

The
Auction

Artists contributing to Syria's future:
An auction to support Syrian educational aspirations



Generously donated by Ayyam Gallery
100% of the proceeds will support Jusoor's Scholarship Program.

LOT 01

ELIAS IZOLI (*Syria, b. 1976*)

STARTING BID: GBP 4000

Untitled

150 x 120 cm
Acrylic on Canvas
2015

Elias Izoli is a self-taught realist painter whose creativity was harnessed at an exceptionally young age. In Damascus, his talent was recognized early on and he was given a solo exhibition at the Russian Cultural Centre at age seventeen. With consummate draftsmanship, a marked command of colour, and an intensive approach to capturing his subjects, Izoli's compositions defy conventional portraiture. Recently, the impact of the Syrian war has inspired him to produce psychologically laden portraits of children caught in the crossfire of violence.



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LOT 02

MOUTEEA MURAD *(Syria, b. 1977)*

STARTING BID: GBP 6000

Trial No. 46 - Where the Wish Lies

120 x 120 cm
Acrylic on Canvas
2011

Mouteea Murad's work sees a unification of spirituality and formalism, continuously drawing influence from the geometric forms and motifs of Islamic art. Murad began his career as a painter working on monochromatic, expressionist compositions that depict the anguish of modern man. In 2007, his work took on a renewed outlook that redirected his painting style, exploring relativity, spatiality, and the visual dynamic of geometric forms. The evolution of Murad's work is reflected through the gradual stages of abstraction in his compositions as he builds on the breakthroughs of previous movements, experimenting with automatic brushwork, the illusionistic perspective of Op art, the symmetry of geometric abstraction, and the collapsing planes of Suprematism. In his most recent series, his relationship with mathematics plays an integral role, with the Fibonacci numbers and sequence at its centre. His forms and lines are largely defined by algebraic functions and their geometric application within the work.



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LOT 03 & 04

This work will be sold in two lots. A set of three birds (LOT 04) and a set of two birds (LOT 03).

FELEKSAN ONAR (Turkey, b. 1966)

Perched

Mould-blown glass swallows
2018

STARTING BID Lot 03: GBP 1500

STARTING BID Lot 04: GBP 1000

A body of work forming 99 glass blown birds representing the Syrian refugee crises and inspired by the book *Birds Without Wings* by Louis de Bernieres. The swallows have trimmed wings and are unable to fly. The installation is Onar's artistic response to the millions of displaced Syrians in Turkey. Having fled a war, many of these refugees have landed in Istanbul, where Onar lives. Like the birds in 'Perched', they are unable to move on – they are grounded, with nowhere else to go. *Perched* has been exhibited at the V&A and Feleksan Onar is donating 5 of these glass sculptures to the Jusoor art auction.

Feleksan Onar, born and raised in Turkey, completed her undergraduate degree in economics and music history at Cornell University and graduate studies at Harvard Business School. She works out of her atelier in Pera, Istanbul as well as in Berlin and Murano. The artist's works are housed in important public collections worldwide including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Pergamon Museum, Berlin; Riihimaki Glass Museum, Finland; Contemporary Glass Art Museum, Eskisehir, among others as well as in private collections. Her most recent solo exhibitions have been held at Arkas Museum, Izmir; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Pergamon Museum, Berlin and Magazzino Gallery at Palazzo Polignac, Venice.

This work will be sold in two lots. A set of three birds and a set of two birds.



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LOT 05

SARA NAIM (*London, b. 1987*)
Éclipse- (Unique piece from a series of 4).

STARTING BID: GBP 1000

45 cm diameter
UV Print on Brusan mirror, wood, and plexiglass
2017

Sara Naim is a Syrian visual artist who grew up between Dubai and London. She received her MFA in Fine Art Media at The Slade School of Fine Art, London (2014), and completed her Bachelors in Photography from London College of Communication (2010).

Her solo shows include Reaction, at Parafin Gallery, London (2018); When Heartstings Collapse at The Third Line, Dubai (2016); Heartstrings at Concrete, Hayward Gallery, London; When The Lights Went Off We Saw, Gallery 1, Pavilion Downtown, Dubai, (2012). Group shows include: Secular Icons in an Age of Moral Uncertainty, Parafin Gallery, London (2018); The Third Image, Galerie Binome (with Biennale des Photographs du Monde Arabe Contemporain, 2017); Sans Titre Vol. 1 and 2, Paris (2016); Hindsight, V1Gallery, Copenhagen (2014); Au Lait! Quand l'Art Déborde at Lab'Bel Gallery, Jura, France (2012).



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LOT 06

SARA NAIM *(London, b. 1987)*

STARTING BID: GBP 800

Processed- (Unique Piece)

71H x 54.5W x 3.5D (cm)
C-type digital print, plexiglass, wood.
2017

Processed magnifies expired polaroid film. After being exposed, light and the film's chemistry react to form microcosms of chemical reactions.

The precarious and arbitrary nature of the polaroid's chemical reaction is met with the intentional and precise forming and breaking of chemical bonds. The reaction's random exactness, and the reaction's form itself, becomes the reference for the image's asymmetrical shape. The rim of the artwork mimics the content within the image, in order to free the form's internal and external tension.



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LOT 07

MOHANNAD ORABI (*Syria, b. 1977*) **STARTING BID: GBP 3000**

Looking to the Homeland

120 x 90 cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

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 Al Quoz, Dubai (2017, 2014, 2009); 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 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'.



