



**GLIMPSES**  
**CONTEMPORARY ARAB WOMEN ART**





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## **5 CONTEMPORARY ARAB WOMEN ARTISTS**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ART SAWA is extremely grateful to  
UBS  
for this opportunity and its invaluable support for this cultural initiative.

# FOREWORD

Dear Executive Committee colleagues,

Welcome to the Arabian Gulf, a land of deep cultural heritage, surprising contrasts and exciting opportunities. It is our great pleasure to be your hosts for this Executive Committee management meeting in one of the most important regions within the Global Emerging Markets.

In the spirit of traditional Middle Eastern hospitality we are pleased to present you with a collection of choice art pieces from a selection of rising regional artists. Middle Eastern art has been growing in standing and recognition globally mainly due to the age-old sophistication and contrasting aesthetic vision nested in the region. With this selection & exhibition, we not only mean to show our appreciation for your presence in Abu Dhabi today but also to give back to the local community and support emerging artists in line with our global emphasis on promoting art platforms.

We decided to focus on five prominent female artists who are playing a vital role in leveraging art as an alternative channel in which to express themselves more freely and universally in a region with seemingly irreconcilable dichotomies and simmering tensions. In providing exposure to these talented women, we seek to help empower their artistic expression by creating greater awareness around their work.

We hope you will enjoy this cultural touch and are looking forward to sharing the next couple of days with you.

Paul Raphael  
Head UBS Wealth Management  
Global Emerging Markets

Ali Janoudi  
Head UBS Wealth Management  
Middle East North Africa

# FOREWORD

## GLIMPSES 5 CONTEMPORARY ARAB WOMEN ARTISTS

Firstly, I would like to give a very special thanks to UBS for this great opportunity to highlight and give voice to five distinctive Arab female contemporary artists.

Art Sawa is a distinctive promotional and transformational platform for artists from the Middle East, North Africa and neighboring countries. Our vision and aspiration is to facilitate and foster interaction and dialogue, and to inspire ideas, for an exchange between cultures through Contemporary Art.

With a collection of 15 works from very promising artists, who are making an invaluable contribution to the growth of the Middle East Art scene, Art Sawa is delighted to invite you to explore the different issues and realities that drives the process of contemporary art creation in the Arab World. This selection is diverse, thought provoking, touching, and offers bold and palpable narratives. These works bring different approaches, statements and visions but most importantly they represent a window into the creative energy and talent of five young female artists.

Despite the current political and religious struggles of our region, not least of which is the continued harassment and suffering of the women and the threat to their future role in their respective societies, this selection is particularly relevant: it gives a voice to women, to artists, and acts as an antidote to the current situation, a rightful message of hope and courage, a homage to the region's rich and diversified creative expressions.

Marwa Adel's photographs speak about the struggles she has faced in her own life. They express her desire to break free from the restrictions imposed on women by society and to be the person that she is rather than what society forces her to be. Her work is deeply personal, but it tells a universal story. Marwa's artworks combine carefully posed photographs of models with symbols of fragility such as leaves, flowers and torn paper. Her wedding dress and veil also appear in the pictures as a reminder of bittersweet memories. She also adds digital textures, light effects and pieces of her calligraphic paintings to create beautiful, incredible sensual and eloquent compositions. The black and white colors of her works highlight the conflict between the real self of these women and the person they pretend to be. The recurring appearance of her wedding dress symbolizes her marriage which was the turning point in her life, and the impulse to rethink deeply her intimate self, her feelings and the objectives of her life.

Hend El Falafly 's pencil drawings on canvas are a mix of the strong realism of the Egyptian society to which she belongs with a very subtle and symbolic messaging. Hend explores through her intimate works the different emotions expressed by women, which find root in her daily life. She boldly uses the female form and body language to hint at the female condition. Her semantic use of facial expressions conveys a scene of meaningful silence. She uses hands, feet, clothes to reveal the repressive tensions endured by women in Egypt while simultaneously to offer a promise of hope.

