

MEDLEY

Curated by Ehab Ellaban
Adam Henein . Adel Tharwat
Armen Agop . Ahmed El Shaer . Ahmed Kassim
Ayman Elsemary . Ayman Lotfy . Essam Marouf . Essam Darwish

To commemorate the opening of Gallery Ward's new space at Dubai Design District, we are proud to present *Medley*, a concept developed by renowned curator Ehab Ellaban in 2013. The exhibition features a survey of selected works by nine artists: Adam Henein, Adel Tharwat, Ahmed El Shaer, Ahmed Kassim, Armen Agop, Ayman Elsemary, Ayman Lotfy, Essam Marouf, and Essam Darwish.

Medley continues to celebrate cultures and creativity through showcasing a collection of diverse works by some of the region's most prominent contemporary artists. Although the artists, subjects, media and styles in this exhibition are diverse and eclectic, they are all linked in identifying today's aesthetic. The exhibition hopes to provide viewers with a deeper understanding and a more relevant dialogue around Arab contemporary art.



ESSAM MAROUF

Born in Cairo, Egypt 1958

Lives and works between Cairo and Amsterdam. Essam Marouf completed his bachelor's degree in 1981 from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Helwan University in Cairo where he specialised in mural painting. After his graduation, Marouf spent three years at the Accademia di Bella Arte in Rome continuing his studies.

The artist enjoys both local and international exposure as some of his most recent exhibitions include: 'PAN Amsterdam', Galerie Helga Hofman, Alphen aan de Rijn, NL, 2012; Institute du Monde Arab, Paris, 2008 and 2012; 'Art Paris Abu Dhabi', Art Sawa, 2010; 'Same People.. Same Story' Galerie Helga Hofman, 2011; ME.NA.SA Art Fair, Beirut and Marrakech Art Fair, Ward Art Center, Marrakesh, both in 2011, and Museo Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, 2007. In his hometown, he has held several exhibitions, including; 'Muse' Ofok Gallery, Museum M. Khalil, Cairo, 2011; 'Still Valid', The American University in Cairo, 2011; '100 Years of the Faculty of Fine Arts' and the 11th International Cairo Biennale, 2008.

With strong influences from his experiences in Europe and the Middle East, Marouf's work has been showcased among a number of private, corporate and museum collections, both locally and internationally.

Untitled 23
2012
Acrylic on Linen
196x214 cm



AYMAN LOTFY

Ayman Lotfy is an Egyptian Artist. His dedication to the field has earned him prestigious international positions including Monitor of Fine Art Photography and Middle East Ambassador of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), and judge of many international Photo contests. Lotfy was born in Cairo in 1968. In 1991, he graduated from the Faculty of Arts - Ain Shams University and wasted no time to lead the start of his artistic career. Beginning as a fashion designer, his mere devotion and passion to art and design destined him to become a professional Art Director by 1996 and within a couple of years, he turned to photography aiming to enhance his design work. He found the camera to be the door to the new world of Modern Art Photography and he has not gone without it since.

Lotfy's practice is strongly concerned with people, human emotions, and expressions. With full realization of how hard a job it could be to capture a real photo, that is a photo reveals a real expression and one that he himself as an artist believes in to deliver to his audience, Lotfy takes the challenge, focusing his lens deeper into human souls finding the diversity of human feelings, unraveling their mysteries, and then revealing them to the audience.

Lotfy has transformed his photography work into Experimental Photography. In order to produce his masterpieces, the artist works as a director to a scene where he sets the mood with lighting, colors, music, and letting his

characters free in the environments to write their own scenarios with their feelings. His ambitious journey to communicate more and more of his artistic visions extends beyond combining fine art and photography. Lotfy soon moved to adding video art and performance among his artistic tools and integrate them with his photography works. Among his films is "The Search of Salvation" that he presented at the Venice Biennale in 2010.

