



ARTISTS CONTRIBUTING TO SYRIA'S FUTURE
AN AUCTION TO SUPPORT SYRIAN EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS
4 JUNE 2016 | HOTEL ADLON KEMPINSKI BERLIN | 7 PM



SPECIAL THANKS FROM JUSOOR

We say thank you to every individual who has contributed to making this art auction possible. We would like to thank the Samawi family for contributing artwork from their private collection. We would like to also thank Abdalla Omari and Kevork Mourad, the independent artists who have donated their work to our auction and believe in our cause. We also extend our deepest gratitude to Christie's and Christiane Graefin zu Rantzau for their collaboration. In addition, all the following members have played an important role in putting our auction together, including Hala Khayat, our friend and Art Advisor, as well as our dedicated planning committee Dalia Khalatbari and Omar Shaya. Finally, we would like to thank the art enthusiasts taking part in this evening's art auction. Through your generous contributions a number of Syrian students will now have the opportunity to continue their education. Funds raised from this auction will be used towards Jusoor's educational programmes, including our university scholarship program and refugee education program for children.

The Samawi Collection

CHRISTIE'S
THE ART PEOPLE

ABOUT JUSOOR

Jusoor ('Bridges' in Arabic) was established in June of 2011 by a group of Syrian expatriates who are committed to building an organized and effective expatriate community. The organization aims to advance Syria's economic and educational development by drawing on the resources and dedication of the Syrian expatriate community around the world. We plan to achieve this through a portfolio of initiatives and programs, including university exchange programs, mentorship programs, and training and education programs. Jusoor is an apolitical organization. It has achieved several notable milestones since its establishment, including:

- Engaging a network of 110,000 people across over 40+ countries.
- Supporting 74 students with university scholarships and enabling 317 students to work towards university degrees through our partnership with IIE.
- Working with over 1,700 children in our Refugee Education Program through three learning centers in Lebanon.
- Building a network of over 1000 Syrians interested in Entrepreneurship with over 200 Syrian Entrepreneurs.
- Providing mentorship to over 300 individuals seeking academic advice.
- Holding events in 8 cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, New York, Toronto, London, Lebanon, Dubai, and now Berlin.

Please email us at info@jusoorsyria.com for more information.

KEY PROGRAMS

Refugee Education Program: Jusoor has been working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon since June 2013, with the goal of ensuring that Syrian refugees in Lebanon have a holistic, well-rounded primary school education through integration into formal schooling whenever possible. Our program supports about 1,300 children annually through three educational centres.

Jusoor Scholarship Program: We have supported close to 400 students to date in enrolling in universities in North America, Europe and the Middle East. This has happened through different partnerships, including ones where we fund students directly, and others where we facilitate recruitment and/or selections. Our portfolio includes partnerships with leading universities around the world as well as universities in Lebanon and Jordan.

Entrepreneurship Program: The Entrepreneurship Program aims to create a strong collaborative community for Syrian entrepreneurs to learn from successful businesses, peers and role models. This program is composed of training bootcamps in entrepreneurship, an entrepreneurship competition whose winners get seed-funding for their projects, and online advice sessions for entrepreneurs.

Academic and Career Mentorship Programs: Through a network of volunteers, Jusoor offers academic advice through the Study Abroad Mentorship Program for students requiring help in their university application process and seeking more information on academic choices and studying abroad. Our Career Development Program provides mentorship through public sessions held in different locations, where participants improve their CV writing and other professional development skills.

Annual Global Conference: The conference brings together communities from around the world to exchange and cultivate ideas and build partnerships in the area of helping Syria and Syrian communities around the world through education. Previous conferences have taken place in New York, London, and Los Angeles, and the 2016 one is taking place in Berlin.

MEET THE AUCTIONEER

Christiane Graefin zu Rantzau
Chairman Christie's Deutschland GmbH
European Director

After her apprenticeship as an interpreter, Graefin Rantzau worked at the auction house Neumeister in Munich. After graduating from the Christie's Fine Arts Course, she has been employed at Christie's since 1984. First in Munich, and since 1985 she is the representative in Hamburg and northern Germany. Since 2009 she is also responsible for Berlin and the new Länder. In 1994 she became the director of Christie's Manson & Woods Ltd. In autumn 1999 she received the auctioneer license. As an auctioneer she regularly holds auctions for Christie's in English and German, and also for charity auctions. In spring of 2000 she became a member of the executive of Christie's Germany (Deputy Chairman) and became a Director of Christie's European Advisory Board. In July 2008 Graefin zu Rantzau changed from Director of Christie's European Advisory Board to Director of European Board. In 2011 she was appointed Chairman Christie's Germany GmbH.



