



# MENAART NOW: EXPLORING TOMORROW'S VISIONARIES

CHARLES KHOURY
HAKIM AL AKEEL
LOUMA RABAH
MAHER MAAOUI
RIBAL MOLAEB
RIYAD NE'MAH
SALAM YOUSSRY

Khawla Art Gallery, Building No. 11, Dubai Design District



hawla Art Gallery is a dynamic and contemporary space where art and creativity come to life. With its mission to "Unveil the Art in You," the gallery is dedicated to making the global art scene more accessible and inclusive. By showcasing the work of both emerging and established artists, with a particular focus on those from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Khawla Art Gallery is a hub for innovative and thought-provoking exhibitions. The gallery's emphasis on artists who draw upon traditional art and culture to create new forms of creative expression highlights its commitment to showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the MENA region. At Khawla Art Gallery, visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the world of art and discover the beauty and diversity of regional perspectives on universal issues. Whether you're an art aficionado or just looking to be inspired, Khawla Art Gallery is the perfect place to explore the art in you.

www.khawlaartgallery.com

### MENAART NOW: EXPLORING TOMORROW'S VISIONARIES

"MENA Art Now: Exploring Tomorrow's Visionaries" emerges as a focal point, pushing beyond the conventional boundaries of contemporary art in the Middle East and North Africa, where Arab artists present diverse contemporary expressions. It accentuates evolving concepts that redefine today's art market. This dynamic platform features established and emerging voices across various art movements, reflecting the richness of the cultural landscape in the MENA region. On the global stage, Arab artists are gaining increasing acclaim, solidifying their transformative impact on the international art scene. This thriving community leaves an indelible mark, etching its legacy in contemporary art history.

## CHARLES KHOURY

Born in 1966, Charles Khoury is a Lebanese contemporary artist and a certified lithographer who graduated from the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts. As a member of UNESCO Paris through the International Association of Fine Arts, Khoury has exhibited his works extensively since his debut in 1989. His art has been featured in galleries and exhibitions across Europe and the Middle East, including France, Kuwait, Lebanon, and the United Kingdom.

Beirut, his hometown, served as a profound source of inspiration despite its tumultuous history. Khoury's artistic journey was a response to the war, and he vividly recalls its impact on his youth. In his early 20s, he discovered his passion for art and found solace in painting. Influenced by iconic artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, and Pablo Picasso, Khoury's early work reflected the haunting aftermath of war.

As time passed, Khoury's art evolved, embracing a more optimistic vision inspired by the animal kingdom. His artistic journey, which started later in life, has been a testament to his unwavering dedication to his craft, transforming his early macabre depictions into a celebration of life and hope.



CHARLES KHOURY

#### **UNTITLED**

ACRYLIC ON JUTE 80 X 120 CM . 2022



CHARLES KHOURY

#### **UNTITLED**

ACRYLIC ON JUTE

80 X 120 CM . 2022

## HAKIM AL-AKEL

Born in 1965 in Taiz, Yemen, is an accomplished Yemeni painter. He earned a Master's degree from Moscow State Academy (1987-1994), specializing in Fresco painting and the fundamental concepts of art. In 1986, he co-founded the Yemeni Plastic Artists Association, demonstrating his commitment to nurturing the local art community. Al-Akel's influence extended internationally when he became a part of the administrative board of the Yemeni Student Council in Moscow, Russia, in 1990.

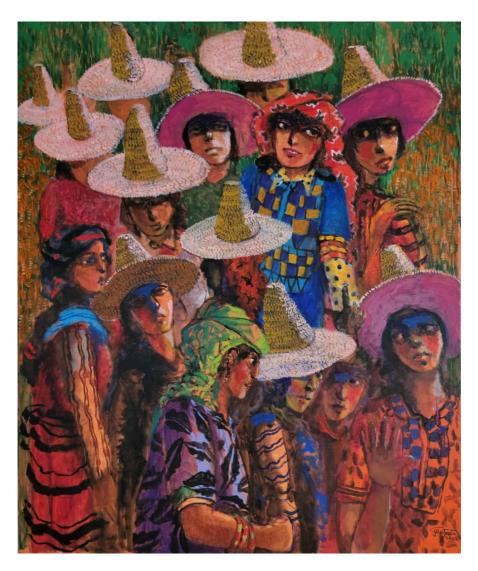
In 1997, he took on the role of President of the Yemeni Plastic Artists Union, showcasing his leadership within Yemen's artistic circles. Al-Akel has participated in numerous group exhibitions and held solo shows, particularly notable in Amman. Currently based in Sanaa, Yemen, Hakim Al-Akel continues to create art that bridges cultural divides, solidifying his position in contemporary art.



HAKIM AL AKEEL

#### **COSMIC WHISPERS 1**

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 200 X 120 CM . 2022



HAKIM AL AKEEL

#### **COSMIC WHISPERS 2**

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 120 X 100 CM . 2022

## LOUMA RABAH

Lebanese artist born in 1980 who currently resides and practices her art in Beirut. She pursued her education in Fine Arts and Graphic Design at the Lebanese American University. Louma is renowned for her distinctive style of painting, which primarily focuses on Lebanese landscapes, cityscapes, and towns, using a palette of bold and expressive colors. Her compositions are known for their vibrancy, striking visual impact, and the way they capture the essence of her subjects.

Through her art, Louma freely expresses her inner beliefs while celebrating and enhancing the beauty of her surroundings. She firmly believes that art is the means through which she can immortalize moments, emotions, the wonders of nature, and the endangered heritage that she holds dear.



