamic regime wanted to be over.

He immigrated to France in 1986 and from 1992 onwards the regime banned him from exhibiting in galleries in Iran.

In the painting entitled "Cabaret Jamshid", painted a few months before the Revolution, Hajizadeh paints once again, as in all his work, in his original and unique way, a scene animated by incredibly lively characters, a snapshot of a moment of life, in an Iran of another time, where meeting, celebrating life, being extravagant, laughing and living free was possible.

Tanit (Beirut, Munich - Lebanon, Germany)

Galerie Tanit is a contemporary art gallery established in Munich in 1972 by Naila Kettaneh-Kunigk and Stefan Kunigk to be later joined by Walther Mollier as of 1981.

The gallery, now present in both Munich, Germany and Beirut, Lebanon, has worked with emerging artists as well as established artists. From introducing local art to the international scene and vice versa, Galerie Tanit has presented itself as a daring art gallery with a unique approach towards artists and the arts.

- **Abed Al Kadiri**

Born in Beirut, Lebanese multidisciplinary artist, Publisher and Curator Abed Al Kadiri double majored in Arabic Literature and Fine Arts. His work focuses on

the deprivation of freedom in society by analyzing contemporary issues of violence, cultural heritage, migration and belonging.

Al Kadiri's solo exhibitions include Abu Ghraib, Beirut (2006); In the Corner at the Lebanese Artists Association, Beirut (2008); Identity Turbulences at FA Gallery, Kuwait (2011); Al Maqama 2014 at Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait (2014); Ashes to the Sea at Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut (2016); Arcadia at Al Bareh Art Gallery, Bahrain (2016), Al Maqama Al Mosuliya, Beirut Art Fair (2017); The Story of the Rubber Tree at Sursock Museum, Beirut (2017-2018); The Remains of the Last Red Rose, Galerie Tanit, Beirut (2020); Today, I Would Like to be a Tree, Galerie Tanit, Beirut (2020).

Al Kadiri has also participated in several group exhibitions regionally and internationally including Istanbul, Paris, Basel, Cambridge, Budapest, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, and Beirut.

His work can be found in private and public collections in the Middle East. In 2017 he was awarded the Sursock Museum's Jury Award at the 32nd Salon d'Automne.

In 2006 Al Kadiri moved to Kuwait and worked as an art critic, before establishing the FA Gallery in 2010. He was appointed as the Director of Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) Kuwait from 2012-2015, which has become a leading non-profit art institution in the Middle East. There he curated numerous exhibitions and developed an extensive education program. He initiated the art exchange programs making way for collaborations with significant art spaces in Paris, Spain, Hungary, UK, South Korea, Lebanon, Cairo and the Gulf Region. In 2015, Al Kadiri left his position at CAP and is currently residing between Paris and Beirut.

In 2017 He cofounded Dongola Limited Editions, a leading publishing house that position artist's books as a contemporary practice from the Arab world.

- **Adel Abidin**

Adel Abidin was born in Baghdad (1973) and currently resides between Helsinki and Amman.

He received a B.A. in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad (2000) and an M.F.A from the Academy of Fine Arts in Time and Space Art in Helsinki (2005).

"My art uses various media such as videos, video installations, multimedia sculptures and sound based installations and photography to explore the issues of the contemporary world that we are living in. My main point of departure is always linked to my intention to explore the complex relationship between visual art and politics & identity. Using a sharp palette of irony and humour I find myself gravitated towards different social situations dealing with elusive experiences and cultural alienation. I use my cross-cultural background (as an Iraqi artist living between Helsinki and Amman) to create a distinct visual language often laced with sarcasm and paradox, while maintaining an ultimately humanistic

approach. This sarcasm I use is nothing but a medium of provocation to serve the purpose of extending the mental borders of the artwork beyond the limits of the exhibition space. I am always interested in creating opportunities to prolong the discussions beyond my artwork by enabling the audience to convey mental elements from the work into their daily life.

Moreover, I always find the words ‘politics’ and ‘identity’ more than a terminology or a path that I travel in, as they unfold to other concepts like discrimination, mass media manipulation etc.”

- **Chafa Ghaddar :**

Chafa Ghaddar (1986) was born in Lebanon and currently lives in Dubai. She graduated from ALBA, Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts, where she earned her Bachelor degree in Fine Arts in 2007 and her Master’s degree in Visual Arts in 2009.

