

ArtBooth

ABU DHABI



SUMMERED

A GROUP SHOW

FEATURED ARTISTS

SORAYA ABU NABA'A, GILBERT
HALABY, ASAAD ARABI, JAMES
MATHEWS, HABUBA FARAH,
NOOR BAHJAT, BRUNO SFEIR,
OUSSAMA DIAB, LAYAL KHAWLY,
ELIAS NAMAN

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FARAH, NOOR BAHJAT, BRUNO SFEIR,
OUSSAMA DIAB, LAYAL KHAWLY, ELIAS NAMAN

21 JULY - 7 SEPTEMBER 2025
ARTBOOTH GALLERY



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SUMMERED

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Artbooth Gallery is pleased to present Summered, a group exhibition taking place in Abu Dhabi that brings together a constellation of artists whose expressive richness spans continents and sensibilities. From July 21 to September 7, 2025, the public is invited to immerse themselves in a universe where summer becomes an inner season, a state of mind, a breath of inspiration that ties together nature, memory, and imagination.

Soraya Abu Naba'a, Gilbert Halaby, Asaad Arabi, James Mathews, Habuba Farah, Noor Bahjat, Bruno Sfeir, Oussama Diab, Layal Khawly, and Elias Naman come into dialogue through works that harmonize contrast, symbolism, vibrant forms, and sculpted silences.

From the dreamlike and meticulous florals of Soraya Abu Naba'a to the introspective paintings of Gilbert Halaby, Seasons Personified reveals, through each work, a fragment of a personal world that opens itself to collective reflection. James Matthews, a visual artist and educator based in Abu Dhabi since 2007, brings to the exhibition a thoughtful visual language shaped by international experience. Asaad Arabi offers lyrical cityscapes where colors dance like suspended musical notes, while Habuba Farah weaves geometric abstraction into a poetic modernity rooted in sound and rhythm.

Noor Bahjat presents surreal and densely narrative self-portraits,

Bruno Sfeir explores interior worlds with refined symbolic depth, and Oussama Diab expresses displacement and memory with gentle irony and cultural references. Layal Khawly, through architectural compositions, seeks unity between art and social engagement. Finally, Elias Naman, the sculptor of silence, reveals raw, pure, and timeless emotion through hand-carved stone.

Summered is more than an ode to the bright light of the season. It is a journey through the inner landscapes of being, an invitation to contemplate the world differently, in a breath suspended between warmth, reflection, and creation.

Together, these artists form a powerful chorus, each voice distinct, yet harmonizing in their shared pursuit: to render visible the unseen layers of the self, of memory, of belonging. Their works transcend aesthetics; they are testaments, heirlooms, and quiet revolutions, each piece a vessel of history, transformation, and vision.

At Artbooth Gallery, we are proud to present Summered as an invitation to encounter art not merely as image, but as inheritance, something to witness, to hold, and perhaps, to carry forward. It is a moment of stillness within movement, a season captured not in temperature, but in feeling. Let these works be the echo of a summer lived in full color, depth, and meaning.

SORAYA ABU NABA'A

B. 1985

Soraya was born in 1985, in Melbourne, Florida in the United States. Her father was a Palestinian, and her mother was a Lebanese woman born in the Dominican Republic. Although Soraya was born in the US, she spent her childhood living in Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic.

Soraya moved to Paris at the age of 18, studied the French language and French Civilization for one year at La Sorbonne University, enrolled for three years at Paris American University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2007. She participated in two summer internships, first for Enrico Navarro Gallery in Paris, and then for Gary Nader Art Gallery in Miami. The following year, she attended a sculpture course at the Accademia di Arti, in Florence, Italy. In 2014, she attended an Intensive Painting Course at Columbia University in New York City. In 2016 she earned her Master's degree in Painting from Royal College of Arts, London.