MOHANNAD ORABI

(SYRIA, BORN 1977)

LOT 001

UNTITLED; FAMILY PORTRAIT SERIES

2015

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

150 X 150 CM

ESTIMATE: 10,500 - 13,500 EUR

Dominated by vivacious childlike figures in various scenarios, Mohannad Orabi's previous paintings reflect his interest in the spontaneity of process and the liberation of form that emerges when art is created intuitively without fixed directives. Many of these mixed media canvases were painted as self-portraits, revealing the artist's fascination with the evolution of consciousness in childhood and the wonder and whimsy of the formative years that first shape our comprehension of the world.

With the start of the Syrian uprising and the conflict that followed, Orabi adopted an increasingly realist approach to portraiture, drawing inspiration from the various media that are currently forging a visual repository of the war. Martyr posters, Facebook profile pictures, and other types of filtered or composed imagery serve as source material for portraits of Syrians under siege, displaced, and in exile, recording a side of the conflict that lies beyond its ideological divisions and political talking points. While the artist retains an interest in the socialisation processes of childhood, his own experiences of now living outside the country have led him to consider the ways in which visual culture, social media, and digital communication have become substitutes for what was once tangible.

Born in Damascus in 1977, Mohannad Orabi currently lives and works in Dubai. Orabi graduated from the Faculty of Fine Art in Damascus in 2000 and won the first prize in The Syrian National Young Artists Exhibition in 2006. Solo and group exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2016, 2014); Den Gallery, Kuwait (2016); Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice (2015); Ayyam Gallery London (2014); Ayyam Gallery Jeddah (2013); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2015, 2014, 2012); Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2014, 2009); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2008), Zara Gallery, Amman (2007); and Ishtar Gallery, Damascus (2006, 2004). In 2014, Orabi was listed among Foreign Policy's '100 Leading Global Thinkers'.



THAIER HELAL

(SYRIA, BORN 1967)

LOT 002

THE ROAD TO DEIR MAR MUSA AL-HABASHI II

2014

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

70 X 100 CM

ESTIMATE: 10,500 - 13,500 EUR

Thaier Helal's constant search for experimental forms have led him to include diverse media, arriving at approaches that often blur the lines between painting and assemblage. With an innovative painting style that has progressed over the course of two decades, Helal is recognised as working at the forefront of contemporary abstraction in the Middle East. Born in 1967, Helal launched his career in his native Syria, where he studied with seminal painters at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Damascus, and was mentored by modern artists such as Mahmoud Hammad. After relocating to the United Arab Emirates in the 1990s, he developed a distinct method of painting that incorporates unconventional materials such as glue, sand, and coal in an attempt to recreate the physical and sensory aspects of the world around him.

Helal begins each composition with a sketched grid that serves as a compositional base then builds on the surface of the canvas by applying several layers of mixed media, providing a sense of organisation to an otherwise spontaneous picture. This laboured formalism represents the artist's conceptual rendering of the intrinsic code of nature, and extends to investigations of spatial dynamics as shaped by the fluctuation of society and culture. Helal communicates movement and energy through expressionist explosions of colour and automatic brushwork, alluding to organic formations.

In the years following the outbreak of the Syrian conflict, Helal has explored various printmaking techniques and appropriated imagery in works that isolate the mechanisms of war and represent the growing militarisation of global society. Recent works by the artist that use found objects, such as plastic beads and miniature toys, allude to the adverse effects of globalisation, the advent of consumerist culture, and the power struggles that have triggered these phenomena.