Looking at the paintings of Mireille Merhej from a distance, one instantly recalls the works of Jacques de la Villeglé, Mimmo Rotella and Raymond Hains among many artists who have adopted the iconic style of de-collage or ripped street posters. When you get closer to Merhej 's canvases however, you discover when scrutinizing their surface material that her images are in fact painstakingly painted in acrylic and are not simply collaged or de-collaged torn printed posters and pages of color magazines. This leads us to place her work into the realm of photo-realism and brings to mind - in particular - Malcolm Morley's photo realistic paintings from the mid 1960s which were drawn from mundane post cards of ships. Mireille's work is not actually based on found images of torn street posters but on small collages, which she makes out of carefully chosen torn bits and pieces of pages from color magazines and comics books. Accordingly, the statement of Mireille's works is not merely about the final visual outcome but also about the process of making them; this process underlines the differences between the "apparently" accidental act of tearing strips of paper to create an original collage on the one hand and the act of carefully working out the blown up paintings on the other. The adjoined and juxtaposed images and texts in Mireille Merhej ' s paintings take us on a journey across time and pop culture: they mirror and invite you to her fantasy world and to her thoughts and statements about current society.

More so than most artists based in the Middle East, Sara Shamma possessed an international reputation long before the work presented in this exhibition was made. However, because of the current situation in her native Syria, both tragic and dramatic as all the world now knows, the images shown here possess a special resonance, and possibly her most powerful work to date in what is unfolding a distinguished career.

Underlying the images, which were made in two different phases those before and after her exile to her new home in Lebanon, there is a powerful, and unmistakable feeling of anxiety – an emotion focused, one can read on the threat to her children, rather than herself. Though no over statement about this is made, one can read in the difference between the first works and those made after she moved to Lebanon, an allegory about the Syria's situation and deterioration. The more recent composition show an even stronger emotional content.

Zena Assi 's contemporary work on canvas draws inspiration from the relations and conflicts between the individual and his or her spatial environment, society and surroundings. Zena uses various supports and mediums to document and explore the cultural and social changes of her city, its crowds and country. Her work takes shape in installations, animations, sculptures, and mainly paintings on canvas.

I would like to resume the meaning of this collection as an invitation to a Journey into the contemporary Arab world through the lens of female artists.

In conclusion i would say that Marwa's works conveys a powerful message to all other Arab women to be in a state of awakening of self preservation through the search of truth about themselves, that Hend's works reveals an optimistic vision of her society and its future, thirdly Mireille's humorous observation of her real world is narrated through a comic fantasy world, and Sara with her extremely bold work talks about her strong emotions and ur collective anxiety for the people, the children and the future of our region. Last but not least, Zena's is about her concerns towards the Human Condition and its metamorphosis, and potential return to a state of darkness .

Thank you again for all your support.

Sincerely,  
Amel B.Makkawi

# THE ARTISTS

HEND EL FALAFLY

MARWA ADEL

MIREILLE MERHEJ

SARA SHAMMA

ZENA ASSI



# Hend El Falafly

BORN IN CAIRO IN 1979; LIVES AND WORKS IN CAIRO.

“The pencils are my instruments, my tools, to simply express the intimate relationships of my social involpment, my work is a mix of strong realism and a very expressive and meaningful symbolism at the same time” Hend says.

A different realism inspires her and has great impact in her works, which breaths from an inherent activity revealed through an incredible movement and light.

No secret can be kept hidden, all is simply revealed.

Concept:

The most recent changes and uprisings in the Arab countries brought a lot of thinking and this is reflected in Hend 's work:

Hend definitively illustrated theses changes from a sitting and awaiting prior behaviors to the actual standing position and movement. In these two works she represents the future of a woman or a man covered by a loose cloth, who is trying to remove the cloth from her/his face and her /his body in a clear attempt to remove the restrictions. In this case it is an illustration of the struggles of the Middle Eastern peoples, looking to get rid of the robe and the humiliation, the ignorance and the disease. This metaphor is highlighted also by the use of the gray and blue colors as the light in a sky at the time of the dawn, a metaphor for the emergence of a new, other and more optimistic day, with the bright light,like a new sun after the darkness of long night .

Hend also referred to her Egyptian cultural background by the use of the red lotus flower, a recognizable symbol chiseled on clothes in older Egyptian times to contradict those baggy clothes associated today with the Arab culture.



THE CHANGE 1, 2011, Pencil & Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 150 cm

THE CHANGE 2, 2011, Pencil & Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 150 cm







# Marwa Adel

BORN IN 1984, CAIRO, EGYPT. LIVES AND WORKS IN CAIRO

Concept:

## Faceless Serie

Marwa 's photographs express a desire to break free from the restrictions imposed on women by her society and to become the person that she is rather than what society forces her to be.