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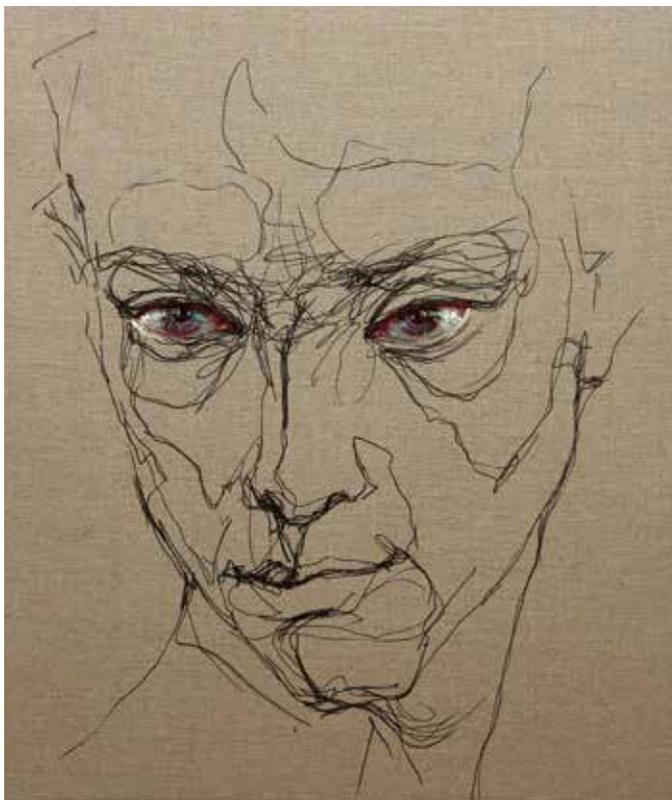
LOT 08

MOHANNAD ORABI (Syria, b. 1977) **STARTING BID:** GBP 3000

Ripples Series

180 x 180 cm
Acrylic on canvas
2017

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.



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LOT 09

SARA SHAMMA (Syria, b.1975)

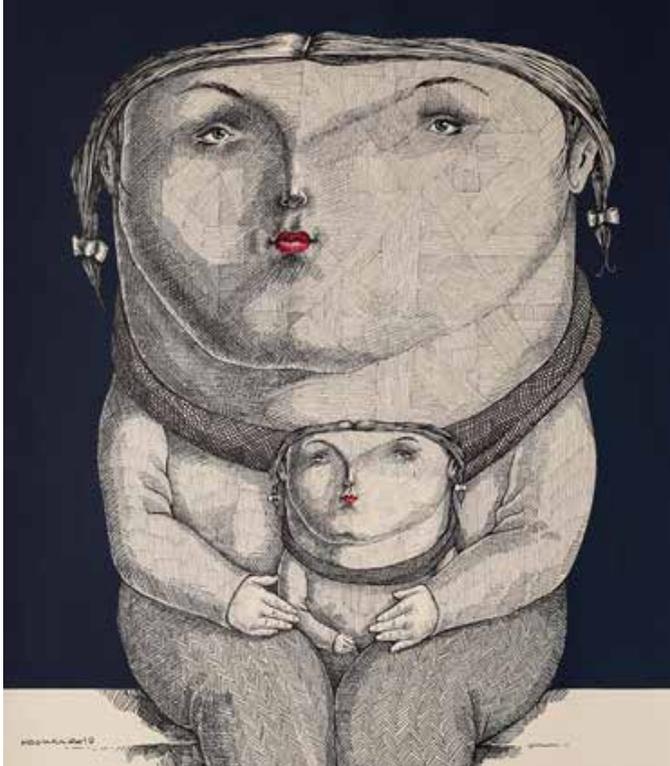
STARTING BID: GBP 1000

Eye 12

71 x 61 cm
Oil and Ink on Canvas
2019

Sara Shamma is one of Syria's most celebrated contemporary artists, whose works can be found in both public and private collections around the globe. The painting forms part of a series for an exhibition at Kings College London this autumn - Sara Shamma: Modern Slavery.

Shamma has participated in a number of solo and group exhibitions including: London, Art Sawa Gallery (Dubai, 2017); World Civil War Portraits, The Old Truman Brewery (London, 2015); Diaspora, Art Sawa Gallery (Dubai, 2014); Q, Royal College of Art (London, 2013); Birth, Art House (Damascus, 2011); Love, 360 MALL (Kuwait, 2009); The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition.



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LOT 10

HOUMAM ALSAYED (Syria, b. 1981) **STARTING BID: GBP 4000**

Single motherhood

75 x 55 cm
Ink on paper
2019

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.



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LOT 11

KAZEM KHALIL (syria, b. 1965)

STARTING BID: GBP 3000

Portrait turquoise

162 x 130 cm
Oil on Canvas
2017

Born in Lattakia 1965, Kazem Khalil lives the agony of the Diaspora in Europe, with all the passion of a hard-working Arab expressionist. The distant past of his village Basnada still lives within this Paris-based expressionist. He jumps out of his own works—literarily speaking to his audience, through an art-form that has been acknowledged across the globe. The large formats facilitate unrestrained gestures, embodying a vigour and energy barely disrupted by the edge of the canvas. In 2010, Kazem Khalil was awarded the *Prix de la Peinture SAAF* at Paris' Grand Palais, and in 2004 won a prize in Saint-Loup for his work on paper. That same year, he won the Montmartre competition in Briollay. He has held numerous solo and group exhibitions both in Syria and abroad such as the International Biennial of Sharjah, UAE in 1997 and 1999.