

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Exhibition: Hilda Hiary “Impulses”**  
**Location: Ayyam Gallery Damascus**  
**Dates: November 12 - December 31**  
**Opening: November 12 at 7pm**



On November 12, Ayyam Gallery Damascus will proudly present “Impulses,” the solo exhibition of Jordanian artist Hilda Hiary. Signaling the artist’s first one-person show in Syria, this forthcoming event will showcase a new series of works that have been inspired by recent political upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa. Taking the vantage point of what she describes as a “witness of this era,” Hiary presents over a dozen new paintings in which figures become templates for raw emotion as they are suspended in non-descript settings that allude to both interior and exterior spaces, or private verses public realms.

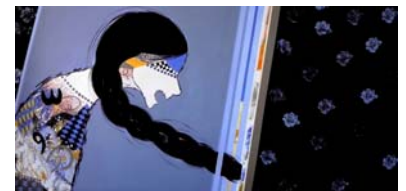
Resulting from a visceral sense of expression, these recent canvases are testimonies to the artist’s own reactions to the formidable events of the past year as the Arab world has been forced to entered a new phase in its modern history. In much of Hiary’s work, these changes are captured by outlines of the female body in the form of many incarnations: as a mother, as a young woman who sneaks away to meet her lover, as a screaming prisoner, as a muffled Egyptian songstress Oum Kalthoum. Sometimes appearing as fragmentations, these representations capture an uncertain reality in which women remain steadfast in the face of adversity. Acting as a metaphoric terrain upon which patterns and brushstrokes take on the psychic weight of an engulfing turmoil, Hiary utilizes the emotive quality of abstraction to summarize the everyday impact of these recent times.



'Om Kalthoum'  
180 X 180 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011



'Jabal Qasioon'  
140 X 300 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011



'My Name is Jerusalem'  
140 X 300 cm. Acrylic on Canvas 2011

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Born in Jordan in 1969, Hilda Hiary graduated from Amman’s Al Zaytoonah University with a BA in Fine Arts in 2004. Prior to receiving her academic training, she had exhibited as a self-taught artist for nearly a decade. Since the mid 1990s, she has been featured in solo and group shows in the Middle East, Europe, the US and Asia, while contributing to symposiums, festivals, workshops and biennales. Although primarily a painter, she has also produced a number of video works and installations, several of which have been exhibited internationally. Hiary is the recipient of many awards, most notably an honorable mention from the Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh and first prize for installation art from the Cairo International Biennale.

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## ayyam gallery

Founded in 2006, Ayyam Gallery is one of the Middle East's leading contemporary art spaces. With a selection of cutting-edge painting, sculpture and photography that represents some of the Arab world's most exciting talent, the gallery has sought to promote the region's dynamic cultural scene at home and abroad. For more information visit [www.ayyamgallery.com](http://www.ayyamgallery.com)

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*Hilda Hiary will be present on the opening day and during the first week of the exhibition. For interview with the artist or any further details, please contact us at +963 11 613 1088 or email [info@ayyamgallery.com](mailto:info@ayyamgallery.com)*