In 2012, she attended an intensive course in fresco and traditional painting techniques in Florence, Italy. While developing a career in wall painting and surface finishing, she explores the use of fresco in contemporary practices as well as other processes, and works equally with murals, painting, drawing, photography and mixed media. She was awarded the Boghossian Art Prize for painting in 2014, and was artist in residence at the Villa Empain in Brussels in October and November 2015.

She executes murals in the professional and the contemporary art field and has participated in several collective exhibitions and projects such as “Exposure 2012” at Beirut Art Center, “On Fleeting Grounds “ and “Nostalgic Imagery” at Galerie Janine Rubeiz, “Journeys through our Heritage” at Beirut Exhibition Center, “Works on Paper” and “Feminités Plurielles” at Galerie Tanit, “Strata” in collaboration with a hypothetical office at Dubai Design Days, 2017, and “The space of the avocado tree” at Art Dubai Fair 2018 and Made in Tashkeel 2018.

Ghaddar had her debuting Solo show “The Visit” at Galerie Tanit, Beirut in November 2018 and is currently developing her first permanent and public art commission curated by Amanda Abi Khalil as part of Art Dubai A.I.R. Program 2017 and in collaboration with Tashkeel and Dubai Cultural authority.

She has been selected by Tashkeel Studio as part of their Critical Practice Program CPP 2018/2019 and exhibited with them “Recesses”, her first solo show in the UAE. In 2022, she has been selected to participate in the 16th Biennale de Lyon, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath.

- **Ghassan Zard**

Ghassan Zard is a Lebanese painter and sculptor born in 1954. He lives and works in Beirut. "The approach to painting and sculpture awakens in us the innocence of our childhood games." The work of Ghassan Zard is thus tinged with nostalgia, with a need to return to the wonder of childhood, to fun as a concept. The beings disappear in flakes, in coloured shreds. There is a separation between thought and feeling; An inexplicable twist of the mind leads to an almost automatic reconstitution that we do not perceive until later!

"This journey is also an act to ward off murderous madness and transcend the anguish of everyday life."

Initially, Zard's painting was influenced by lyrical abstraction. His large-scale canvases depict a coloured rhythmic universe reminiscent of music partitions. Compared to his pictorial work, his sculptures are more restrained but always tinted with irony.

- **Kevork Mourad**

Born in Qamishli, Syria. Works in New York. Kevork Mourad was born in Qamishli, a town in North Eastern Syria. Of Armenian heritage, he received his Master of Fine Arts from the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts in Armenia, and now lives and works in New York.

With his technique of spontaneous painting, where he shares the stage with musicians—a collaboration in which art and music develop in counterpoint to each other—he has worked with many world-renowned musicians, including Kinan Azmeh, Brooklyn Rider, Ken Ueno, Liubo Borissov, and Issam Rafea. Mourad is a member, as a visual artist, of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.

He has performed and exhibited, among others, at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Bronx Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Harvard University, the Morgenland Festival, the Nara Museum in Japan, Lincoln Center Atrium, the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Agha Khan Museum in Toronto, the MuCEM in Marseille, the Walt Disney Hall in LA, the Institut du Monde Arabe, the ElbPhilharmonie in Hamburg, and the Asia Society and Museum in New York.

- **Mojé Assefjah**

Mojé Assefjah was born in Teheran in 1970. She lives and works in Munich, Germany. Her family moved to Germany in 1986. She studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich from 1992-1998, and was a master student under Professor Jerry Zeniuk from 1997 on.

In 1999, she was awarded the Advancement Award for Fine Arts of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, as well as the annual scholarship of the DAAD for a residency in Rome. In 2000, grant of the GOLART- STIFTUNG: Mural painting in Wetterau-Museum, Friedberg, Germany. In 2013, she continued her work in New York, within the framework of the residency program at the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP), New York.

Since 1999 Assefjah's works have been shown regularly in solo and group exhibitions in Europe and the Near East.

