ARTISTS CONTRIBUTING TO SYRIA’S FUTURE
AN AUCTION TO SUPPORT SYRIAN EDUCATION ASPIRATIONS

21 FEBRUARY 2015
Special Thanks from Jusoor

We would like to thank Rafia Gallery and its artists, as well as the art enthusiasts participating in this evening’s auction. Through your generous contributions we will be able to support countless Syrian children and youth, who are in desperate need of education and opportunities for individual accomplishment. In doing so, we can make an important investment towards safeguarding Syria’s future. Funds raised from this auction will be used towards Jusoor’s educational programmes, including our refugee education programme and our university scholarship programme.

We would also like to thank Aramex, Arij Kassab Bachi, Nada Karami (Europia Gallery) and Dana Theodory for their collaboration.

Last but not least, we would also like to express our gratitude to Rafia Koudmani, not only for her invaluable support in curating this beautiful art collection, but also for her crucial contributions in supporting our work since Jusoor’s launch.
About Jusoor

Jusoor is a non-partisan NGO founded by members of the Syrian expatriate community in 2011. Through various programs and initiatives in the fields of education, career, and global community engagement, Jusoor aims to support Syria’s development and help Syrian youth realize their potential. With over 80,000 members Jusoor strives to engage and connect the global Syrian expatriate community in the process.

Our Programs:

**Refugee Education:** Since June 2013, Jusoor’s Refugee Education Program has been serving Syrian children in Lebanon by providing and advocating for holistic, well-rounded school education. Jusoor’s three schools in Lebanon are currently helping more than 2,000 students, and a fourth school will open by Spring 2015. Approximately 75% of Jusoor students thus far have been able to transition into Lebanese schools. The remaining 25% have not been able to do so due to capacity issues and other special reasons. For those students, who are able to transition to Lebanese schools, Jusoor continues to provide after-school support with uplifting, fun activities.

**Scholarships:** Jusoor’s Scholarship Program helps Syrian students, seeking to complete their studies abroad, to attain academic scholarships to top universities across the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Through partnerships with the esteemed universities such as the University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, and IIT, in addition to the International Institute of Education and Education USA, Jusoor has been able to give more than 200 students a chance to receive higher-level education outside of Syria.

**Academic Mentorship:** The Academic Mentorship program connects Syrian expatriates with highly ambitious Syrian students, who require help in their university application process and seek more information on academic choices.

**Career Development:** This program is made up of workshops aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of young Syrians looking to find jobs in today’s competitive market. With workshops ranging from resume writing, job interview practice, and development of career portfolios, program participants benefit from the expertise of human resources professionals, knowledgeable in the recruitment process of different industries.

**Entrepreneurship Program:** Entrepreneurship Program: Jusoor’s Entrepreneurship Program was set up to create a strong and collaborative community for Syrian entrepreneurs and provide a platform to learn from successful businesses and role models. The program aims to create new opportunities for young Syrian entrepreneurs and help guide them through their business development with mentorships, incubation programs and funding. There are three aspects to the program:

- **Entrepreneurship Sessions:** Jusoor hosts live recorded sessions with established entrepreneurs to answer questions on launching and growing startups.
- **Startup Competition:** Launched in December 2014 and lasting for 3 months, the competition received more than 100 applications that have competed through 3 phases to win financial rewards to fund their startups. The goal of the competition is to identify and support startups that have potential for future growth, impact on job creation and economic and social development for Syrians, and the ability to promote skills and expertise in new industries.
- **Incubation Programs:** Jusoor has currently collaborated with the Oasis500 Incubator in Jordan to provide a three week training programs for 10 of its competition participants, the program will fully prepare young startups to launch their businesses, think through financial and business planning and be ready for investor funding. Jusoor will be seeking similar partnerships throughout the year to provide similar opportunities to promising young entrepreneurs.
Rafia Gallery

Rafia Gallery opened in Damascus (2009) providing an educational and communicational platform, where artists, students, art lovers and collectors could exchange ideas and express them through various artistic mediums.