As a longtime resident of the Gulf, Helal has contributed to the regional art scene with an extensive exhibition history that includes solo exhibitions at such venues as the Sharjah Art Museum (2000), in addition to awards from Tehran's Contemporary Painting Biennial (2005) and the Sharjah Biennial (1997). Helal has also influenced the development of local painting as a Senior Member of the Sharjah Arts Institute, and a Professor at the Fine Arts College, University of Sharjah, where he has encouraged emerging artists. Recent solo and group exhibitions for the artist include Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2015), Ayyam Gallery London (2015); Ayyam Gallery DIFC (2015); Samsung Blue Square, Seoul (2014); and Busan Museum of Art (2014). Helal's works are housed in private and public collections throughout the Arab world. Ayyam Gallery published a mid career monograph on the artist in 2014.



KEVORK MOURAD

(SYRIA, BORN 1970)

LOT 003

THE SPACE BETWEEN

2016

ACRYLIC ON LINEN

121.5 X 116.5 CM

ESTIMATE: 7,000 - 10,500 EUR

Kevork Mourad was born in Kamechli, Syria. Of Armenian origin, he received his MFA from the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts and now lives and works in New York. He is represented by the Claude Lemand Gallery in Paris and the Rafia Gallery in Dubai. He has worked with many world-class musicians through spontaneous painting—a collaboration of art and music—. His past and current projects include *Cirène*, a project with members of Brooklyn Rider at the Metropolitan Museum, the multi-media play *Lost Spring* (2015) with Anais Alexandra Tekerian, at the MuCEM, and *Gilgamesh* (2003) and *Home Within* (2013) with Kinan Azmeh including Damascus and at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, in addition to performances with the Silk Road Ensemble at the Nara Museum, Japan and the Rubin Museum of Art, Lembit Beecher's *I Have No Stories to Tell You*, commissioned by Opera Philadelphia, *Master Peter's Puppet Show* (2015) with The Knights at Tanglewood, and *Barbed Wire* (2015), with Issam Rafea, commissioned by The Space, UK.

Selected solo and group exhibitions include Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris (2015), Art Paris Art Fair (2015), Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait (2014), Art Moment 2014, Budapest (2014), Gallery Z, Providence, RI (2000, 2016), JK Gallery, Los Angeles (2008), Rafia Gallery, Damascus (2009), The Courtyard Gallery, Dubai (2010). Five of Mourad's pieces are in the permanent collection of the Bourj Khalife in Dubai, and his digital piece, *The Map of Future Movements*, toured as part of a group exhibition in Jerusalem and Ramallah, and was featured in the 2010 Liverpool Biennial.



KAIS SALMAN

(SYRIA, BORN 1976)

LOT 004

UNTITLED

2015

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

150 X 120 CM

ESTIMATE: 7,000 - 10,500 EUR

Kais Salman utilises satire to subvert the normalisation of greed, vanity, and ideological extremism that is rapidly defining our era. Each series of Salman's work has sought to reflect a type of psychological violence that occurs when excess becomes rationalised and accepted by societies. Seeking to confront and exorcise sociocultural manifestations of such depravity, Salman taps into ugliness and abjection through intentionally hyperbolised imagery accentuated by punches of colour and aestheticised forms. Terrorism, consumerism, cosmetic surgery, religious fanaticism, imperialism, and the voyeurism of the digital age have all served as topics of Salman's carnivalesque compositions.

Born in Tartous, Syria in 1976, Kais Salman lives and works in Beirut. He received a Bachelor of Art from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2002. His paintings are currently housed in private collections throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. Solo and group exhibitions include the Alexandria Biennale (2014); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2014, 2010); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2015, 2014, 2012); Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai (2014, 2011, 2010); Damascus Museum of Modern Art (2009); The Park Avenue Armory, New York (2008); Carthage Festival for Coast Mediterranean Sea Artists, Tunisia (2005). In May 2010, a work from his Fashion Series appeared on the cover of the Wall Street Journal's Weekend Edition magazine, a first for an Arab artist.



WALID EL MASRI

(SYRIA, BORN 1969)

LOT 005

CHAIRS

2010

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

120 X 120 CM

ESTIMATE: 6,000 - 9,000 EUR

Painter Walid El Masri's practice revolves around the repeated examination of a single material subject as he explores variations in depth and space through abstracted compositions. In the past, the artist's subject of choice was a chair, the stillness of which provided an anchoring pictorial element amidst the riotous brushwork of an unidentified setting. Like Morandi's vases or Cezanne's apples, El Masri's depictions are less about the objects themselves and more about the possibility of transformation that is derived from paying close attention to the object over time. In a recent body of work the artist observes movement and vibration as encapsulated in the life cycle of a butterfly cocoon, the dramatic transition of which stands as a symbolic representation of Syria in its current state.