Her works are included in numerous private and also public collections in Germany, Switzerland, China, Dubai, Lebanon and Spain, such as: Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich; Gabriele Münter- and Johannes- Eichner Foundation, Munich; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; Guangdong Art Museum, China; Colección olorVISUAL, Barcelona; Apt Dubai, KICO Sammlung, Allianz Versicherungen, Munich; Münchner Rück, Munich; BIZ, Bank für Internationale Zahlungsausgleich, Basel, Switzerland.

- **Nabil Nahas**

Born in Beirut in 1949, Nabil Nahas earned his M.F.A. at Yale University in 1973. He divides his time between New York and Beirut and has exhibited in museums and galleries all over the world. His most recent solo museum exhibition was in 2018 in Hong Kong with Ben Brown Fine Arts and prior to that “Perpetual Energy” at the Beirut Exhibition Center in Beirut, Lebanon (2010).

Nahas represented Lebanon in the 25th Bienal de São Paulo in Brazil (2002), and his work was included in “Glasstress 2011,” a Collateral Event of the 54th Venice Biennial, and in “Glasstress: New York” at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York (2012). Nabil Nahas’s work is in museum collections, including that of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi; Tate Modern, London; Flint Institute of Arts, Flint; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Colby Museum of art Waterville, Maine and the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Nahas had his first solo show at Sperone Westwater in 1997 and subsequent exhibitions in 1999, 2005, and 2013.

Drawing inspiration from the decorative patterns of Islamic art and the American abstract painting of the mid-20th century, painter and mixed-media artist Nabil Nahas makes innovative use of organic materials, including seashells and starfish, which he casts in acrylic paint and mounts on a support (typically canvas). His works have an all-over composition suggestive of biological growth and the patterning of nature, as in Full Spectrum (1999). In his more recent paintings, including Untitled (2007), Nahas has introduced imagery referencing the trees and other plant-life of his native Lebanon.

- **Serge Najjar**

Serge Najjar’s approach to photography is intuitive. It derives from his passion for modern and contemporary art. He easily references Kazimir Malevich’s “Architectons”, Josef Albers’ abstract compositions, Robert Mangold and Ellsworth Kelly, and also Lygia Clark, Aurélie Nemours, Frank Stella and Sol Lewitt.

The graphic approach of the Russian Avant- garde and, specifically, Alexander Rodchenko catches Najjar’s interest early on his career: deciphering the image and its construction will come to guide the structure of his future endeavours.

Serge Najjar’s pictures place the viewer within a world where reality and fantasy meet. They capture the passing of time, or a space where the transient disposition of man would inhabit ideal radical constructions. Motionless variations on a theme, the photographs engage in a dialogue, complete each other or not, but always create a singular space that is inhabited by the onlooker within the space they are presented in.

- **Simone Fattal**

Simone Fattal was born in Damascus, Syria, and raised in Lebanon, where she studied philosophy at the École des Lettres in Beirut. She then moved to Paris, where she continued her philosophical pursuits at the Sorbonne.

In 1969 she returned to Beirut and began working as a visual artist, exhibiting her paintings until the start of the Lebanese Civil War.

She left Lebanon in 1980 and settled in California, where she founded the Post-Apollo Press, a publishing house dedicated to innovative and experimental literary work. In 1988 she enrolled at the Art Institute of San Francisco, which prompted a return to her artistic practice and a newfound dedication to sculpture and ceramics.

Fattal currently lives in Paris. Her work is included in several public collections, such as the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, Marrakech; the Surssock Museum, Beirut ; the Sharja Art Foundation, Sharja and the National Museum of Qatar, Doha.

Recently, her work was shown at : Museum Fünf Kontinente (2022), the 59th Venice Biennale (2022), the 16th Biennale de Lyon (2022), Deichtorhallen (2022), MoMA PS1, New York (2019), Bergen Kunsthall (2019), Pinault Collection, Punta della Dogana, Venice (2019), Musée Yves Saint Laurent, Marrakech (2018), the Rochechouart Departmental Museum of Contemporary Art

- **Tamara Haddad**

Born in Beirut in 1982, Tamara Haddad graduated from Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) in 2005 with a Master Degree in Advertising.

She started painting in 2004 as a self-taught painter, while working in advertising. In 2011, she quits the advertising agency to devote herself to painting. Deeply influenced by architecture and photography, being the daughter of Georges Haddad, a pioneer of modern architecture in Lebanon, Tamara Haddad takes inspirations from her series of photos either taken during her trips to Tibet and Nepal, or during her many hikes in the Lebanese mountains and abroad. All these images allow her to give landscapes a new dimension in her paintings.