The gallery’s collection includes outstanding artworks representing some of the finest Syrian and Arab artists. These include reputable names such as Marwan Kassab Bashi, Elias Zayat, Adel El Siwi, Nja Mehdaoui in addition to many more. Although the gallery was shut down in 2011 (due to the war in Syria), it has retained its presence in the contemporary Middle Eastern art scene by participating in various exhibitions, auctions and art performances in Beirut, Dubai, New York, London and Paris.

Working with some of the region’s most talented artists Rafia Koudmani has curated artwork collections for monumental buildings such as Burj Khalifa in Dubai (covering over 30 floors); public spaces such as the Emaar Downtown Boulevard in Dubai; corporate offices such as Emaar’s head offices in Dubai in addition to several landmark hotels in the Middle East.

Aramex

Aramex is a provider of comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions. Established in 1982 as an express operator, the company rapidly transformed itself into a global brand recognized for its customized services and innovative multi-product offering. The range of services offered by the company includes international and domestic express delivery, freight forwarding, integrated logistics solutions, information and document management solutions, consumer retail services and e-commerce solutions.

In January 1997, Aramex became the first Arab-based international company to trade its shares on the NASDAQ stock exchange. After five years of successful trading, Aramex returned to private ownership in February 2002 and continued to expand and excel as a privately owned company, establishing global alliances and gaining stronger brand recognition. In June 2005 Aramex went public on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM). Today, the Aramex network encompasses more than 354 offices and employs over 13,900 people offering comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions to both retail and wholesale customers worldwide.
HOUMAM ALSAYED
(SYRIA, B. 1981)

WISH
2015
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
165 X 175 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 10,000 - US$ 14,000

Born in Mesyaf, Syria in 1981, Houmam AlSayed graduated from the Sculpture Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 2003. Houmam had his first solo exhibition at Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut in 2012 followed by another solo exhibition at Mark Hachem Gallery in Paris, 2013. He has participated in many art fairs including: Art Paris, Scope Basel, Art Miami, Art Palm Beach and Beirut Art Fair. Houmam’s exquisite works have recently come to the world stage at Sotheby’s and Christie’s. Houmam takes the human figure to a new level of expression with his playful and childish representations of everyday people set in a specific time and space. The faces are distinctive in their formative build with strong and flexible characters, which are grounded in his sculptural background. Houmam, who has recently moved to Beirut from Damascus, is a multi-disciplinary artist working in several media. His sensitive drawings often provide the inspiration for his paintings and sculptures. His artwork is the result of memories recreated, such as a road in an old neighborhood of Damascus, or himself with his family, drawn from a memory of them walking down a street.
MOUNEER ALSHAARANI
(SYRIA, B. 1952)

NOTHING EQUALS HOME

UNDATED
MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER
80 X 60CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 5,200 - US$ 6,800

