



# أنطولوجيا شعرية Poetic Ontology

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**Khawla Art Gallery,**  
Dubai Design District

SOLO معرض منفرد  
EXHIBITION



**K**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](http://www.khawlaartgallery.com)

# أنطولوجيا شعرية

## Poetic Ontology

Poetic Ontology is a solo exhibition by the renowned Tunisian artist Abdallah Akar, presenting a new collection of works centered around modern Arabic calligraphy. This exhibition explores the core of poetic expression, vividly bringing to life the renowned words of celebrated Arab poets like Bader Shakker Al Sayyab, Mahmoud Darwish, Omar Khayyam, and Nizar Qabbani.

At the heart of Poetic Ontology lies the exploration of 'ontology'—the study of being and existence, through the medium of Arabic poetry. Abdallah Akar reinterprets this classical literary form through the lens of modern calligraphy, challenging the boundaries between the written word and visual art. His work captures the philosophical depth and emotive power of poetry, transforming it into a visual celebration of color and form.

Each piece serves as a metaphysical map where viewers are invited to traverse the landscapes of emotion and intellect depicted through swirling scripts and vibrant backdrops. The choice of poems is deliberate, capturing themes of love, existential reflection, nostalgia, and political strife, resonating with a profound universality despite their specific cultural origins.



# ABDALLAH AKAR

Born in Tunisia and moved to France in the late 1960's to pursue his studies in science at Paris VII University. In 1980 he met and trained under the master Chani Alani. Akar has worked on the art of calligraphy for nearly thirty years and has taught at the 'Institute du Monde Arabe' since 1993. As a painter and calligrapher, Akar draws his inspiration from Arabic and Western poetry (Mahmoud Darwish, Omar Al Khayyam), using a luminous palette with a balanced mix of writing and colour, on materials as diverse as textile, wood and iron. Akar exhibited for the first time in 1986. Since his first exhibition he has been exhibited in Europe and the Middle East in several solo and group presentations. During the early 2000, he realized a powerful installation of 16 textiles richly decorated with calligraphy, a tribute to Pre-Islamic poetry, which he followed in 2007 with a publication of *Poèmes Suspendus (Muallaq'at)*, edited in both French and Arabic languages, (cf. Editions Alternatives, Paris)



## The Rain Song ( La Pluie )

Poetry by Badr Shakir Al-Sayyab

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

117 X 89 CM . 1999

أنشودة المطر  
للشاعر بدر شاكر السياب



## Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam ( Les Quatrains )

Poetry by Omar Khayyam

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS, DIPTYQUE

73 X 120 CM . 2011

رباعيات  
للشاعر عمر الخيام



**The dreamers pass from  
one sky to another**

( D'un ciel a l'autre ' )

Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

100 X 65 CM . 2010

**من سماء إلى  
أختها يعبر الحالمون**

للشاعر محمود درويش





## A Mother's Heart

( Le coeur de la mère' )