Today her work is focused on the physical transformations that the earth is enduring mainly caused by human actions. She focuses on the changes that affect the earth's landscapes and its geology, showing scars, but at the same time, she insists on revealing the beauty and the variety of colors and textures that the Earth owns.

Having a deep concern about the environment, using natural materials such as sand, bark, straw, pebble and branches along with oil painting, is part of her process.

- **Zena Assi**

Born in Lebanon, in 1974, Zena Assi lives and works in London. She graduated with honours from l'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA), worked in advertising and taught in different universities.

Her contemporary work draws inspiration from the relations and conflicts between the individual and his spatial environment, society and its surroundings. The artist uses various supports and mediums to document and explore the cultural and social changes and put on record our urban contemporary environment's imprint as well as the impact of our society's ideologies and

political tendencies. Her work takes shape in installation, drawing, etching, experimental animation, sculpture and mainly painting.

Themes that are central to her vision include present-day issues, like migration and the relation between memories and people on the move.

Many of her pieces are part of various public as well as private collections (Academie Libanaise des beaux Arts in Beirut, Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah and Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris). Throughout her artistic practice, her work has won prizes including the Sunny Dupree Family Award for a woman Artist at the 2020 Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, London, 2020 – the Rosemary & Co Award at the SWA show, London, 2018 and the Special Jury Prize of the XXIX of the Autumn Salon of the Sursock Museum, Beirut, 2009.

Zalfa Halabi Art Gallery (Beirut - Lebanon)

Zalfa Halabi Art Gallery opened its doors in March 2022. The gallery, founded by its namesake, is located in a bustling Achrafieh neighbourhood in Beirut and focuses on new and contemporary art.

Since its opening Zalfa Halabi Art Gallery has showcased several solo exhibitions as well as a collective show. The gallery aims primarily to promote emerging artists from the MENA region by allowing viewers to explore alternative media and discover new ways of perceiving art; through mediums such as photography, unique collage works, wall mounted ceramic installations, delicate paper art, NFTs and more.

- Yasmina Hilal

Yasmina Hilal is a Lebanese Fashion/Mixed Media Photographer and Experimental Filmmaker. Her work is heavily concentrated on collaging with different mediums and the use of non-conventional objects.

For Menart Fair Brussels she will present her series "I see me in you" . This phrase is often said by mothers and grandmothers in Lebanese households. It can be read as a praise and it can also be understood in its literal sense, a reflection of one female figure in another. This exhibition stems from the desire to pay homage

to the Lebanese women in our society that were/are empowering figures in our lives. For this exhibition Yasmina Hilal shot 7 women in their 20s, each wearing a clothing item that belongs to their mother, aunt and/or grandmother posing in their homes, the artist herself included in one of the shoots, dressed in her mother's wedding dress once and in her grandmother's in another, in the home of Hilal's grandmother. This carefully curated exhibition tells the story of trans-generational relationships through collage works that disrupt the ideas of womanhood and beauty, and bring forward alternative ways of seeing them.

Zawyeh Gallery (Palestine)

Zawyeh Gallery is an independent Visual Art Gallery founded by Ziad Anani in Ramallah, Palestine, in 2013. Since March 2020, the gallery has expanded by opening in a second location at Alserkal Avenue in Dubai, UAE.

Zawyeh's mission is to promote emerging and established Palestinian artists – from Palestine and the Diaspora – through various thematic exhibitions at home and abroad. In the past few years, the gallery organized several solo and collective exhibitions, showcasing artworks based on a variety of mediums, including painting, sculpture, installation, video, and photography.

Zawyeh aims to support young artists and showcase contemporary and modern Palestinian art internationally through participation in art fairs, exhibitions, and specific art projects. Zawyeh Gallery has participated in a number of art fairs, including Paris Contemporary Art Show P/CAS (2019), Contemporary Istanbul (2019), Galleries at MAS Abu Dhabi (2019), Art Dubai (2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016), Abu Dhabi Art (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018), and Beirut Art Fair (2018, 2017).