For Soraya Abu Naba'a, the outer and inner worlds are a single reality, as are the mysteries of the universe and references to nature. She displays a multidimensional "Outburst" that both surprises and confirms to the viewer an outstanding expression of ingenuity, patience, and imagination. Soraya's floral series consists of fantastic landscaping of almost dreamlike figuration meticulously done, which goes as far as a fascinating floral composition.

She has participated in over 40 group exhibitions, 4 biennials, and 20 solo exhibitions in international art galleries such as Gary Nader Art Centre Miami, La Galleria London, and Royal Houses Museum Dominican Republic. Her works are found in private collections around the world in cities ranging from Miami, New York, Santo Domingo, Istanbul, Amman, Geneva, and Toronto among others. Since 2009, she has been working between Santo Domingo and Miami.



Soraya Abu Nabaa
Still Life, 2024
Painted Aluminum
114 X 81 X 53 cm

Soraya Abu Nabaa
Signs of Spring, 2023
Painted Aluminum
114 X 81 X 53 cm



GILBERT HALABY

B. 1979

Gilbert Halaby (b. 1979) is a self-taught Lebanese artist whose creative journey spans the worlds of visual art, fashion, and cultural exploration. Born and raised in Lebanon, Halaby began drawing and painting in early childhood, deeply inspired by the natural beauty of Mount Lebanon. He spent countless hours immersed in the landscape, playing among olive groves and pine forests—natural forms that continue to shape the aesthetic language of his work.

Initially drawn to the artistry of fashion, Halaby studied archaeology at the Lebanese University in Beirut before relocating to Rome—a city that captivated him from the moment of arrival, a true coup de foudre. In 2003, he made the Eternal City his home and opened a jewelry and handbag store near the Pantheon. The success of his creative vision led to the launch of the Maison Halaby brand, which debuted its first women's collection in 2010. In 2016, he opened a boutique at Via di Monserrato 21, specializing in handcrafted leather accessories.

More than just a boutique, the space evolved into a cultural salon—home to Halaby's extensive personal library and a gathering place for artists, intellectuals, and friends. Visitors were equally captivated by the paintings and watercolors he hung on the boutique's walls, many of which sold quickly and sparked growing demand. This response reaffirmed his first love: painting.

Over the past six years, Halaby has committed himself daily to his artistic practice in his studio, just steps away from his boutique, at Via di Monserrato 123. His distinctive, poetic visual style has earned him critical recognition and growing acclaim.

Halaby's work is held in esteemed private and institutional collections, including the Malvina Menegaz Foundation (Castelbasso, Italy), Kinda Foundation (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), and the Lebanese Presidential Contemporary Collection.

Gilbert Halaby
Autumn, Rilke, 2024
 Oil on Canvas
 100 cm Diameter



Gilbert Halaby
Winter, Saint Sebastian, 2024
 Oil on Canvas
 100 cm Diameter





ASAAD ARABI

B. 1941

Influenced by his memories of Syria, artist, theorist and critic Asaad Arabi has continuously reinvented his painting style in an attempt to depict the rhythms and sensuality of figures and cityscapes. Oscillating between representation and abstraction and sometimes bridging them together, the colour fields and forms that make up his canvases have a lyrical quality to them. In fact, music as an inspiration or even as a subject has a recurring role in his work, for he has “always felt that there is an association between music and form. When I listen to music, I can imagine certain forms taking shape, and when I look at the city, I can feel the musicality in it.”

Born in Damascus, Asaad Arabi (1941) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Damascus before moving to Paris, France in 1975, where he received a diploma in painting from the Higher Institute of Fine Arts, and subsequently earned a PhD in Aesthetics from the Sorbonne University.

In different series throughout his lengthy career, Arabi skillfully uses composition and colour in harmony, creating a unity between all the pieces. In the defined colour blocks of his abstract works, viewers gradually discern figures, architectural forms and patterns, while in his figurative works bodies are painted in hues that merge with their environments.