Marwa maintains a very personal voice, as her work is unique in tackling the taboo of the human figure, expressing revolt against social restrictions. Her texts, taken from her own diary, confirm her visual message. "Every woman is different and that is what makes her unique... Each one has her own journey, her own life, no one is like anyone and our societies oblige us to hide ourselves and lose our real identity and become then only one image of her... each woman has her own life ... She recommends through her works not to avoid confrontation and to reveal always who women truly are, no matter their social and professional environment ... Express yourself to make your society hear you, feel and understand you...When you will find your life you will find your identity."



FACELESS, 2013  
(From Faceless Serie)  
3/3

Photography & Computer graphic  
105 x 105 cm





Concept:

#### Hiding Serie

“Hiding is a universal human phenomenon. We try to hide because of fear, pain, darkness or cruelty. And we also hide our feelings, our memories, our happiness and all the precious moments that we are afraid of losing. Sometimes we hide behind masks or walls because we are afraid to confront others or to say or do what we want. But the truth in our soul cannot be hidden,” says Marwa.

In ‘Hiding’, her series of photographic works, Marwa explored the infinite conflict and the state of contradiction and antagonism that is part of our existence. Once again, she used the bare human body as a metaphor for the thoughts and feelings hidden inside it. The anonymous women in Marwa’s photographs appear fragile and lonely. Their eyes are covered, yet you can feel the sea of emotions surging within. Their bodies are exposed, yet they conceal their thoughts, desires and feelings. These women represent no one and everyone. They hide their identity and try to look like everyone else because they want to be accepted by society. But their tense bodies speak about how painful it is to hide the truth.

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BEHIND MASK, 2011

(From Hiding Serie)

1/3

Photography & Computer Graphic

105 x 105 cm







FREE, 2013, (From Faceless Serie), 2/3, Photography & Computer graphic, 105 x 105 cm



THE PAST, 2011, (From Hiding Serie), 1/3, Photography & Computer Graphic, 105 x 105 cm





PASSION, 2013, (From Faceless Serie), 3/3, Photography & Computer graphic, 105 x 105 cm



HIDING 2, 2011, (From Hiding Serie), 3/3, Photography & Computer Graphic, 105 x 105 cm



# Mireille Merhej

BORN IN 1973, LEBANON. LIVES AND WORKS IN BEIRUT

After completing her AA in graphic design and BA in fine arts in LAU Beirut Mireille headed to Paris where she lived and obtained her Master's degree in decorative painting. Since the year 2000 Mireille has been working with renowned Lebanese interior designers painting murals, ceilings, walls with different techniques and textures for residential and commercial spaces.

In 2009 Mireille abandoned her previous work to create her own creative art work, mostly paintings on canvas where she deals with her nostalgia for her past memories and childhood using images from magazines news papers or pictures taken by the artist herself.



MIRROR OVER SIN (I), Acrylic on Canvas , 138 x 138 cm  
MIRROR OVER SIN (II), Acrylic on Canvas , 138 x 138 cm  
MIRROR OVER SIN (III), Acrylic on Canvas , 138 x 138 cm



Concept:

Being a war child, Mireille has witnessed and lived during war times in her country: she often experienced the use and misuse of power to find peace, she has seen people using all kind of means and ways to reach their goals. As she has been marked and deeply touched and affected by all the terrible scenes, she has been perplexed by time and questioned herself about what power is and what weakness does.

Mireille 's works reflect all the contradictions and observations she experienced. She uses her canvas to represent her society's behavior: the use of seduction and charms by women to reach their goals and ambitions, the use of men's strength to cover their weaknesses and impose themselves on others are the main focus of her works. For this, Mireille finds inspiration in comics, which are, the true reflection of her reality. Comics translate her daily reality in an unreal way.

"Aren't we each and all of us characters in this play called life, where the impossible became just another word in the dictionary? What's better than comics to bluntly express myself and reveal what we secretly hide and do not dare to tell? "Mirror Over Sin City" is the reflection of her perception of the current times, where the impossible is possible and only the brave who dares wins,"Mireille says.