Born in Al Salamiya, Mounir Al Shaarani is a calligrapher, designer, and writer. Al Shaarani graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1977. He studied under the great Syrian calligrapher, Badawi Al Dirany and is highly regarded internationally for introducing uniquely innovative calligraphic styles, designing several custom typefaces. His work is featured in many Museum and private collections in: Syria, Tunis, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Bahrain, UAE, Sudan, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Spain, India, Russia, Canada, USA and the UK. In addition to being honored on numerous occasions for his contribution to Arabic calligraphy, Alshaarani was also awarded the Modernization Award in the First International Forum of Arabic Calligraphy in Al Sharjah.
Reem Yassouf was born in 1979 in Damascus, Syria. She graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in 2000. Since then she has taken part in numerous exhibitions in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. Reem was awarded the Certificate of Honor for Plastic Arts and Jewelry Design from the World Innovation Centre in 2010. She has organized several workshops, most notably on the occasion of World Refugee Day under the auspices of the European Commission in 2011. Reem Yassouf’s work is highly poetic and ethereal with signature white and gray shades and strong grounding shadows, that contrast the light portrayals of floating figures. She has received many regional and international awards including: the Certificate of appreciation from the European Commission for the Rights of Refugees (2011) and a PhD Fellowship Certificate from the Center of World Creativity (2010).
Nja Mahdaoui was born in Tunis in 1937 and is one of Tunisia’s leading contemporary artists. In 1967, he graduated from the Academy of Arts and Sciences Santa Andrea of Rome & the Ecole du Louvre (Paris). He later pursued his academic training at the Cite Internationale des Arts (Paris), receiving a scholarship from the Tunisian government. Nja is an International Jury member and a guest of honour at many international events, such as the UNESCO Arts Prize and Sharjah and Tehran biennales. He has been portrayed as a ‘Choreographer of Letters’ and has received a number of distinctions and international awards. Nja’s works are exhibited all over the world and are part of the world’s largest collections, such as “Word into Art” at the British Museum, “The Brush dances & the Ink Signs” at the Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg), “Perspectives: Arab & Iranian modern masters” at the Saatchi Gallery. Additionally, his works can be found in many private and public collections such as to The National Museum of African Arts – Smithsonian Institution (Washington D.C), Barbican Centre (London), Art Basel (Switzerland), The Museum of Modern Arab Art (Qatar) and many others in Tunisia, Holland, Denmark, France, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA, Canada and Japan.
NASSOUSH ZAGHLOULEH
(SYRIA, B. 1958)
UNTITLED
EDITION 1/7
2006
PHOTOGRAPHY PRINTED ON COTTON PAPER
60 X 60 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 1,800 - US$ 3,000

Born in Damascus, Nassouh Zaghlouleh received a graduate degree in 1987 in Photographic Communication from L’école Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Working on more than 20 documentary films and taking over 80,000 photographs, Zaghlouleh has dedicated his life to his art yet refused to exhibit his work till 2007. He organized his first show “From Paris to Damascus” then, a solo exhibition at Ayyam Gallery Damascus. He has since exhibited at a number of international events such as the Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair, and two exhibitions of “Dialogues with the East” in Barcelona and Seville in Spain 2010. He is recognized as one of the leading photographers in the Arab world. Zaghlouleh has instructed students at the International Institute for Image and Sound in France and at the Arab International University in Syria.
RIYADH NEAMA
(IRAQ, B. 1968)
UNTITLED
2011
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
150 X 150 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 5,600 - US$ 7,200

Riyadh Neama graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1992. His early artistic experience took form during the start of the ongoing Iraqi struggle, which was filled with oppression and exile. These experiences provided rich and profound inspirations to an insightful wave of Contemporary Iraqi art. Riyadh Neama’s art is composed of overwhelming contrasts in colors, where lines are sharp and random and everything is in essence lyrical. His main focus and concept is the memory of a child, which he says is the “purest of our lives”. Riyadh Neama’s paintings are exhibited worldwide in: Iraq, Syria, USA, UK, Denmark, Holland, The Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Kuwait, Germany and Bahrain.
Adel El Siwi (born in Behera, Egypt) studied medicine at Cairo University in the 1970s and later pursued a career in fine art after independently taking up painting full time in 1979. In 1980 he relocated to Milan, Italy where he lived and worked for a decade before moving back to Cairo, to settle till now. El Siwi has exhibited both nationally and internationally, among them at the Cairo Biennial 2008, Arabia Italia at the Chelsea Art Museum, New York 2008 and the seminal ‘Word into Art’ curated by Venetia Porter at the British Museum also in 2008. His works reside in collections both regionally and internationally including the Museum of Modern Egyptian Art, the Museum of the Institute of the Arab World, the American University of Cairo, along with many other respected museums around the world.
EDWARD SHAHDA

(SYRIA, B. 1952)

