

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ART POSTER



AMMAN

12 october–4 november

nabad art gallery

'nostalgia'

boutros al-maari

Al-Maari's distinctive illustrative style is imbued with the notion of time, both the present and the past. The Syrian artist's work merges Art Brut with elements of Cubism to create a painterly brush technique and simplified imagery that brings forth a sense of innocence and nostalgia. Drawing from his displacement from Syria, the paintings demonstrate a yearning for the country to which he belongs. The sombre tones and subdued downward gazes of the figures are mirrored in the ambiance of the compositions. The sensation is one of time stopping, capturing the artist's memory of what it once was to live at home.

Nabad Art Gallery
Amman, Jordan
Tel: +962 64655084
www.nabadartgallery.com



BAKU

until 5 october

various locations

'the hierarchy of being'

wafaa bilal

Iraqi-born Bilal takes inspiration from the Islamic sciences of optics and kinetics from the Golden Age (750–1258 AD) and how they shaped contemporary thinking, combining these concepts with his post-migratory experience. These "old" technologies mix with current interactive technology and photography to create a monumental artwork that offers Bilal's rendition what being and seeing in the natural world is, or could be. With science freshening-up Islamic art and history, visitors should anticipate a dizzying experience as the installation-cum-sculpture curated by Sara Raza recreates a *camera obscura* effect.

Public Art Festival
Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel: +994 124373970
www.yarat.az



BEIRUT

2–23 september

galerie janine rubeiz

'home life'

mansour el-habre

El-Habre, a Lebanese artist with an engaging mixed-media style consisting of collaged painting and drawing techniques, exhibits works depicting observations of banal daily existence, or the typical goings-on under one shared roof. The compositions may be simple, but the dynamics between the figures within the frame are complex. Even though the subjects interact, despite the facade of activity, the subdued hues add to an unavoidable underlying sense of loneliness and isolation. Just because everyone is together, does not mean everyone is united.

Galerie Janine Rubeiz
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1868290
www.galeriejaninerubeiz.com



BERGEN

30 october–28 march 2016

kode art museums of bergen

'my pain my rebellion'

sükran moral

Long considered a particularly important figure in Contemporary art, Turkish artist Moral's largest solo exhibition to date features works from the last two decades alongside new creations that remain consistent with her controversial themes. She daringly brings light, with explicit visual force, to issues pertaining to women and young girls with a tendency towards the socio-religious, the marginalised and gender-based violence. Moral's work consists of performances and installations that are provocative and uncompromising in their willingness to tell a brutal truth as it really is.

KODE Art Museums of Bergen
Bergen, Norway
Tel: +47 53009704
www.kodebergen.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *ART POSTER*



DUBAI

until 15 september
ayyam gallery al-quoz
'young artist-in-residency
graduation exhibition'
noor bahjat

Ayyam introduces its first artist-in-residence under the mentorship of Tammam Azzam and Mohannad Orabi. Syrian artist Bahjat's artistic personality results in bold yet intimate gestural portraiture in strong colours, recalling an earlier Expressionist era of painting. She creates visual tension by oscillating between warm and cool hues within busy compositions that seem to want to break free of the canvases. The exhibition is supplemented through opening her studio space. Here the public can witness her process, research and incomplete works, offering rare, direct insight into the mind of the artist.

Ayyam Gallery
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 43236242
www.ayyamgallery.com



DUBAI

15 september–30 october
ayyam gallery difc
'family portrait'
mohannad orabi

The eyes give it away in the monochromatic portraiture of Syrian artist Orabi's practice. Intrigued by the consciousness of youth. He explores the psychology of memory and how various factors affect the retrospective perception of one's formative years. Adding this more psychological approach to his characteristic use of traditional family-based imagery, he implements universal symbols that also stem from family-oriented objects. Somewhat melancholically, the figures gaze unrelentlessly outwards with history-filled eyes.

Ayyam Gallery
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 43236242
www.ayyamgallery.com



DUBAI

14 september–4 november
green art gallery
'after the deluge'
elias zayat

Zayat, a seminal figure in Syria's Contemporary art development, draws heavily from his art restoration and history background. This exhibition visits the ancient city of Palmyra, known for co-existing alongside, instead of under, the Roman empire. Exploring varying chronological ancient accounts of a devastating flood, he uses this as a metaphor for rebuilding a new world after the previous one has been destroyed. The appropriately dramatic palettes are hot in hue, paintstrokes are mottled and expressive, and lively anthropomorphic figures dance in states of transition.

