

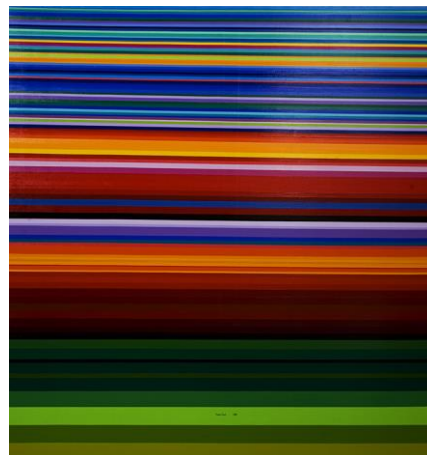
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artist: Mouteea Murad, *A Date with Spring*

Location: Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai

Date: 21 October – 12 December 2013

Private View: 21 October 2013, 7-9pm



From 21 October - 12 December, Ayyam Gallery DIFC is pleased to present *A Date with Spring*, an exhibition of new paintings by Syrian artist Mouteea Murad, which sees the artist merging architectural forms with rich colour.

Murad's paintings are composed of ambient strips of colour, marking a departure from the rigid geometric structures of earlier work. The artist describes this stylistic shift as a visual antidote to the political upheaval in the Arab world. While previous works were defined by a strict mathematical approach, Murad's new paintings are characterised by a looser, more fluid abstraction.

Though drawing upon Murad's experiences of conflict, the artist's new paintings are defiantly optimistic, bearing titles which connote beauty and hope; his rejection of negativity in this new body of work serves as a cathartic process for the artist. With *'Trial No. 91; When Spring Blooms'*, Murad challenges the season's appropriation in the term, 'The Arab Spring', which has become increasingly associated with violence, and employs colours that call to mind the blossoming of life during the Spring.

Murad's perception of the physical environment is permeated by his abstracted visual language and he considers the act of observing to be more engaging than attempts to produce realist representations of life. Composed of bands of deep blue and red, in *'Trial No. 90: In the Middle of a Warm Night'*, Murad presents a view of buildings painted in semi-darkness - an experience the artist describes as *'seeing night horizontally'*. He depicts the vertical structures as a series of horizontal stripes that gradually fade into darkness towards the top of the canvas, as if receding into the distance. The aural as well as the visual experience informs Murad's painting, as in *'Trial No. 86: Vision in the Blue Dream'*. Painted while the artist was listening to music, the work serves as a visual translation of sound, evoking the metal music of Murad's youth.

Notes to Editors

About the artist

Born in 1977 in Homs, Syria, Mouteea Murad lives and works in Cairo. His work is housed in private and public collections internationally, including the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts. Selected solo exhibitions include Ayyam Gallery Beirut (2011); Ayyam Gallery DIFC, Dubai (2011); Ayyam Gallery Damascus (2010).

About Ayyam Gallery

Founded by collectors and cousins Khaled and Hisham Samawi in Damascus in 2006, Ayyam Gallery sought to nurture Syria's burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through landmark non-profit initiatives such as the Shabab Ayyam Project, an incubator for emerging artists. Expansion into Beirut and Dubai enabled Ayyam Gallery to broaden its scope from the promotion of work by Syrian artists to those from the wider Middle East region. In doing so, Ayyam Gallery has established itself as one of the foremost exponents of Middle Eastern contemporary art to the international community.

Today, Ayyam Gallery is recognised as a leading cultural voice in the region, representing a roster of Arab and Iranian artists with an international profile and museum presence. A number of non-commercial exhibitions, as well as the launch of Ayyam Publishing, Ayyam Editions, and The Young Collectors Auction, have further succeeded in showcasing the work of Middle Eastern artists with the aim of educating a wider audience about the art of this significant region. Ayyam Gallery Damascus currently functions as a studio and creative haven for artists who remain in the war-torn city. In early 2013, Ayyam Gallery launched new spaces in London and Jeddah.

Exhibition Facts

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