LOUMA RABAH

#### **FOUND HEAVEN**

OIL ON CANVAS

160 X 120 CM . 2023



LOUMA RABAH

### HEAVEN IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

OIL ON CANVAS

160 X 120 CM . 2023

### MAHER MAAOUI

Born in Tunisia in 1982 and now based in France, is a self-taught artist known for his captivating artwork. Inspired by a childhood gift, he embarked on a journey of self-discovery through art, exploring his parents' collection of Tunisian artists. His work is a fusion of personal experiences, emotions, and a fascination with human existence.

Maher's art encompasses two distinct approaches: "Decryption," where he abstracts photographs and videos to unearth the essence of humanity, and "Suddenly," which captures intense emotions spontaneously. His work is autobiographical, provoking philosophical questions and seeking universality while adding a dreamlike dimension to life's mysteries.

Using oil, acrylics, and wood as an homage to his father, Maher creates striking artwork that has gained international recognition since 2015, gracing exhibitions in major cities worldwide. His art now resides in private collections and was even selected for the permanent collection at Fondation de la Maison de Tunisie in Paris in 2021. Explore his vibrant world through his art.



MAHER MAAOUI

#### **LAYING DOWN**

ACRYLIC & OIL ON CANVAS 16 X 22 CM . 2022



MAHER MAAOUI

#### MAN IN A TREE SHADOW

ACRYLIC & OIL ON CANVAS 140 X 114 CM . 2022

### RIBAL MOLAEB

Born in Baissour, Lebanon, in 1992, is a multidisciplinary artist based in Zurich, Switzerland. He began his artistic journey in Austria, where he pursued studies at the Mozarteum University Salzburg and later the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, earning his Master's degree with distinction. Ribal's diverse artistic endeavors include serving as the artistic director of "SUMITO" Art and Music Association in Switzerland, presiding over the "Molaeb Art Museum," and founding the "Molaeb Festival for Chamber Music and Fine Arts"

His international presence in the art world is notable, with solo exhibitions in prestigious galleries like Galerie Esther Woerdehoff in Geneva & Paris, Galerie Janine Rubeiz in Beirut, Orient Gallery in Amman, Galerie Agénor in Zurich, and Galerie Claude Lemand in Paris. Ribal has also been featured at renowned art fairs such as Art Paris 2022 and MENART Paris, in addition to exhibitions in Amsterdam, Amman, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai. His art, influenced by his father Jamil Molaeb's training and 20th-century Lebanese abstract expressionists, is characterized by a musical orientation, exploring color power and harmony to create dynamic and harmonious paintings. His work reflects a delicate distribution of colors and shapes, shaped by his understanding of harmony in classical music, resulting in a personally satisfying and harmonized world. Ribal Molaeb currently resides and works in Zurich, Switzerland.



RIBAL MOLAEB

#### **SUNRISE**

OIL ON CANVAS

100 X 150 CM . 2022



RIBAL MOLAEB

#### **DESERT SUNRISE**

OIL ON CANVAS 90 X 160 CM . 2023

## RIYAD NE'MAH

A distinguished artist born in the vibrant city of Baghdad in 1968, is known for his exceptional artistic journey. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from the University of Baghdad in 1992. Throughout his illustrious career, Ne'mah has crafted a unique artistic style characterized by its bold contrasts in color, dynamic lines that seem to dance across the canvas, and brushstrokes that flow with a lyrical grace. His art is renowned for its profound emotional impact, leaving viewers deeply moved and captivated.

Ne'mah's abstract canvases bear a resemblance to musical compositions, with his dark palette and enigmatic subjects inviting introspection and a sense of lost innocence. Through his evocative and implicit narratives, Ne'mah weaves the compelling tale of his homeland, which has endured the trials of isolation and political turmoil. In the midst of suffering and loss, his art becomes a vessel for rediscovering identity and reviving humanity.

Ne'mah's artistic journey has taken him to many galleries across the Arab world, including the Rafia Gallery in Damascus, the Courtyard Gallery in Dubai, and the Dar al Anda Gallery in Amman. His work stands as a testament to the power of art to tell stories, heal wounds, and breathe life into the human experience.



RIYAD NE'MAH

#### **WE ARE ALL CLOWNS**

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 120 X 100 CM . 2023



RIYAD NE'MAH

#### **WE ARE ALL CLOWNS**

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 120 X 100 CM . 2023

## SALAM YOUSSRY

A multimedia artist, Salam makes use of his work with performance workshops to ponder on the performative interactions of the human body, capturing how it deconstructs itself in the process of its bodily movements.

Born in 1982, Salam Yousry works and lives in Cairo. Majoring in painting, he graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University in 2004, and was appointed as a teaching assistant in the same department until 2007. Yousry exhibited in different art spaces such Shelter in Alexandria, Galleria Soul in El-Gouna, and the Russian Cultural Center in Cairo.

In 2002, Yousry founded Al-Tamye Theatre Group in Cairo; in 2010 he initiated the International Choir Project, which traveled to different cities in the world; and in 2012, he organized the Combo Independent Festival at the Rawabet theatre in downtown Cairo.

Since 2010, Yousry has been facilitating community-based workshops in songwriting and performance across the Middle East, Europe and the United States. He also produced several music videos, documentaries and short films.



SALAM YOUSSRY

#### **PLAY - FIGHT**

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 150 X 150 CM . 2022



SALAM YOUSSRY

#### FAYSAL APARTMENT, WITH MOTHER, FATHER & BROTHER

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 150 X 150 CM . 2022