Arabi's works are part of both public and private collections, including prestigious institutions such as the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, the National Museum in New Delhi, the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah. Additionally, two of his pieces were auctioned at Christie's in 2008 and 2009.

Asaad Arabi
Bombing of Old Cities, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas
195 X 140 cm





Asaad Arabi
Gate of Dreams, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas
150 X 150 cm

JAMES MATHEWS

B. 1974

James Matthews is a visual artist and art educator based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where he has lived and worked since 2007.

He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, and a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) certification from the University of Derby, UK.

Matthews has exhibited his work internationally, with pieces held in both public and private collections. Notable collections include the Bassam Freiha Art Foundation in Abu Dhabi, the Al Qassim Collection in Saudi Arabia, the UAE Ministry of Culture in Abu Dhabi, and the St. Regis Hotel Collection.

James Mathews
Siyer i Nebi IV, 2020
Acrylic gesso on canvas
stretched over wooden structure
63 X 73 X 19 cm





James Mathews
Siyer i Nebi II, 2020
Acrylic gesso on canvas
stretched over wooden structure
63 X 73 X 19 cm

HABUBA FARAH

B. 1931

Over the course of a lifelong creative journey, Habuba Farah (b. 1931) has established a distinctive artistic identity through dynamic abstract compositions that explore color, geometry, and movement. Her style, often described as "Lyrical Geometric Abstraction," draws a compelling parallel between her visual language and a sonic universe. Through her pioneering work, Farah has made a significant contribution to the history of Brazilian art.

"I identify as a woman and artist of Arab descent," she once stated, reflecting on how her artistic practice embodies both her Brazilian upbringing and Arab heritage. Born into a family of Lebanese immigrants who settled in Brazil in the early 20th century, Farah developed her artistic vision through exposure to São Paulo's vibrant art scene. In the 1950s, she frequently visited the studio of Samson Flexor, a key figure in geometric abstraction, whose influence profoundly shaped the early stages of her career.

Spanning more than 70 years, Farah's career has seen her participate in numerous art salons across Brazil, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan. In 2019, her lithographic prints were featured in *Enquanto Estou Viva*, a poetry book by Miriam Portela. In 2021, her work was exhibited in *Acervo em Transformação: Doações Recentes* at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), and her pieces are now part of prestigious collections, including the Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi.

Farah's work was showcased for the first time within the context of the Arab world at *Kawkaba: Highlights from the Barjeel Art Foundation*, an exhibition held at Christie's London in 2023. At over 90 years old, she continues to create works that synthesize line and light, movement and atmosphere, poetry and geometric form. In 2023, Gomide&Cohosted Habuba Farah, her first solo exhibition in over three decades. The occasion also marked the launch of her first monograph, published in partnership with Galeria MaPa.

Habuba Farah

Untitled, 1987

Oil on Canvas

69 X 69 cm



Habuba Farah

Untitled, 1987

Oil on Canvas

69 X 69 cm

NOOR BAHJAT

B. 1991

Noor Bahjat (b. 1991, Damascus, Syria) is an artist currently based in the United Arab Emirates. She graduated with honors from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus, where she honed her artistic vision and began exploring the profound themes of displacement, identity, memory, and belonging.

Bahjat's work delves into the complexities of cultural heritage, migration, and the tensions between tradition and adaptation. Through her art, she explores the emotional landscape of living between worlds—capturing the quiet echoes of lost cities, fractured histories, and the universal longing for home. Her paintings evoke a sense of resilience, highlighting the shared human experience of navigating both light and shadow.

With a distinctive approach to texture and contrast, Bahjat's canvases reveal intricate layers that invite viewers into a contemplative dialogue about the interplay of time, place, and identity. Her vibrant use of materials and dynamic compositions create an immersive visual language that reflects the fluidity of memory and the search for belonging.