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MIRROR OVER SIN CITY (I)  
Acrylic on Canvas  
138 x 138 cm







MIRROR OVER SIN CITY (II), Acrylic on Canvas, 138 x 138 cm



MIRROR OVER SIN CITY (III), Acrylic on Canvas , 138 x 138 cm



# Sara Shamma

BORN IN 1975, DAMASCUS, SYRIA. LIVES & WORKS IN LEBANON

Sara Shamma was born in Damascus, Syria (1975), into a family of intellectuals. They encouraged her love of painting which she developed as a small child, and by the age of 14, Shamma decided she would train as a painter. Shamma graduated from the Painting Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Damascus in 1998.

Following her graduation, Shamma participated in a number of solo and group exhibitions including (solo): “Q” Royal College of Art, London, UK, 2013; Birth, Art House, Damascus, Syria, 2011; Love, Curated by Fatina Al-Sayed, 360 MALL, Kuwait, 2009, and (group): The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition, The Mall Galleries, London, 2013; Nord Art 2012, Annual International Exhibition, organized by KiC – Kunst in der Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany; Art Prize 2010, Kendall College; UAE Through Arabian Eyes, the International Financial Centre, Dubai, UAE, 2008; Syrian Artists, Art House Damascus at Souq Wakef Art Center, Doha, Qatar, 2008; The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, ETSA Utilities Gallery, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia and the National Archives of Australia in Canberra, Australia, 2008; Panorama of Syrian Arts, Catzen Arts Centre at The American University Washington, D.C. USA, 2007; International Painting Prize of the Castellon County Council, ESPAI (the Contemporary Art Centre), Castellon and the Municipal Arts Centre of Alcorcon, Madrid, Spain 2005; Women and Arts, International Vision, Expo Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE, 2005; BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK, 2004.

Shamma was invited to join the teaching staff of the Adham Ismail Fine Arts Institute in Damascus, where she taught for three years from 1998. Besides her own practice and her involvement in the education of young artists, Shamma has been consistently active in the Syrian art scene. She was a member of the jury for The Annual Exhibition for Syrian Artists held by the Ministry Of Culture, Damascus, Syria in 2006.

Shamma has been the recipient of various regional and international art awards including First Prize (The Golden Medal) in the 2001 Latakia Biennial, Syria, Fourth Prize in the 2004 BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK and First Prize in Painting, The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, The South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia in 2008, Fourth prize in painting, and Special Mention, Florence Biennial, Florence, Italy 2013.

Shamma’s works can be found across the world. Selected public collections include: The National Museum of Damascus, The British Council Collection Damascus, The Spanish Cultural Center Collection, Damascus. Shamma’s paintings can be found amongst private collections in: Austria, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In 2010, Shamma was invited to become a United Nations World Food Programme ‘Celebrity Partner’. In 2010 she created a painting for them entitled: Fighting Hunger (2010). Impressed and touched by the program's work she continues to support it as her chosen charity.



Concept:

As with many other populations in history, it seems that it is the turn of the Syrians to flee their homeland and scatter around the world. This is a real diaspora because it forms a mass dispersion of an involuntary nature; of a group of people maintaining a myth about their peaceful homeland. They regard the cities they left as their true home, to which they will eventually return; they are committed to the restoration or rebuilding of that homeland and they still do not really believe what has happened.

Sara moved out of Damascus in the end of 2012 when the situation deteriorated significantly.

The paintings are about people, people in "Diaspora". Sara wouldn't call them Syrians, they could be any men, women or children who were obliged to leave their homeland to try and establish a life somewhere else, With them they carry the fragments of their lives, the memories of peace whilst they chase one common dream, the dream of a new peace.

The style of all her canvases is extremely bold and painterly, and underlying the swirls of paint there is a very solid structure of drawing, which demonstrates her firm grip on three-dimensional form. There are images of very young children, and others, combined with these, that we can read as self-portraits. In some paintings there is a sudden shift of texture. Parts are rendered in near monochrome, in a quasi-photographic way, but are they juxtaposed with forms rendered in bold swirls of paint. Some paintings play with the idea of double vision. There are also moments when the swirls of paint threaten to swallow the forms completely, and reduce them to incoherent chaos.

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UNTITLED, 2012  
Oil & Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 150 cm





# Zena Assi

BORN IN 1974, LEBANON, ZENA ASSI LIVES AND WORKS IN BEIRUT.

Zena graduated with honors from L'Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA), worked in advertising and taught in different lebanese universities.