Green Art Gallery
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 43469305
www.gagallery.com



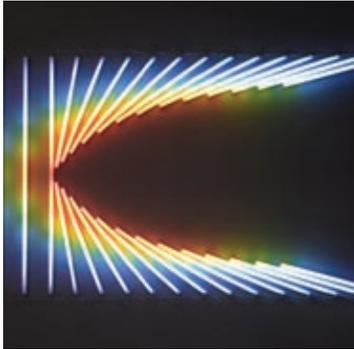
DUBAI

15 september–5 november
lawrie shabibi
'immortals'
adel abidin

Iraqi artist Abidin deviates from his usual video installations and returns to painting after a 12-year pause. Showcasing four large oil paintings, he is not entirely able to break away from his recent practice and includes a hand-painted site-specific installation. With imagery from Arab mass-media, Abidin explores their importance of the reach of political ideologies and their effects on shifting geographical boundaries. Without losing his tongue-in-cheek tone, he encourages viewers to look past the convincing method in which the news is expressed and to think critically.

Lawrie Shabibi
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 4 3469906
www.lawrieshabibi.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *ART POSTER*

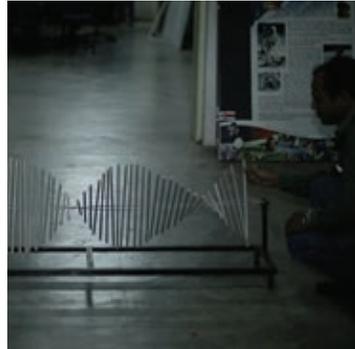


DUBAI

14 september–7 november
carbon 12
'double rainbow all the way'
james clar

In 2010, the Internet went mad with a YouTube video uploaded by a man expressing unparalleled joy at the sight of a double rainbow at a national park in the USA. This fragment of pop culture serves as the inspiration for American artist Clar's latest exhibition. Deconstructing the fundamentals of the clip, he questions the effects of technology on our consciousness and perceived realities, and the increasingly thin line between the two. Social media, the Internet and technology are key components in the conceptual play of the exhibition, featuring bold light installations that encompass humour and wonderment.

Carbon 12
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 43406016
www.carbon12dubai.com



DUBAI

26 september–7 november
grey noise
'when all seemingly stands still'

Curated by Amanda Abi Khalil, this exhibition embodies the lacuna: the empty space between. Focusing on realities unravelled through political, personal and natural narratives, video works and images slow these narratives down to the point that everything seems to find itself at a standstill, waiting and observing a spectacle of obscure nothingness. Gathering artists connected to photography and painting, the artworks explore the innate poetry of the banal juxtaposed against the inevitable restlessness of anticipation in an exhibition that challenges the viewer's experience of viewing and time.

Grey Noise
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 43790764
www.greynoise.org



ISTANBUL

until 24 october
galeri zilberman
'minor heroisms'

This group exhibition presents a series of commissioned artworks by multi-disciplinary international artists exploring Islamic miniature art. Their interpretations are diverse – to the extent that even 'miniature' becomes relative. The traditional art form is revisited with a contemporary socio-political twist by illustrating lost heroic acts within daily struggles, opposing the long-adhered to practice and belief that the only worthwhile depictions were of the elite in the context of epic battles or mythological stories. Curated by Nat Muller, visitors should watch out for artists such as Pakistani Imran Qureshi, Turkish Burçak Bingöl and Iraqi Hayv Kahraman, among others.

Galeri Zilberman
Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 2122511214
www.galerizilberman.com



ISTANBUL

1 september–31 october
galeri nev istanbul
'natura'
tayfun erdoğan

These large-scale paintings of rusted-looking stains by Turkish artist Erdoğan are a visual feast composed of layered botanic elements. The ensuing chemical reactions as they rest together on the canvas turns Erdoğan into an alchemist. This meticulous process displays patience, an organically experimental approach to creation and an appreciation of the mystery of natural elements, and their ephemeral beauty and lifespan, all manipulated by creative liberty. Visitors will also have access to behind-the-scenes aspects of the artist's practice to further understand the technique and philosophy of his unique oeuvre.