Her works are housed in prominent public and private collections across the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Bahjat has exhibited widely, with solo and group exhibitions at prestigious venues including Ayyam Gallery (Dubai, 2019, 2015), Atassi Foundation (Dubai, 2019), Ward Gallery (Dubai, 2019), Galerie Stephanie (Manila, 2018, 2016), Art Space DA: MDAA (Seoul, 2017), Maraya Art Centre (Sharjah, 2017), and Gli Acrobati Gallery (Turin, 2017). Noor Bahjat is a recipient of the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation Art Residency 2025.



Noor Bahjat
Folded Horizon, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
90 X 90 cm

Noor Bahjat
Vertigo Skyline, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
90 X 90 cm



BRUNO SFEIR

B. 1970

Bruno Sfeir was born in Uruguay. He studied under distinguished masters trained in the prestigious Torres Garcia Workshop. He attended the National School of Fine Arts and the Montevideo Printmaking Club. His international education includes training at the Van Der Kelen Art School in Brussels and the Barcelona Academy of Art.

In his work, intuition guides movement, revealing a unique iconography that resists quick interpretations. His art is a deeply introspective practice, unfolding through an ongoing inner journey.

In 2000, Sfeir traveled for the first time to Lebanon. This encounter with the land of his heritage awakened in him a profound interest in ancient cultures of teaching and spirituality. In 2002, he chose to settle there, and it was the experience of living in Lebanon—with its history, symbolism, and energy—that became a powerful catalyst for his creativity. Later, his journey took him to Kuwait, Egypt, and Morocco. These places became true turning points in his life: landscapes that not only inspired him but also ignited his inner flame.

Since then, his work has been devoted to that intimate, poetic universe, allowing him to develop a distinctive visual language rich in symbolism and mystery. His paintings have been exhibited in an impressive range of venues, from the Museum of the Gaucho in Montevideo, the Renato Russo Institute in Brasília, and the Borges Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, to the Cervantes Institute in Beirut and UNESCO in Paris. Each piece he creates reflects both what we see and “something more”: a transformative dimension where contemplation becomes a means of alchemy. That “something more” is central to his artistic search—the need to transmute experience into a unique, inner world, shared through the act of creation.

He currently lives in Spain, where he continues his prolific artistic production, building bridges between cultures through his work.

Bruno Sfeir

Surreal Countryside Scene, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

149 X 203 cm





Bruno Sfeir
Journey Through the Countryside II, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas
94 X 108 cm

OUSSAMA DIAB

B. 1977

The work of Palestinian-Syrian-Dutch artist Oussama Diab (Damascus, 1977) focuses on the theme of humanity. The search for humanity, through experiences of suffering, loss and war, is a constant element in his work. Keeping hope alive proves to be crucial in this regard.

Since completing art school at Damascus University, Oussama Diab has been steadily building a substantial body of work. His artistry initially developed in the Middle East, mainly in Syria and Lebanon. Later, after fleeing to Europe in 2015, mainly in the Netherlands.

His paintings and drawings have been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Oussama Diab lives and works in Nijmegen. His work includes paintings and drawings in a wide variety of formats, characterised by a distinctive visual language with his own signature.

