

KHALED AL-SAA'I



Middle of Spring, 110 x 155 cm, acrylic on canvas, 2008

For Khaled Al-Saa'i Arabic calligraphy is a medium for expressing feelings, thoughts, and sensations without becoming tied to the language. He deals especially with Arabic letters, their shapes, and their symbolic, religious, and musical origins. It is this variety of meaning, as well as the formal possibilities of the various writing styles, that influence the artist's creative processes. On his numerous trips through Arab countries, Europe, and the United States, he has been inspired by cities and countryside, by landscapes and architecture, by the bustle of people in the street, and by the change of seasons, always anxious to realize his impressions in calligraphic creations. In each case he chooses a writing style that provides the best sensorial and emotional fit to his impressions. Letters and words are not arranged on a straight or horizontal line but rather written densely or detached, superimposed or one below the other, interlaced or labyrinthine in the imaginary space of the canvas. Letters interwoven in this way follow their own peculiar rhythm. Highly individualistic landscapes emerge as well as pictures that depict personal feelings and sensations. Khaled Al-Saa'i exhausts the possibilities of Arabic script and makes it into abstract characters.

GALERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND

Talstrasse 58 8001 Zurich Switzerland +41 44 210 02 02

info@kashyahildebrand.org

www.kashyahildebrand.org

KHALED AL-SAA'I

Born in Homs, Syria in 1970
Works and lives in Dubai, UAE

EDUCATION

- 1998 Certificate in Calligraphy from IRCICA, the research centre for Islamic History Arts and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey
- 1997 MA in Fine Arts (honorary degree), University of Damascus, Syria
- 1995 BA in Fine Arts, Painting, University of Damascus, Syria

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Caligrafia Pictorica, Morelia, State of Michoacán, Mexico
Wellesley College, Boston, USA
National Museum of Water Color "Alfredo Guati Rojo", Mexico
- 2007 Dar Al Fnoon, Kuwait
Majlis Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2005 Pellouailles-les-Vignes mantes, France
Poems in Calligraphy, the Majles Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2004 Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2001 Institute du Monde Arab, Paris, France
- 1999 IFEAD, Damascus, Syria
- 1996 Spanish Institute, Damascus, Syria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Art of Writing, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2010 Freedom and Innovation, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain
- 2009 Signs: Contemporary Arab Art. Seven renowned artists from the Middle East, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, USA
- 2008 Beyond Words: Contemporary Calligraphy from the Middle East, curated by Karin Adrian von Roques, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2007 Espejesmo?, Arab Art, San Pedro Museum of Art, Mexico
Audio Visual Art Exhibition, Sharjah Museum of Art, UAE
San Bedro Museum of Art, Mexico
Al Bareh Art Gallery, Bahrain
- 2005 Institute de Monde Arab, Paris, France
Languages of Desert, Bonn Museum of Art, Germany
The Art of the Written Word in the Middle East, U of M Museum of Art
- 2003 Visual and Audible 6th session, Sharjah, UAE
- 2002 Sharjah Museum of Art, UAE
- 2001 Art and Sufism, exhibition organized by the Cervantes Institute (2001-2004): National Museum of Damascus, Syria; Royal Museum of Amman, Jordan; Bilad Al Sham Gallery Aleppo, Syria; Unisco Palace Beirut, Lebanon; Granada, Seville Spain
- 1997 Collective Exhibition of Syrian artists organized by the Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Art, Damascus, Syria
Biennial Almahaba Arts Festival Latakia, Syria
- 1991 Collective Exhibition of Syrian artists organized by the Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Syria
- 1987 Al Mayadin City Hall, Syria

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