Lotfy has 14 Portrait presenting the world's Nations in Cairo Airport terminal 3, and 2 panoramas in New African Union Building in Ethiopia.

With his work participating in many international exhibitions in Italy, Spain, Austria, Portugal, USA, Nepal & China, Lotfy has succeeded in congregating a good collection of international as well as local awards.

The most recent of which include The Grand Photography Master Award China Contemporary International Photography Biennale 2008, The Golden Medal of Excellence in Experimental Photography Austria 2010, Best Photography Award Photo Asia Biennale 2010, Pinhole Award china international photography Biennale 2012, Honorary Fellow ICS-HON.F.ICCS from The Image Colleague Society in the USA in 2013 and Fellow FMIPP from Malta International Professional Photographers.

Covered
2012
Photography
120x120cm



AYMAN ELSEMARY

Born in Kafr Shokr-Kalubia, Egypt, 1965
Lives and works between Cairo and Kalubia, Egypt.

Ayman El Semaary completed his MA in painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo in 1995, and he achieved a PhD in art education at his Alma Mater in 2001.

From 1995 onwards, El Semaary regularly exhibited his work between Cairo and Alexandria. On the international arena, he participated in exhibitions representing contemporary Egyptian art in a number of countries such as China in 2002, Algeria in 2005, the Czech Republic in 2006 and Germany in 2007. The same year in 2007, he represented Egypt at the Venice Biennale. Most recently, El Semaary participated in Photofest Houston in 2013 and Caravan Art Festival, London in 2013. Amongst the accolades he has achieved throughout his career are Grand Prize, the 7th Youth Salon, Cairo in 1995; Grand Prize, International Union for Plastic Arts Critiques (AIKA), in 1997; Jury Prize, 10th Youth Salon, Cairo in 1998; Best Partition Prize, International Dubrovnik Biennial, Croatia, 1999 and the Honor Prize and Bronze Medal at the Alexandria Biennial, Egypt, 2003.

Born and raised in the Egyptian countryside, El Semaary's rural background has provided him with a rich source of inspiration, the effect of which is almost tangible in his oeuvre as his works often echo the texture and palette of the walls of rural buildings that formed a backdrop to his upbringing. His interest in alternative

materials and non-conventional techniques has steered his practice from the onset of his career as a multidisciplinary artist, moreover, it allows him to freely move between painting, using mixed media, sculpture, installations and at times video and photography in order to successfully render the subject at hand. El Semaary has been working as a Professor of visual arts at the American University in Cairo since 2004.



The Journey 11
2012
Mixed Media on Reclaimed Wood
120x120cm

AHMED EL SHAER

Born in Egypt (1981), El Shaer is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice spans the mediums of installation, photography, sound and video, with a particular interest in digital technologies. His videos combine Machinima, stock footage, 3D animation and experimental soundscapes. His work has been highlighted in numerous exhibitions and festivals, among which: "Experiments in Arab Cinema" at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada in 2013 and Rochester University in New York, USA in 2014. "Long Saturday" during the program; "Window to the orient - Cairo" at Bündner Kunstmuseum, Chur, Switzerland in 2013. "Wavy Banner" exhibition and International symposium (ET4U) in Denmark in 2013. "Emotional Intelligence Artificial", Open LAB Egypt Group for interactive arts, Cairo, Egypt, in Cooperation with Kazoosh Group in Dresden, Germany in 2013. "Back to Square", Group Exhibition, The Lopez Memorial Museum, Manila, Philippines in 2013. "Disconnect" in Cairo Documenta, the Town House Gallery, Cairo, Egypt In 2012. Bamako Biennale, Bamako National Museum, Bamako, Mali in 2011. He is the recipient of numerous awards and has participated in several residency programs, such as Art Omi Artist-in-Residence New York, USA, the Pro Helvetia Artist-in-Residence cycle (Zurich, Switzerland, 2009) and the Summer Academy of Fine Arts (Salzburg, Austria, 2006 and 2007). In to 2015, he was one of 3 Egyptian artists participating in "INTHEEYEOFTHETHUNDERSTORM"

an Official Collateral Event at Venice Biennale 2015.