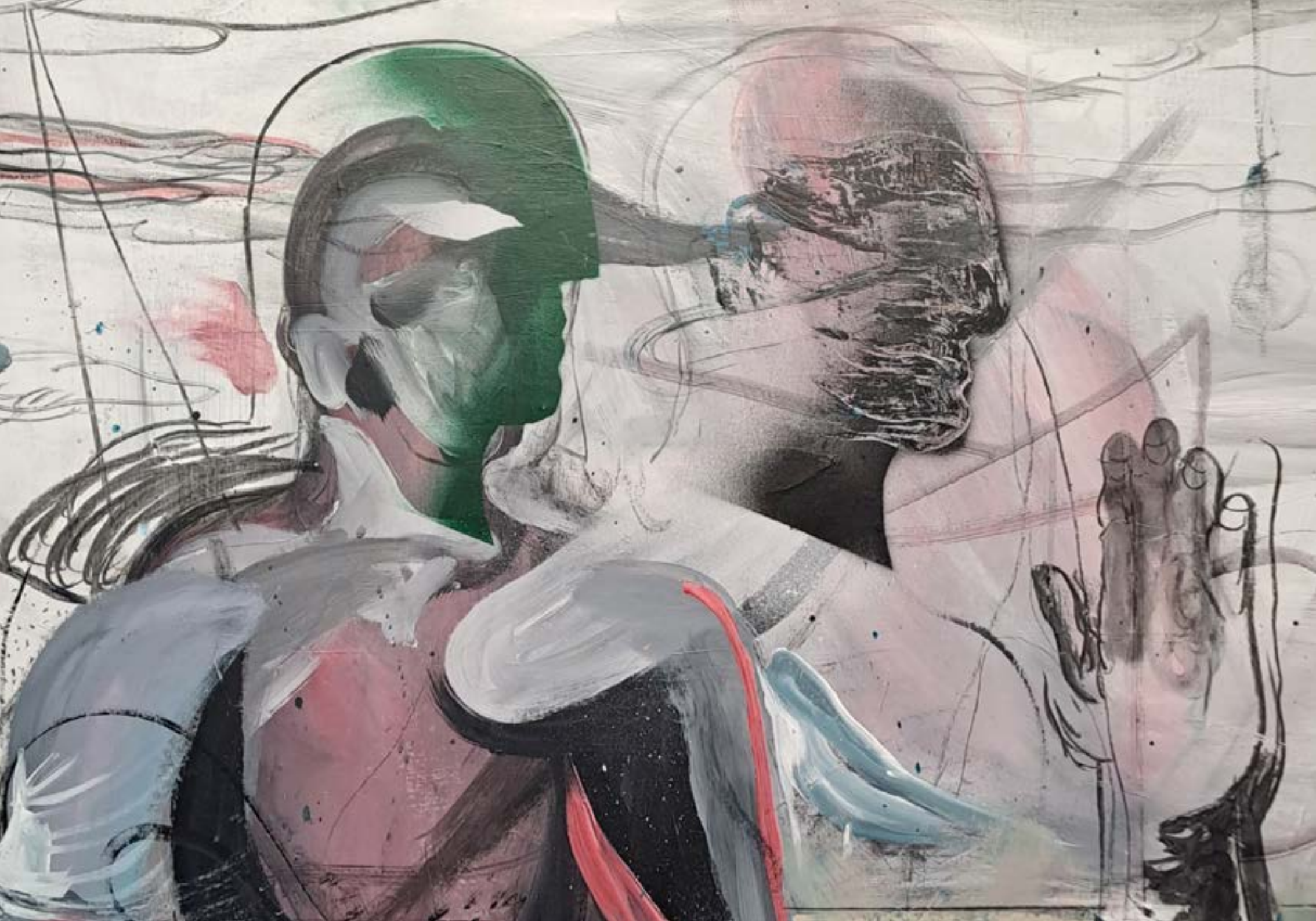
Recurring themes in his work include the portrait and the tableau vivant. Diab has featured in group exhibitions throughout the region and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Shabbab Young Artists exhibition in Syria. Solo shows include Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2012); Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2010-11); Ayyam Gallery Dubai (2010); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2009), Artbooth gallery (2024).



Ousamma Diab
On the Way, 2022
 Mixed Media on Canvas
 100 X 100 cm

Ousamma Diab
Man and Shadow, 2022
 Mixed Media on Canvas
 100 X 100 cm





LAYAL KHAWLY

Layal Khawly is an award-winning Visual Artist born in the capital of Lebanon, Beirut. Since she was a child, Layal had stars in her eyes for a universe full of unseen beauty and was already considered gifted and recognized for her unique drawings and paintings.