Of Lebanese background, El Masri was born in Syria in 1979. Prior to completing a Bachelor of Art at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus in 2005, he studied the art of mosaic and trained with renowned expressionist painter Marwan Kasab Bashi at the Summer Academy of Darat Al-Funun, Amman, Jordan. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery London (2014); Europa Gallery Paris, France (2014); Ayyam Gallery Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (2013); Ayyam Gallery Beirut, Lebanon (2013); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai, UAE (2012); Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE (2009); Art Beijing Contemporary Art Fair, China (2009); Art Hong Kong Art Fair, China (2009) and Ayyam Gallery Damascus, Syria (2008).



ABDALLA OMARI

(SYRIA, BORN 1986)

LOT 006

MEDITERRANEAN FISH

2016

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

140 X 100 CM

ESTIMATE: 3,500 - 6,500 EUR

Syrian painter, performing artist and filmmaker Abdalla Omari was born in Damascus in 1986. In 2009, Omari simultaneously graduated from the Damascus University with a degree in English Literature and the Adham Ismail Institute for Visual Arts. Omari started his career as a full-time artist represented by Kamel Gallery in Damascus 2012, where he collaborated in a workshop at the gallery with Syrian pioneering artists Ghassan Sibai and Fouad Dahdouh. Omari's paintings were featured with Ayyam Gallery since early 2012 at The Young Collector's Auction where his captivating portrait garnered much attention and sold over estimate.

Omari was recently granted asylum in Belgium and he currently lives and works in Brussels, where he started his project "The Vulnerability Series," depicting the world political figures in very vulnerable states, breaking their image of ultimate power. "Fraught with emotion, Omari's oil on canvas compositions tackle complex psychological states, yet retain a profound beauty through their painterly application and realistic portrayal."

Since his graduation, Omari's work has been featured in exhibitions, auctions and festivals in: Syria, Lebanon, UAE, Georgia, France, UK, USA, Denmark, Germany, Poland, and others. Solo and group exhibitions include NW Gallery, Cambridge (2015), La Maison Des Associations, Paris (2014), Kozah Art Gallery, Beirut (2014), Mtskheta International Art Festival, Georgia (2013), Ayyam Gallery, Dubai (2013, 2012), 8 Gallery, London (2012), Kamel Gallery, Damascus (2012), Mouth Gallery, Beirut (2011), and Adham Ismail Institute, Damascus (2010).



ABSENTEE BIDDING

How does it work?

The auction will start on May 27th, 2016 with absentee bids by email. These bids must be placed in Euros and received by June 3rd at the address art@jusoorsyria.com. This will be followed by a live auction during Jusoor's Fundraising Dinner in Berlin on the evening of June 4th. 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.

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 document, such as a driver's license or passport.

What is the latest time that I can submit an absentee bid?

At 23:00 CET (GMT -2) on the 3rd of June 2016.

How much should I bid?

We recommend that you enter the highest amount you are willing to pay in your bid field. Buyers are required to pay for purchases immediately after the auction. Payment may be made by a cheque or bank wire transfer. 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, handling, and import charges

It is the buyer's responsibility to pick up purchases or make 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 Berlin starting on June 5th, 2016. 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. Bids can be changed or cancelled online up to 23:00 CET (GMT -2) on June 3rd, 2016 by emailing us at art@jusoorsira.com.

Where will the funds raised from the auction go?

A portion of the artwork's starting bidding 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 programs. For further information please write to us at art@jusoorsira.com.



www.jusoorsyria.com



Charity Auction
June 4th, 2016 | Hotel Adlon Kempinski Berlin

ABSENTEE BIDDING FORM

Please complete the written bid form below.

Print and email a signed copy to art@jusoorsyria.com before 23:00 CET (GMT -2) on the June 3rd, 2016.

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.

Lot No.	Object	Maximum Bid Amount (EUR)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

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.

Signature _____

Date _____