Galeri Nev Istanbul
Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 2122521525
www.galerinevistanbul.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *ART POSTER*



ISTANBUL

5 september–1 november
various locations
'saltwater: a theory of thought forms'

The two-month-long 14th edition of the Istanbul Biennial has the theme this year of *Saltwater: A Theory of Thought Forms*. Showcasing works by over 80 participants, the biennial has publicly announced its goal: to look for where to draw the line, to draw upon, and to draw out, through non-linear means, the connection between research in art and other knowledge areas. Bringing together a plethora of international artists of varying specialties, it provides an ideal opportunity to catch some of 2015's noteworthy works, such as Egyptian Wael Shawky's final episode from his *Crusades and Other Stories* video trilogy.

Istanbul Biennial
Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 2123340700
www.bienal.iksv.org



ISTANBUL

until 14 november
rampa gallery
'democratic luxury'
hüseyin bahri alptekin

The perils of a consumer society and its results, popularly coined as 'global junk', that is, plastics from mass production, constitute the retrospective of the late Alptekin. The Turkish artist's exhibited works span two decades, featuring photography, installation and video pieces, substantiating a practice revolving around the contemplation of the effects of plastic luxury that constantly enter our lives. Viewers are faced with objects as luxuries arbitrarily deemed necessary and valuable. With beauty contrasted against vulgarity, viewers are left with empty promises of attaining the best.

Rampa Gallery
Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 2123270800
www.rampaistanbul.com



KRAKOW

until 27 september
national museum at krakow
'ottomania: the ottoman orient in renaissance art'

In collaboration with the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Brussels), this impressive exhibition's most striking elements are masterfully painted artworks of Renaissance-artistry referencing a newer world. Over 150 works from collections of major international museums come together to represent the flourishing civilisations of both Europe and the Ottoman Empire. While theoretically opposing each other for centuries, there is a shared intrigue and obsession with the Ottoman Empire. Featuring artists such as Gentile Bellini, Hans Memling, Jacopo Tintoretto and Paolo Veronese, seen through the eyes of artists in an engaging memento of two powerful ancient worlds.

National Museum at Krakow
Krakow, Poland
Tel: +48 124335500
www.mnk.pl



LONDON

9–27 september
the mosaic rooms
'tracing landscapes'
dia batal

Notions of home, ideas of belonging and the dilemma of lost identity inhabit designer Batal's work as three-dimensional mixed-media reinterpretations of Arabic calligraphy, architectural forms and objects. The Beirut-born artist's representation of global issues, such as migration, spans the struggles of Palestinian children and the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish to the use of compasses. She incorporates a variety of media to manifest the problems of displacement, which she reveals is partially fuelled by a desire to produce an educational resource or archive for her own child, who is growing up outside her maternal homeland.

The Mosaic Rooms
London, UK
Tel: +44 2073709990
www.mosaicrooms.org

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *ART POSTER*



LONDON

until 8 november
the british museum
*'from the figurative to the abstract:
modern art from the arab world'*

This group exhibition presents prominent Contemporary Middle Eastern artists such as Shafic Abboud (Lebanon), Michel Basbous (Lebanon), Safeya Binzagr (KSA), Sadik Kwaish Alfraji (Iraq), Tahar M'Guedmini (Tunisia), Marwan (Syria), Nabil Nahas (Lebanon) and Rafa Al Nasiri (Iraq). The works cover 60 years from North Africa to the eastern periphery of the Middle East and evoke a sense of nostalgia through the reiteration of the numerous influences and experiences within each of the artists' lives. Viewers can meander through a collection of rich histories, from traces of apprenticeship under European artists to evidence of Far East-acquired techniques.

The British Museum
London, UK
Tel: +44 2073238299
www.britishmuseum.org

LONDON

until 15 november
selma feriani gallery
'derivable sculptures'
ziad antar

Seven peculiar concrete sculptures emerged from Lebanese artist Ziad Antar after visiting and photographing the monumental sculptures by Joan Miró, Henry Moore and César Baldaccini, among others, on Jeddah's corniche. Removed physically and conceptually from their initial context, these abstracted forms are the original sculptures, but with protective coverings over them to avoid damage from the surrounding city renovations. Delving into the development of a city in tandem with the creation and maintenance of public art, Antar comments on the role they play in metropolitan transformations.