THE LAST SOLDIER

2014

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

115 x 80 CM

ESTIMATE: US$ 5,000 - US$ 7,200

Born 1952, Damascus, Syria, Edward Shahda studied at Damascus University, receiving his BFA in 1976. His solo exhibitions in Syria include: The French Cultural Center; The Russian Cultural Center, Ishtar Gallery, Atelier Fateh Moudarres; in addition to an exhibition titled ‘To Mahmoud Darwish’ at the Tajaliyat Art Gallery in Damascus. He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions regionally and internationally. These include Mashrabia Gallery in Cairo (2012), Stavropol in Russia, and The Souad Issawi Gallery in Amman. Edward Shahda’s work has been featured at the National Museum in Damascus (2009), the Beijing International Art Biennale (2005 and 2008), and Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris (2008).
TAREQ BTEHY
(SYRIA, B. 1982)
THE CHILD
2013
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
70 X 55 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 1,000 - US$ 1,400

Born in Damascus, Tareq Btehy graduated from the Faculty of Fine Art Department of Painting, Damascus in 2006. Btehy held two solo shows; the first was at Gallery Dar Kalemat in Aleppo, 2009 and the second in Kuwait at the Boushahri Art Gallery, 2011. He also participated in numerous exhibitions in Syria including: the ‘youth exhibition’ from 2006-2009, the French cultural centre in Damascus and Lattakia (2006-2007), and at Dar Kalemat, Aleppo in 2009-2011. Btehy exhibited as well at the Museum of Modern Art in Lattakia (2009), sponsored by the UNDP; Gallery Subhi Shuaib, Homs, 2011; ‘Sketch Collective Exhibition’; Gallery Rewaq Al Qeshla (2011); and Gallery Kozah, Damascus, 2012. Most recently he joined the ‘Small painting exhibition’ at Gallery Mustafa Ali.
Fadi Yazigi was born in Lattakia. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, in Damascus in 1988, and has been working as an artist ever since. He works with a variety of different media: paintings on canvas or newspaper, reliefs in clay, installations, and recently he has introduced ‘Bread’ as a medium to experiment with. In each of these methods he has developed a very personal style. Yazigi has held many solo exhibitions and participated in group exhibitions in Syria and abroad in: Lebanon (1992, 1993); Washington DC (2000); Coventry, UK (2001); at the Palais des Congrès in Paris (2002); and Leiden, Holland (2003). Most recently he exhibited at the Dar Al-Anda and Zara Gallery in Amman and in the Albareh Gallery in Bahrain.
Donated by the artist to support Jusoor’s education programs

KEVORK MURAD
(SYRIA, B. 1970)
MOTHER AND CHILD
2010
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
121 X 76 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 4,000 - US$ 6,000

Born in Qameshli, Syria of Armenian origin, Murad studied at the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts in Armenia. He now lives and works in New York. Murad’s paintings and drawings have been featured in prominent galleries throughout the United States and the Middle East. He is a member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble. He created a technique of spontaneous performance painting, and has painted on stage with musicians and artists from around the world, including Yo-Yo Ma, Kinan Azmeh, Tambuco, Brooklyn Rider, Mari Kimura, Ken Ueno, Liubo Borissov, Eve Beglarian, Rami Khalife, and Maya Trio. He has performed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Chelsea Museum of Art, the Rhode Island School of Design, the Nara Museum in Japan, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Rubin Museum of Art, Harvard University, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Five of his pieces are in the permanent collection on the 70th floor of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.
ABDALLA OMARI
(SYRIA, B. 1986)
DEPARTURE
2015
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
130 X 100 CM
ESTIMATE: US$ 4,000 - US$ 6,000