- Khaled Hourani :

Khaled Hourani (b. Hebron, Palestine, 1965) is a prominent Palestinian artist, curator and writer. He was the Artistic Director of the International Academy of Art Palestine from 2007 – 2010, and its General Director from 2010 to 2013. He also worked as General Director of the Fine Arts Department in the Palestinian Ministry of Culture (2004 – 2006). A painter and a conceptual artist, in 2013, he was awarded the Leonore Annenberg Prize, Creative Time for Art and Social Change in New York City. In 2014, he organized his first retrospective at the CCA in Glasgow and Gallery One in Ramallah. Most recently, another retrospective showcased at Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan in 2017.

Hourani was the initiator of the 2011 Picasso in Palestine project, and The Stone Distance to Jerusalem project. He has participated in several exhibitions including the Sharjah Biennial, 2011; an exhibition at the Times Museum in Guangzhou, China, 2012; the 2nd CAFA Biennale Museum in Beijing, 2013; DOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel and KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin;

Catastrophe and the Power of Art at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017; and more recently in Picasso and Spanish exile at Museum of Modern Art, Toulouse, France, 2019. Hourani is also known as a notable art critic and curator, having overseen many exhibitions in Palestine (inc. at the Walled Off Hotel, 2018) and internationally. He lives and works in Ramallah.

- **NABIL ANANI**

(b. 1943, Latroun, Palestine) Nabil Anani is a key founder of the contemporary Palestinian art movement. Anani studied Fine Art at Alexandria University, Egypt, in 1969. On his return to Palestine, he began a career as an artist and an art teacher-trainer at the UN college in Ramallah. Anani held his first exhibition in Jerusalem in 1972 and has since exhibited widely in solo and group shows in Europe, North America, the Middle East, North Africa and Japan. His works can be found in many museums and private collections.

As a multi-talented artist, Anani is a painter, ceramicist and sculptor. He pioneered the use of local media such as leather, henna, natural dyes, papier-mâché, wood, beads and copper and other materials. Over the past four decades, he has built an impressive catalogue of outstanding, innovative and unique art. Anani is also the co-author of a number of books on Palestinian arts and folklore. He was awarded the first Palestinian National Prize for Visual Art in 1997 by Yasser Arafat. He was the head of the League of Palestinian Artists and played a key role in the establishment of the first International Academy of Fine Art in Palestine. In 2006, Anani was awarded the prestigious King Abdallah II Arab World Prize for Fine Art. He lives and works in Ramallah, Palestine.

In his latest series of work “In Pursuit of Utopia”, Nabil Anani introduces new materials using natural desiccated plants, straw, and mixed media. His artworks capture an empty semi-arid landscape in which plants grow scarcely while olive trees thrive. The scenery of olive groves spreading over the horizon through the Palestinian landscape reflect the sturdy nature of this plant that remains rooted in the earth despite adversities.

- **YAZAN ABU SALAMEH**

Yazan Abu Salamah was born in 1993 in Jerusalem. He studied Fine Arts at Dar Al-Kalima College in Bethlehem in 2011 and participated in several workshops including scenography at Al Quds College in Beit Jala. He taught art at several community centers including the center at Aidya Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. He participated in two group exhibitions with his graduation project, the first was organized in Bethlehem in 2013, and the second in Amman organized by the Jordanian-Iraqi Center in 2014. He started working at the Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem in 2017 and continues to work there at present.

Abu Salamah’s artworks reflect the courage of a young artists in terms of the use and distribution of materials on the surface of his artworks. He uses a mixture of concrete, pebbles, wires mixed with Lego blocks and drawings. His concrete artworks can be seen as miniature maps that reflect remnants of childhood memories, present concrete blockades and watch tours as well as Palestinian neighborhoods from a bird’s eye view.

Yazan Abu Salameh participated in two group exhibitions at the Walled Off Hotel Gallery: the Second organized in 2018 and the Fourth organized in 2019. He won a third prize in the competition “Let’s make it glow” which allowed him to exhibit in Italy in a group exhibition held in cooperation with Turin Municipality in 2019. Most recently he participated in Ramallah Art Fair at Zawyeh Gallery in 2020. He lives and works in Bethlehem.

Presse

Sophie Carrée PR (BE)
press@sophiecarree.be
+32 479 37 19 13

Agence Marie Jacquier Communication (FR)
Marie@mariejacquier.com
+33 6 13 54 60 12