Fairous
2015
Digital Print on Archival Paper
90x60cm



ESSAM DARWISH

Born in Cairo, Egypt 1970

Lives and works in Cairo, Egypt.

Essam Darwish completed his formal education by acquiring a Ph. D. in sculpture from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University in Egypt.

His more recent exhibitions include the 'Egyptian Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition', 2004 and 2007 in Serbia and Yemen Respectively; 'Faces of Egypt', Alexandria Library, 2006, and an exhibition on Egyptian noble prize winner laureate Naguib Mahfouz, Alexandria Library, 2011. Darwish has participated in the Third and Fourth Beijing International Biennale in 2008 and 2010 respectively.

Many of Darwish's sculptures stand in public arenas worldwide. Commissioned by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, 2003, a granite statue of Venus grace the facade of Edfu University in Edfu, Aswan; a marble and stainless steel creation named 'Together', for which he received second prize in the Emaar International Symposium Dubai, UAE, 2004, 'The Philosopher', a marble statue erected at the Alexandria Library, Egypt, 2006 and 'The Olive Tree' at the Qanrato Venerato stadium, Greece in 2011.

Darwish's works are exhibited in the National Museum NOMAC, China, the Modern Art Museum in Cairo, Egypt, the Open Museum, Aswan and the Alexandria Library, Alexandria, Egypt. In addition to being a full time artist, Darwish works as a Professor of Sculpture at the Faculty of Art Education at Helwan University in Cairo.



Torso
2010
Bronze
30x5x28cm

ARMEN AGOP

Born in Cairo, Egypt 1969

Lives and works in Pietrasanta, Italy

As part of his training, Armen Agop apprenticed at the painter Simon Shahrighian's studio for five years prior to graduating with a degree in sculpture from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University in Egypt in 1992.

In 1998, a few years after graduation, Agop received the Sculpture Prize at the Autumn Salon, Cairo. Later in 2000, he was awarded the prestigious Prix de Rome, Italy's state award for artistic creativity.

After his move to Italy, Agop's work enjoyed high visibility there, he showed at notable institutions including the National Gallery of Modern Art; The Egyptian Academy, and the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca in Rome; The Centro Culturale L. Russo, Pietrasanta; Arte Fiera, Bologna; the Biennale Internazionale d'Art Contemporanea di Firenze in 2001, where he achieved Second Prize; and the 7th Biennale Internazionale di Scultura della Regione Piemonte in 2010.

Outside of Italy, his work has been featured in 'Scultori della Provincia di Lucca', Florida, 2002; the Toyamura International Sculpture Biennial, Japan in 2003 and 2005; Veksolund Gallery, Denmark between 2006- 2010; Art Sawa Gallery, UAE in 2009; The 4th Beijing International Art Biennial, China in 2010; Art Stage, Singapore in 2011 and '25 Ans de Creativite Arabe', Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris in 2012.

Throughout his international success however, Agop has consistently maintained a presence in the Egyptian Art exhibition circuit, most significantly, his participation in the 11th International Cairo Biennial in 2008.

Agop's monochromatic works delicately executed in smooth, flowing forms, lend them a universal quality, free of the nuances of time and place. The effortless outlines of the sculptures contrast with their immediate and compelling effect on the viewer.



Untitled
2008
Bronze
57x19x12cmh

ADEL THARWAT

Born in 1966 in Cairo, artist Adel Tharwat completed his studies earning his BA with honors in 1990, MA in Art Education in 1996, and Ph D in Art Education in 2001 from Helwan University, where he has also been a professor of Painting and Drawing since 2011. He is a member of the Fine Artists Syndicate and Cairo Atelier of Artists and Writers in Cairo.