Later in life, Layal studied Interior Architecture and obtained a Master's degree with distinction in Visual Arts by the Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA) in 2014 to pursue her lifelong passion. Layal didn't just want to be an artist but rather inspire others through her hidden messages in her art. In 2016, Layal was selected to represent her country at the National Museum of Art in Shanghai by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. One year later, she was appointed as an Art Facilitator with UNESCO Beirut's project "Shared World's Heritage Values for Common Grounds:" an artistic approach with refugees in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Lebanon. This event was followed by an exhibition at the World Bank's Hall entrance in Washington DC and participating in Expo Dubai 2020. By the year 2021, the country of Lebanon selected Layal as a main representative NGO ambassador for Lebanon of Tomorrow which main objective is to provide economic, financial, moral support and assistance in justice, equality and unity.

Today, one of Layal's most famous paintings is Lebanon's evergreen cedars tree hanging at the presidential palace of Lebanon. According to Layal, Architecture and Art combined have a unique recreational appeal by the use of structure, colour and self-expression that enabled her to see new perspectives in the world when none existent and thus bringing to life her first gallery series Alone Not Lonely.



Layal Khawly
Untitled, 2023
Oil and Acrylic Paint on Linen
155 X 155 cm

ELIAS NAMAN

B. 1980

Elias Naman is an Italian-Syrian sculptor renowned for his mastery of direct carving, an intuitive technique that allows the natural properties of marble to shape his creative process. Without preparatory sketches or machinery, Naman sculpts by hand, forging a deep, unfiltered dialogue between artist and stone. His work explores themes of identity, spirituality, and the human condition, capturing fleeting emotions in enduring materials.

A graduate of the University of Fine Arts in Damascus, Naman further refined his craft at the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, where he specialised in Sacred Art and Marble Sculpture. His sculptures have been exhibited internationally, from Italy, France, and Switzerland to Lebanon, Norway, and the Vatican. His works are featured in prominent galleries, private collections, and public installations, including the Syriac Catholic Church in Rome and the Pontifical Lateran University.

Naman's latest series, Fragments of Humanity, continues his exploration of the soul's imprint on stone, using prestigious marbles such as Black Portoro, Calacatta, and Statuario from Carrara.



Elias Naman
Fragment of Humanity IV, (Front), 2024
 Calacatta marble from Carrara
 60 X 30 x 20 cm

Elias Naman
Fragment of Humanity I, F, 2024
 Black Portoro marble from
 Portovenere (Cinqueterre)
 45 X 35 x 25 cm



ARTBOOTH

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Emerging from over a decade of experience in the art field, Roger El Khoury founded Artbooth Gallery in 2019 with the aim of creating a cross-cultural bridge between artists, audiences, and collectors globally. We consider ourselves to be beyond borders since it is the original concept of Artbooth Gallery where we used to host pop-up exhibitions across the world.

Artbooth opened its first physical gallery space in Abu Dhabi, known as the cultural hub of UAE and pursues its mission through a diverse range of thematic exhibitions. Over the years the gallery has curated numerous solo and collective shows, showcasing artworks spanning various mediums and the gallery actively participates in Art Fairs in order to support both young and well established artists.

Embracing the power of creativity and artistic talent, Artbooth launches its presence in the bustling heart of Seoul, South Korea acclaimed as the rising art hub of Asia. Pioneering as the inaugural Middle Eastern Art Gallery in Asia, Artbooth aspires not only to cultivate a vibrant artistic community but also to spearhead global cultural exchange, aiming to establish itself as a cornerstone in the realm of arts and culture.



CONTACT US

Services include fine art sales consultancy, second market art sales, archiving collections and curating exhibitions.



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연락처

서비스는 미술 작품 판매 컨설팅, 중고 시장 미술 판매, 컬렉션 아카이빙 및 전시물 전시로 이루어져 있습니다.



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