Selma Feriani Gallery
London, UK
Tel: +44 2074021162
www.selmaferiani.com

MADRID

12 september–25 november
casa árabe
'i spy with my little eye'

The travelling exhibition contentiously gathers 13 emerging artists with ties to Beirut yet no direct experience of the civil wars. From photographs to found objects, their stories are presented with the intention of provoking emotions related to people abandoning their geographical homes to create new ones elsewhere. The title acts as a playfully black-humoured, albeit inevitably sobering, reference to attempts to reassemble fragments to make sense of a displaced belonging. See *Canvas's* review of the London leg of its journey on page 68.

Casa Árabe
Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 915633066
www.casaarabe.es

MARRAKECH

until 15 october
galeri 127
achraf baznani

Moroccan photographer Baznani's first exhibition presents his quirky Surrealist style. His vision manifests itself in various humorous depictions of himself in miniature form, made even more bizarre by the situations in which he places his mini-self. By interacting with normal-sized everyday objects, the absurdity of the contrasting proportions sparks existential questions mostly pertaining to "what if I were that small?" and the naturally ensuing challenges. Highly imaginative and full of wonder, this is a lighthearted exhibition that is accessible to all and reminds the viewer that art doesn't have to be serious.

Galerie 127
Marrakech, Morocco
Tel: +212 5244326
www.galerienathalielocatelli.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *ART POSTER*



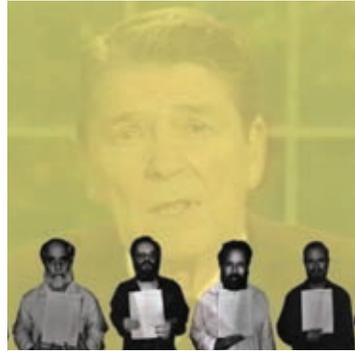
MICHIGAN

until 4 october

arab american national museum
'ten: the exhibition'

The Arab American National Museum in Michigan celebrates a decade this year and to mark this special occasion, the museum showcases a group exhibition of artworks by 10 artists from across the diaspora. The theme fulfils the notion that Contemporary art has the ability to serve a purpose, particularly at a time when social and political issues are especially contentious and urgent. It explores how identity, migration and representation have long been a struggle for Arab communities. Curated by Ayyam Gallery's artistic director Maymanah Farhat, watch for artists such as Sama Alshaibi and Nazar Yahya, among others.

Arab American National Museum
Michigan, USA
Tel: +1 3135822266
www.arabamericanmuseum.org



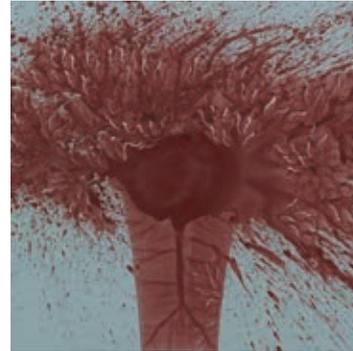
NEW YORK

12 october–31 january 2016

museum of modern art
walid raad

Informed by his upbringing during the Lebanese civil war, Raad explores the construction of history and the authenticity, or lack thereof, of the resulting photographic and video documentation available to the public. The role of memory and narrative within archives related to conflict brings questions of genuineness versus the imagined to the discourse surrounding histories from the Arab world. The first comprehensive survey of Raad's practice, these themes are focused in the exhibited projects, *The Atlas Group* (1989–2004) and *Scratching on things I could disavow* (2007–ongoing).

Museum of Modern Art
New York, USA
Tel: +1 2127089400
www.moma.org



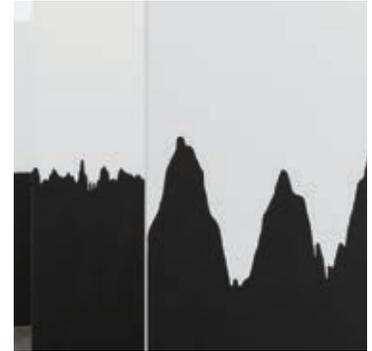
PARIS

12 september–17 october

galerie thaddaeus ropac
'idea of landscape'
imran qureshi

The red ground looks blood-splattered from a distance. This is a common mistake visitors make at Qureshi's exhibitions. His use of a dried-blood shade of red paint leads the mind away from what in actuality are delicate floral motifs. Serving as metaphorical life and death in the context of the violence in the world today, most of the Pakistani artist's work implements a red hue to drive home this contrast, appearing in large-scale violent gestural splatterings that become more complex and gentle the closer the viewer steps. Expounding upon this theme, Qureshi incorporates paintings, works on paper and video.

Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac
Paris, France
Tel: +33 142729900
www.ropac.net



SANKT GALLEN

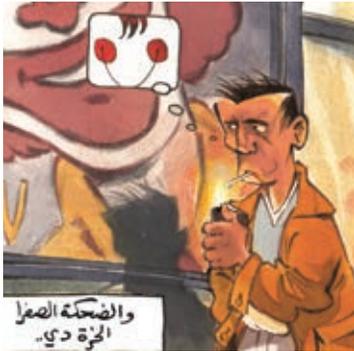
until 13 september

kunst halle sankt gallen
'taqiyya - the right to duplicity'
lawrence abu hamdan

An extension of his parallel exhibition, *The All Hearing*, this marks Abu Hamdan's largest solo show. He explores the politics of listening, merging audiovisual installations, Islamic sermons, cassette tape audio, forensic audio analysis... If it has to do with sound, Abu Hamdan has it. This exhibition examines the voice as a key political instrument as it is the vehicle for truth or lies. With a new two-channel video installation as the centre piece, he uses the concept of *Taqiyya* (a theological, legal, linguistic and philosophical concept) which he summarises succinctly as, "the right to duplicity".

Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen
Sankt Gallen, Switzerland
Tel: +41 712221014
www.kunsthallesanktgallen.ch

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ART POSTER



SEGOVIA

19 september–19 october
various locations
'reed pens and vignette: arab comic art in motion'

While there has been a boost in Arab comic-style production in recent years, only a handful of Middle Eastern venues cater to this art form, even though the public encouragement is ever present. As artists take to the Internet to publish their narrative-based visual creations, a strong Arab-comic community has developed and it is now being recognised. The 2015 Hay Festival of Literature and Arts has Casa Árabe presenting an exhibition curated by Pedro Rojo of works by comic artists and graphic novelists that span the Maghreb to the Levant. Anticipate artists D Habchy, M Shenawy, Skefskef, and Ismail Amin, among others.

*Hay Festival of Literature and Arts
Segovia, Spain
Tel: +34 915779506
www.hayfestival.com/segovia*



SHARJAH

1 august–5 september
sharjah art foundation
'vantage point 3'

A theme of still life photography marks the third edition of the photographic exhibition project from the Sharjah Art Foundation. Open to all nationalities with the sole condition that they reside in the UAE, images that capture the essence of Sharjah are presented from familiar names on the scene, such as Emirati artist Ammar Al-Attar, down to amateur artists such as a nine-year-old girl. Exploring the richness of subjective interpretations, there is beauty to be found within the imagery and accompanying stories, even in an apparently haphazard pile of abandoned car parts which, when framed, create abstract patterns.

*SAF Art Spaces
Sharjah, UAE
Tel: +971 65444113
www.sharjahart.org*



SICILY

until 31 october
la veronica arte contemporanea
'the all hearing'
lawrence abu hamdan

Part of a collection of five solo exhibitions, this segment cacophonously demonstrates the level of noise in daily Cairo life, considered largely as noise pollution leading to hearing damage. The video work captures this topic as the theme of a Friday sermon following Jordanian Abu Hamdan's suggestion of it to two Cairene sheikhs. Part documentation and part commentary on the inability of even the Egyptian military to enforce a successful crackdown on the barrage of noise from mosques, this public sermon was delivered alongside the government-controlled public sermons recounting Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) Ascension.

*La Veronica Arte Contemporanea
Sicily, Italy
Tel: +39 9321873100
www.gallerialaveronica.it*



ST PETERSBURG

until 27 september
state hermitage museum
'first retrospective exhibition of zaha hadid'

Pritzker Prize winner Hadid's first mid-career retrospective at the prestigious State Hermitage Museum has been running since the start of the summer and has only a few more weeks to go. Her fondness for Suprematism, paired with a number of her works being constructed in Russia, has garnered the Iraqi-British architect much Russian affection. Hadid's featured works explore the Russian Avant-garde movement and its relationship to architecture, urbanism, landscapes and geology, showcasing over 300 works including paintings, drawing models and design objects spanning 40 years of her practice.

*State Hermitage Museum
St Petersburg, Russia
Tel: +7 8127109079
www.heritagemuseum.omrg*