Syrian painter and filmmaker Abdalla Omari was born in Damascus in 1986. In 2009, Omari graduated simultaneously from the Damascus University with a degree in English Literature and the Adham Ismail Institute for Visual Arts. During his studies, Omari created and collaborated on numerous animation films, series, and video arts including 'The Eleventh Commandment', a film directed by Syrian filmmaker, Mwafaq Katt, and participated in the 2010 Damascus International Cinema Festival. A full-time artist represented by Kamel Gallery in Damascus, Abdalla Omari has collaborated in a workshop at the gallery with Ghassan Sibai and Fouad Dahdouh. Abdalla Omari’s paintings were first featured with Ayyam Gallery in early 2012 at The Young Collector’s Auction 13, where his captivating portrait garnered much attention and sold significantly above estimates. Since his graduation, Omari’s work has been featured in many exhibitions, auctions and festivals in: Syria, Lebanon, UAE, Georgia, France, UK, Denmark, Germany, Poland, and others.
How does it work?
The auction will start on February the 14th with absentee bids by email; these bids must be placed in US Dollars and received by February the 20th. This will be followed by a live auction during Jusoor’s Gala Dinner in Los Angeles on the evening of February the 21st. Emailed absentee bids are confidential and will be taken into account in the live auction.

Jusoor will confirm all absentee bids received by sending an email confirmation to the bidder. If you have not received confirmation within 24 hours please contact us on art@jusoorsyria.com

How can I arrange a written absentee bid?
A written bid is your written instruction to bid for you on one or more pieces at the amount you have specified for the artwork/s. To arrange a written bid, please fill out the form posted on our website or at in the back of the catalogue and email it to art@jusoorsyria.com. You will also receive a confirmation email for each bid form that you submitted online, whether for a single bid or a group of bids. Because written bids are time-stamped, we recommend you submit your bid as early as possible. If two or more parties leave identical bids the first bid received will take precedence. Immediately after the auction, the successful bidder will receive an invoice by email. All other bidders will receive letters reporting the status of their bids.

What is the required information for the absentee bid?
You will be asked to provide your name, address, telephone number and email. Jusoor may at its discretion ask you for a copy of a government issued photo identification (such as a driver’s license, passport etc.).

What is the latest time that I can submit an absentee bid?
At 11:00 pm (UTC/GMT -8) on the 20th of February 2015

How much should I bid?
We recommend that you enter the highest amount you are willing to pay in your bid field. Payment Buyers are required to pay for purchases immediately after the auction. Payment may be made by a personal cheque or bank wire transfers.

For wire transfers the payment should be made to
Account name: Jusoor
Bank name: Bank of America
Branch address: 601 N. Dearborn, Chicago IL 60610
Routing number: 026009593
Account number: 002919773594
SWIFT code: BOFAUS3N
Shipping and Import Charges

It is the buyer's responsibility to pick up purchases or make all shipping arrangements. After payment has been made in full, Jusoor may assist in packing and shipping at the buyer's request and expense. All art pieces will be available for collection straight after the auction or by appointment in LA starting the 23rd of February. The property sold at the auction may be subject to import restrictions/taxes of foreign countries; these fees may be added to the final selling price. If this is the case, these fees will be listed as a separate item in the invoice.

Can I change or cancel a bid?

Yes, you can email us at the email listed below. Bids can be changed or cancelled online up to 11:00 pm (UTC/GMT -8) on the 20th of February 2015.

Where will the funds raised from the auction go?

A portion of the artwork’s starting price will go to the artists. Costs associated with the auction have been covered by our sponsors. The remaining amount in full will be allocated to Jusoor’s education initiatives and scholarship schemes.

For further information please contact us at art@jusoorsyria.com
ABSSENTEE BID FORM

Please complete the written bid form below.

Print and email a signed copy to art@jusoorsyria.com before At 11:00 pm (UTC/GMT -8) on the 20th of February 2015

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City ____________________________________________

Country ____________________________________________

Telephone ____________________________________________

Email ____________________________________________

I request that Jusoor enters bids on the following lots at the price I have indicated for each lot. I understand that by submitting this bid, I have entered into a bidding contract to purchase the individual lots, if my bid is successful.

I understand that if my bid is successful, I will be obligated to pay the purchase price, which will be the sum of my final bid. If identical written bids are left, Jusoor will give precedence to the first one received.

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Signature _____________________ Date _____________________