Poetry by Abu Al-Qasim al-Shabbi

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

163 X 97 CM . 2009

قلب الأم  
للشاعر أبو القاسم الشابي



## In Jerusalem

Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

146 X 89 CM . 2012

## في القدس

للشاعر محمود درويش



## Mural

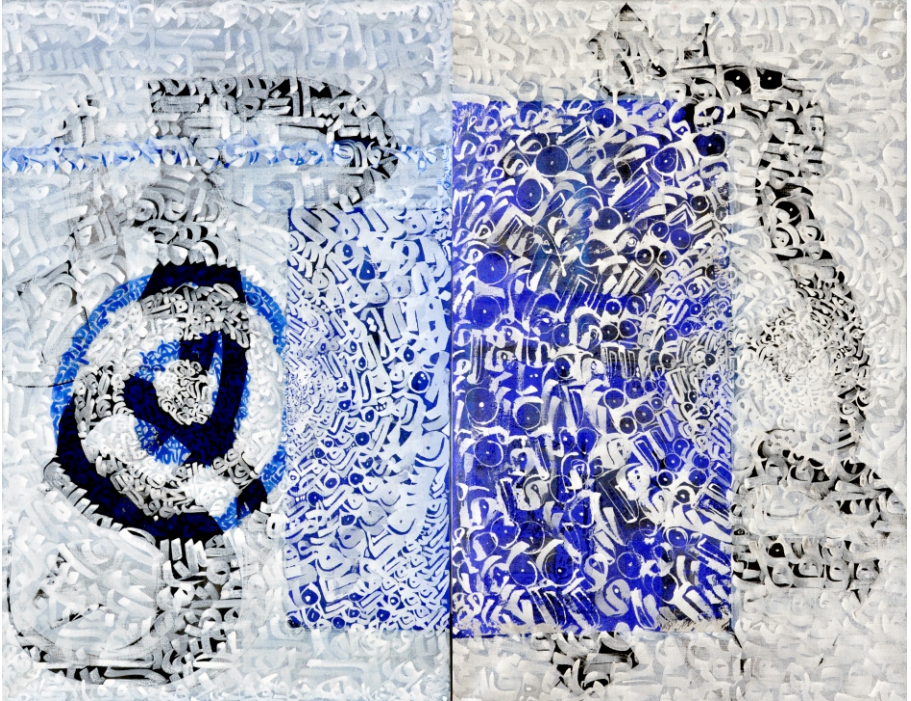
Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

148 X 114 CM . 2011

## جدارية

للشاعر محمود درويش



## Kalimat

## كلمات

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

130 X 100 CM . 2011



## Mask... Majnoon Layla

(Masque pour majnoon layla)

Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

116 X 89 CM . 2010

## قناع ... لمجنون ليلى

للشاعر محمود درويش



**With the mist so  
dense on the bridge**

(Brouillard dense)

Poem by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS, DIPTYCH

178 X 140 CM . 2014

**ضباب كثير على الجسر**

للشاعر محمود درويش



## This is my last letter

(Ma dernière leFre)

Poetry by Nazar Qabbani

MIXED TECHNIQUE ON CANVAS

92 X 73 CM . 2012

## هذه هي رسالتي الأخيرة

للشاعر نزار قباني



## O Narrow Time

(Ô temps étroit)

Poetry by Nazih Abu Afach

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

147 X 130 CM . 2012

## أيها الزمان الضيق .. أيتها الأرض الواسعة

للشاعر نزيه أبو عفش





## Afterthoughts on the defeat

(Carnet de notes)

Poetry by Nizar Qabbani

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

130 X 97 CM . 2012

هوامش على  
دفاتر النكسة  
للشاعر نزار قباني



## Why Did You Leave the Horse Alone?

(Pourquoi as tu laisse le cheval)

Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS

130 X 97 CM . 2012

## لماذا تركت الحصان وحيداً

للشاعر محمود درويش

كلا 2010

نخلة

خولة آرت غاليري  
KHAWLA ART GALLERY

فتاح .. لاجئين للبحر

ومعت قبلها ما عتبه  
أكون أنا جري، فتكلمون  
البحر .. أجماعاً في عفت  
الموت من الكليل وصوت  
مريضاً يليل على نغم  
ألم أو كسر في قلوب  
جسدنا الذي نوره الأبرار  
في ... نداء من صراخ  
تجسدي من جسد الأرض  
تدوي جوفاً من هتاف  
أنا لاجئ .. جسد فتاح  
أترك البعد الصحابي .. شاطئ  
البحر ... أجماعاً في عفت  
كلاب ... أجماعاً في عفت  
ويقتل صوته أجماعاً في عفت  
في جسدنا ... أجماعاً في عفت  
أنا لاجئ ... أجماعاً في عفت  
كلاب ... أجماعاً في عفت  
«ميرالدينا» كهمزة ريلو