Tharwat has been actively involved in the Egyptian Plastic Art Movement since his graduation, exploring various means in determining the philosophical, aesthetical, and intellectual framework of his artistic project. His beginning was at the Youth Salon for Egyptian Artists in which he participated from the third to the tenth session (1991-98) showcasing a number of assemblage and installation artworks. Additionally, he has been taking part in the Egyptian National Exhibition since graduating until today. He also participated in noted international events such as the 6th Cairo International Biennale, the 24th International Biennale of Alexandria, Exhibition of Today's Egyptian Star Artists in Alicante in 2007, and the 9th International Biennial of Youth Artists in Buenos Aires. Tharwat participated in international workshops as well, including the Resident Artist Studio in Rotterdam in 1997, where he received an award from the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), the Federation of Yugoslavs Young Artists workshop in Yugoslavia in 1998, and recently in 2012 Tharwat was nominated to participate in Luxor International Symposium of Painting.

Since 1994, the artist is inspired by ideas and visions about the concepts and visualizations of Egyptian beliefs, translating them into visual artworks and presenting them in over fifteen solo exhibitions all under titles like "Egyptian Beliefs", "On the Margin of the Memory", "From the

Memory of a Popular District", and "Popular Tales" . In his hometown, he showcased his work at El Jazeera Art Center, Cairo Atelier for Artists and Writers, Ebdaa Art Gallery and Elbab Art Gallery in Cairo's Opera House. Outside Egypt, his work was exhibited in (O) in Riyadh and Jeddah Atelier of Art.

most noted of them at the Youth Salon include the first prize in 1995, the grand prize of the International Association of Art Critics in 1996 and 1998. In 1998, he also received the second prize of Autumn Salon. In 2005, he won the second prize in the Competition of Plastic Arts for the Countries' Islamic Solidarity in Saudi Arabia.

Tharwat presented several lectures about the arts and philosophy of art at important cultural events in addition to participating in events with Fine Arts Sector in Egypt as a member in jury committees such as the 35th Egyptian National Exhibition, Calligraphy Exhibition of Saudi Artists, and the Exhibition of Contemporary Saudi Art in 2008. In 2013, he was nominated to be the Commissaire of the 24th Youth Salon.



Egyptian Beliefs
2002
Acrylic on Canvas on Wood
120x180 cm

AHMED KASSIM

Born in Doha, Qatar 1984.
Lives and Works in Cairo, Egypt.

Ahmed Kassim graduated in 2007 from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Helwan University in Cairo. Since moving to Egypt in 2002, he took part in various exhibitions in the country and abroad.

His work was annually featured from the 18th-23rd (2007-2012) Youth Salons, Palace of Arts – Opera House in Cairo, where he remarkably won the Grand Prize for Painting during the last three years.

In 2011, Kassim held his first solo exhibition at Safar Khan Art Gallery, Cairo where he continues to hold a yearly solo exhibition to date. He started showing with Gallery Ward Dubai in 2013 and his work has since been presented at a number of exhibitions including Almarkhiya Gallery in Qatar (2014), 'ArOsts Waves' at Abu Dhabi Art (2014), Beirut Art Fair (2014), Singapore Art Fair (2014), and Art Bahrain (2015). At the same time, Kassim participated in exhibitions in Italy, starting with a collective Egyptian exhibition in Venice during the Biennale (2013), the annual art event of Casa Dei Carraresi Museum in Treviso, and Padua Art Fair, and Made In Art Gallery.



Connectivity
2016
Acrylic on Canvas
220x180cm

MOHAMMED ABOUENAGA

Mohamed Abouelnaga is a multidisciplinary visual artist, art professor, curator and developer. Throughout his colorful career, he created award winning art projects, fulfilled his responsibility towards his community and brought up new generation of young artists with his teaching, workshop and his multitude of practices.

