Artists Contributing to Syria’s Future

An Auction To Support Syrian Educational Aspirations

14 October 2017 | King Edward Hotel In Toronto | 7 Pm
We would like to thank every individual who has contributed to making this art auction possible and to especially recognize the Atassi Foundation, Shireen Atassi, and Jamelie Hassan for curating the art pieces. A special thank you to the artists for donating artwork to our auction and believing in our cause. We also extend our deepest gratitude to Christie’s and its Caroline Ervin, Nick Finch, and Christiane Graefin zu Rantzau for their collaboration, and to Ayyam Gallery for their support with shipping. Finally, we would like to thank the art enthusiasts taking part in this evening’s art auction. Because of your generous contributions, a number of Syrian students will now have the opportunity to continue their education, and Syrian art will continue to grow and build bridges of understanding with new audiences. Funds raised from this auction will be used towards Jusoor’s educational programmes in Canada, except for contributions to the artists, which are noted throughout the booklet.
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 (registered as a nonprofit organization in the US as Jusoor, and in the UK and Canada respectively as Jusoor UK and Jusoor Canada) is an apolitical organization. It has achieved several notable milestones since its establishment, including:

- Engaging a network of 130,000 people across over 45 countries.
- Supporting 173 students with university scholarships and enabling 317 students to work towards university degrees through our partnership with IIE.
- Working with over 3,500 children in our Refugee Education Program in three individual learning centers in Lebanon.
- Building a network of over 1000 Syrians interested in Entrepreneurship; and supporting over 200 Syrian Entrepreneurs.
- Providing academic mentorship to over 600 individuals.

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

Growing up in Maine, Caroline Ervin acquired an early interest in art, antiques, and the auction business. She graduated from Colorado College with a B.A. in Art History in 2007 and gained experience in various New England auction houses. Caroline joined Christie’s in 2011 working in turn for the Musical Instruments, African and Oceanic Art, and Operations departments. In 2012, she was selected by the International Director of Auctioneering to serve as a charity auctioneer for the company. Following her passion for gemstones and the art of jewelry design, Caroline earned her Graduate Gemologist degree at the Gemological Institute of America in 2017, and is currently a Junior Specialist in the Jewelry Department at Christie’s. Caroline has been fortunate to serve as the primary jewelry specialist for such landmark sales as The Private Collection of Joan Rivers and the Private Collection of President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan. Caroline has raised the gavel for numerous organizations throughout New York City and beyond, including The American Cancer Society, The CUE Art Foundation, The Andrew Glover Youth Program, The Center, Westside Montessori School, The Greenwich Hospital Foundation, Los Angeles Ballet, and the New York Special Olympics; being able to assist in raising money for worthy organizations by putting her auctioneering skills to use is one of her greatest joys!

Auction Partner: Atassi Foundation

Atassi Foundation is an independent nonprofit initiative founded by Sadek and Mouna Atassi to promote Syrian art and culture. Atassi foundation aims to celebrate Syrian art by enhancing its global visibility and supporting the creative production of young talents. It achieves this by organizing and curating exhibitions, fostering intercultural exchange in collaboration with international arts and culture institutions, and by supporting research and publications surrounding Syrian art and culture. Its ambition is to create a sustainable and informative platform for Syrian artistic expression and knowledge.

A contemporary art collection: Atassi Foundation preserves and protects its unique and rich collection of Syrian visual arts heritage, by documenting, organizing and curating exhibitions, and by loaning artworks to leading international institutions.

Creative residencies and cultural discourse: Atassi Foundation works with partner institutions to provide Syrian artists, curators, and researchers the opportunity to develop intercultural exchange and interaction through creative residencies, seminars, conference and round tables.

Research and Publication: Atassi Foundation works with researchers, historians, and scholars in partnerships with universities, study centers, and publication houses to collect data, and publishing research and essays about Syrian visual arts.
Jamalie Hassan

LOT 02
DAR’A (EDITION 3/3)
2010
COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY, NEON, AND ELECTRICAL MOUNTED ONTO PANEL
76 x 53 CM

ESTIMATE: CAD $6,000 - 9,000

Jamalie Hassan is a visual artist, who is also active as a lecturer, writer, and independent curator, based in London, Ontario, Canada. She studied art in Rome and Beirut and in 1978 she travelled to Baghdad, Iraq and studied Arabic at the University of Mustansiriya. She was one of the founders of two artist-run centres in London, Ontario: the Forest City Gallery (1973-present) and the Embassy Cultural House (1983-1990), organizing both national and international programs. Since the 1970s she has exhibited and lectured widely in Canada and internationally. She is the recipient of numerous awards including Canada’s most prestigious cultural award, the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2001.

Her works are in numerous public collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, The Art Museum, The University of Toronto; Museum London, London, Ontario, the Morris & Helen Belkin Art Gallery, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia and the New Museum, New York, NY.

All proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs.
Farouk Kaspaules

LOT 04
FORM
2004
MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER
84 x 64 CM

ESTIMATE: CAD $2,000 - 4,000

Farouk Kaspaules is an Iraqi-born Canadian artist with a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Studio Arts and Art History and Theory from the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada. The events shaping the political and social situation in the Middle East have strongly influenced his work. He has exhibited widely in Canada and internationally since 1989 including the Museum of Civilization and the Ottawa Art Gallery in Ottawa, Canada, the 9th Cairo Biennial in Cairo, Egypt, the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, USA, as well as in exhibitions across Europe and in Chile and Brazil. His works are included in numerous significant public collections including the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Art Gallery and the Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Canada.

All proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs.
Kevork Mourad

LOT 05
MEMORIES FROM ALEPPO
2017
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
134 x 61 CM

ESTIMATE: CAD $11,500 -13,000

Kevork Mourad was born in Al Qamishli, 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. He has worked with many world-class musicians through spontaneous painting—a collaboration of art and music—such as Home Within (2013) with Kinan Azmeh, in addition to performances with the Silk Road Ensemble.

Kevork Mourad has held a number of solo and group exhibitions in Paris, Kuwait, Budapest, Los Angeles, Damascus, and Dubai. Five of Mourad’s pieces are in the permanent collection of the Bourj Khalifa 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.

5 This painting will not be on view in the live auction.
6 70% of the proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs and 30% will support the artist.
Yasser Safi

LOT 06
THE BOXER
2013
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
120 x 100 CM
ESTIMATE: CAD $7,000 - $9,000

Born in Al Qamishli in 1976 and a graduate of the Fine Arts Department of the Damascus University in 1997, Yasser Safi served as a professor of art at the Damascus University and the Adham Ismail Institute from 1999 to 2005. In 2006 he moved to the UAE where he became graphic department supervisor for the Sharjah Institute of Art and in 2010 he participated in the Tripoli-Leipzig workshop at the University of Leipzig, a prominent German center for contemporary arts and culture. His works, a raw figurative fauvist style, which he expresses in painting, etching and sculpting, are highly memorable and often haunting given his tendency to flattened spatial arrangements, unabashed directness and unlikely strong colors.

Safi’s work has been exhibited in art festivals in the Middle East and Europe and in solo exhibitions in Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Cairo, Brussels, and Rome. Many of Safi’s works are housed prestigious art institutions and private art collections.

70% of the proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs and 30% will support the artist.
Born in Al Qamishli in 1976 and a graduate of the Fine Arts Department of the Damascus University 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. Yassouf 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. 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.

Yassouf 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).

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8 This painting will not be on view in the live auction.
9 70% of the proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs and 30% will support the artist.
Born in Lattakia in 1966, Fadi Yazigi graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts Damascus University in 1988. He currently lives and works in Damascus. He held many solo exhibitions in Hong Kong, Greece, Lebanon, Kuwait, London, Damascus, Bahrain, and Jordan, the United States and Paris. He also participated in group shows in Bordeaux, Paris, Dubai, Beirut, Geneva, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah.

Yazigi uses different media, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and installations, and even bread. He depicts human and animal bodies with an emphasis on faces; so much so that bodies seem mere extensions to it. He combines mythological creatures with details from daily life to express his vision.

All proceeds will support Jusoor’s programs.
Camille Zakharia graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts from NSCAD University Halifax Canada in 1997 and a Bachelors of Engineering from the American University of Beirut in 1985. Using photography, photomontage and collage, Zakharia makes work about identity and displacement, reflecting his own life journey. He sees collage a means of expressing a fragmented identity and reassembling memories.

Zakharia has exhibited prolifically across North America, Europe and the Middle East including Italy, UK, US, France, Bangladesh, UAE, Switzerland, Canada, and Qatar.

Zakharia has received numerous awards for his work and his works are in private and public collections including Canadian Museum of Civilization, Victoria and Albert Museum, National Museum of Bahrain, Qatar Museum Authority, Wichita Center for the Arts, Barjeel Art Foundation, Musee Suisse de l’Appareil Photographique and Art Gallery at Saint Mary’s University.

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Absentee bidding

How does it work?
The auction will start on October 7th, 2017 with absentee bids by email. These bids must be placed in Canadian Dollars and received by October 13th at the address art@jusoorsyria.com. This will be followed by a live auction during Jusoor’s Fundraising Dinner in Toronto on the evening of October 14th. 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 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 EST on the 13th of October 2017.

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, and will be sent invoices with payment details and instructions.

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 Toronto, starting on October 15th, 2017. 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 EST on October 13th, 2017 by emailing us at art@jusoorsyria.com.

Where will the funds raised from the auction go?
0-30% of the artwork’s bidding price will go to the artists, and the percentage is indicated in the booklet for each artwork. 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@jusoorsyria.com.

Thanks to Dana Theodory for design.
Absentee Bid Form

Please complete the written bid form below.

Print and email a signed copy to art@jusoorsyria.com before 23:00 EST on October 13th, 2017.

Name

Address

City ___________________________ Province ___________________________

Country ___________________________ Postal Code ___________________________

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.

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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 ___________________________