Born in the Egyptian city of Tanta, Abouelnaga graduated with honor in 1983 from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University then received his Master's Degree in 1992. Four years later, he was the first Middle Eastern artist to receive a grant from the Japan Foundation allowing him to travel for six months to be part of a workshop, under the supervision of pioneering Japanese artist Kyoko Ibe, where he incorporated experiences and techniques in the arts of manual paper-making between Washi Japanese paper and Egyptian papyrus. During this period, Abouelnaga also participated in a variety of art and technical workshops and realized a solo exhibition in the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Abouelnaga then returned to Egypt and received his PhD in Philosophy of Art from Alexandria University in 1997. In the following decade, he made several solo shows in Egypt and around the world that varied between painting, video and installation. To name a few, Borusan Kultur Ve Sanat Association, Istanbul, Turkey (1997), Townhouse Gallery, Cairo (2000) and Art Academy, Rome (2000). He was also part of numerous group exhibitions during the same period until nowadays. They include the 23rd Lithuania Triennial for Book Art (2003), Guest of Honor in Festival de Popoli del Mediterraneo, Sicily (2005), Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres, Dakar (2006), What Happens Now?, Art Palace (2007) and most recently in Exile, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Denmark (May, 2009). Abouelnaga also represented Egypt in the Venice Biennial 2002 and received the First Prize of

the Alexandria Biennial in 2001. His recent exhibition also includes: "Exile" at Art Centre SilkeborgBad (Denmark) 2009, "Building Bridges", Art Center, Mexico (2011, "Egyptian Art", Gallery Art Space, Dubai, "African Art Mojo Gallery, Dubai (2013), "Hay Carriers" at Markheya Gallery, Doha (2013), "Soad Hosny", at Duke Gallery London, 2013. As a curator, he created in 2002 the biggest and most successful Artist Book Biennial in the Alexandria Bibliotheca. Entitled "Imagining the Book", this event had international artists from different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities who implied their own visions in this special art practice. In 2009, he was assigned by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture to become the curator of the 25th Alexandria Biennial for Mediterranean Countries that will open December 17, 2009. Two years later, in 2011, he was the curator of Sharjah Children Art Biennial.

From 2005 to 2007, Abouelnaga also held and travelled with a series of workshops entitled "Thinking with Paper" and also participated in other workshops in Switzerland, the University of Jordan, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands and the U.S.

Abouelnaga is currently an assistant professor at the faculty of Specific Education in Cairo University where he teaches painting using non-traditional techniques that integrate different materials with the imaging and printing methods. He also driven to the use of raw environment friendly and recycled material as he believes "it is a way of an aesthetic and a functional re-thinking opening an gateway of seeing objects from new perspectives". He is also supervising several Master's and PhD Degrees.

In addition to his art and academic practices, Abouelnaga is using his multidisciplinary skills in the social development field. In 2002, he founded Elnafeza for Contemporary Art & Development where he trained more than 25 handicapped youngsters in using rice straws, Nile water lilies and bananas

stalks for papermaking.

In 2005, he became a fellow of Ashoka, the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs, which gathers all the intellectuals aiming to reduce poverty around the world. In the same context, Abouelnaga recently participated at the recent conference of TransCultural Exchange that was held in Boston. Right now, Abouelnaga works as a curator at the Qatar Visual Art Center in Katara, Doha.



Archeology of Soul
2002
Cotton Paper, Papyrus, Natural Color,
and Washi
80x80 cm

ADAM HENEIN

Adam Henein (b. 1929, Cairo) is internationally renowned as one of the Arab world's leading sculptors. His work displays strong references to Egypt's Pharaonic past but also reveals Henein's astute talent as a distinctly modern artist—through his use of solid, simple forms and the clean lines of his sculptures. Prominent themes in his work include prayer and enlightenment, motherhood, the bird, ascension, as displayed in his obelisks, and crossing, which is one of the more prevalent themes in his work, expressed through his renderings of ships, boats and ferries. He works in a variety of media including bronze, wood, clay and granite. He is also a painter.

Henein has held numerous critically acclaimed exhibitions, including solo shows at the ASB Gallery, Munich and London, 1988; Egyptian Cultural Center, Paris, 1987; Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, 1983; and the Egyptian Academy, Rome, 1980. He has participated in group shows held in Paris, Naples, Rome, Venice, Alexandria and Cairo.

The artist first realised he wanted to be a sculptor at the age of eight, during a class trip to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. He went on to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cairo, receiving his diploma in 1953. After graduating, he travelled Luxor and Aswan, where he immersed himself in the study of the cities' mineral landscapes.

In 1971, he travelled to Paris to 'learn everything about art' and take part in an exhibition of contemporary Egyptian art at the Galliera Museum. Unexpectedly, he ended up residing in the French capital for twenty-five years, from 1971 to 1996. During this period, he also travelled to Italy, particularly to Petrasanta, where he befriended the caster Mariani. Yet despite his extended sojourn in Europe, Henein never ceased to draw inspiration from his own heritage.

When Henein returned to Egypt, his reputation as an artist

of international recognition and prominence was already established. As a result, Farouk Hosny, Egyptian Minister of Culture, requested that Henein administer the restoration of the Great Sphinx at Giza. He also founded and is the curator of the International Sculpture Symposium, which provides sculptors, from all over the world, with the opportunity to carve the pink or grey granite found in Egypt's ancient quarries.

Although Henein's work evokes a strong attachment to the traditions of Pharaonic Egypt and Arab culture, modernity is central to his artistic vision. Indeed, Henein's vision has been consistent throughout his life's work:

I don't think I've changed; there is an obvious continuity throughout my work... Artistic time has its own measure, and what I am producing now looks a lot like what I was producing then [in the 1950s]. It is an itinerary pursued along a single road, which I took right from the outset, and from which I have never strayed.

Ultimately, Henein is not only representative of the modern arts of the Arab world but the international art world as a whole.



Donkey
1964
Bronze
80x116x31 cmh (7/8)

ABOUT GALLERY WARD

Originating in Cairo, GALLERY WARD was founded in 2010 by two partners; Abdulaziz Al Abdulkader and Yaser Askar with creative direction by established Egyptian curator Ehab Ellaban. Having headed the Cairo Biennale twice as well as being the director of Ofok, a prominent exhibition space at the Mahmoud Khalil Museum in Cairo and the curator of landmark projects such as the Institute du Monde Arabe's "25 Years of Arab Creativity", Ellaban has had his hand on the pulse of the Egyptian art scene for the past decade.

Gallery Ward is committed to introduce, showcase and promote multifaceted and compelling artistic productions from the Middle East both regionally and internationally while ensuring a supportive environment and platform from which works of art from the region, with a focus on Egypt, can assume their due significance on the global arena.

In today's tenuous yet highly dynamic climate, Arab art is witnessing a period of unprecedented attention. By transcending geographical limitations and political boundaries, art from the region is poised to become a key player in the discourse that activates global art production today. With this premise in mind, Gallery Ward aims to play a central role in being a driving force behind the growth and enrichment of art from the Middle East region at large. Furthermore, with the belief that Egyptian art has historically, and in the present day, been an essential agent and plays a galvanizing role in art and culture from the region, Gallery Ward aims to provide a focus on the contemporary Egyptian art scene by introducing and showcasing works by some of the most dynamic Egyptian artists living and working in Egypt and abroad today. Thereby facilitating a more complex and compelling dialogue surrounding Middle Eastern art in general.

NEW DIRECTION

Gallery Ward has dedicated an additional focused space and interest in regional contemporary design. Building on a long experience dealing with art, the gallery is expanding to design through long-term curated projects that blend art and design; for instance through artist-designer collaborations. This new direction invites, recognises, and celebrates all fields and concepts, all the while aiming to push boundaries.