She has been present in the Salon d'Automne of the Sursock Museum since 2005 where she received the prize 'Mention speciale du jury' in 2009. She also won the BMW, Mini Cooper's 50th anniversary, 'Best Design for the Middle East', 2009. Her work was repeatedly auctioned in Ayyam's Dubai, Christie's Dubai and Sotheby's London, is part of the Barjeel art foundation Sharjah UAE, was presented in the 12th Cairo biennale in 2011 and is part of various public and private collections.

Zena has exhibited in solo as well as collective shows across Europe, the Middle East and the United States of America including- Art Sawa (Dubai UAE), Alwane gallery (Beirut Lebanon), Zoom (Miami USA), Shubbak (London UK), Menasart fair Biel (Beirut Lebanon), Abu Dhabi art fair (Abu Dhabi UAE), Espace Claude Lemand (Paris France), Contemporary Art Platform Gallery Space (Kuwait), Overture Show of Contemporary Art (Miami USA) and Subtitled Apeal Royal college of Art (London UK).



BUG SOLDIERS #1, v1, 2013, Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood, 77 x 77 cm

BUG SOLDIERS #1, v2, 2013, Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood, 77 x 77 cm

BUG SOLDIERS #1, v3, 2013, Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood, 77 x 77 cm



Concept:

Regardless of any analysis, judgment or speculation concerning the Arab Uprising; regardless of all the tens of thousands of pages written on the matter, debating it, endorsing or doubting it, the common man's reality remains intact; the common man unwarned, unprepared, sometimes unwilling is being dragged from his regular daily job or routine and shoved into an unrehearsed, unimaginable condition ... transformed into a soldier, a sniper, a killer and a victim, without any prior formulation, military training or psychological aptitude to face the horrific violence of such turbulences.

We, the outside borders' world, simply hear the news about the injured, the raped and the killed day after day ... until somehow we get accustomed to the numbers of the victims, who in turn and over time are transformed inside the mind of the masses into mere numbers. Their individual lives lose their usual value, they die in the hundreds, then the thousands ... they take less and less space in the world media. As time passes, and with this phenomenon of no tangible reaction from the world watching from a distance, no real interference to stop the bloodshed, human nature gets accustomed to the unfairness, the brutality, the misery and the violence ... and these men turned soldiers, start growing on their backs a fragile insect wing. A metamorphosis occurs, a slow mutation takes place and they become insignificant bug soldiers, with their numbers as their only strength. Are we witnessing Kafka's Metamorphosis, or Golding's Lord of the Flies? Are we observing the frightening parody of man's return to the state of darkness from which it took him thousands of years to emerge, or is it only a transitory moment of disintegration under the pressure of raw nature?

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BUG SOLDIERS #1, v1, 2013  
Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood  
77 x 77 cm







BUG SOLDIERS #1, v2, 2013, Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood, 77 x 77 cm



BUG SOLDIERS #1, v3, 2013, Mixed media on canvas, framed by bullets & wood, 77 x 77 cm



**PROFILES**



## HEND EL FALAFLY

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 “Seven Sins”, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 “Silence of Tunes”, Safarkhan Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2012 “Senses & Sensibilities” , Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 The Egyptian Contemporary Art, Foundation EMC art Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 2010 Gezira Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009 Must Art gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2006 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005 Picasso Art gallery, Cairo, Egypt.

### COLLECTIVE SHOWS

- 2013 Group of “Egyptian Art” Lovers of Fine Arts, Garden City, Egypt.
- 2012 Youth Salon 23 “in the impact of the arts”, Opera House, Egypt.
- 2012 Ayyam Gallery Auction, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 General Exhibition 34, Opera House, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2012 Cala Art Gallery,Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2011 Zorokan Gallery,Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2011 Youth Salon 22” in the impact of the arts”, Opera House,Egypt.
- 2011 The Revolution, Droup Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2011-2010-2009 Salama Art Gallery “small artworks”, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2010 The 33 Egyptian National Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Egyptian Arts, Cairo Opera House Egypt.
- 2010 The Egyptian Cultural Center, Vienna, Austria.
- 2010-2004 Black & White Salon, Gezira Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009 Diamond Anniversary of the Department of Graphic Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009 Fine Artists Association, Cairo Opera House-Egypt.
- 2009 Days Art gallery Taha Hussein Museum, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009-2008 Khan El Maghrabe Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009-2006 Gogan Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2008 Fine Art Festival, El Sawy Culture, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2008 El Hanager Art Gallery of Fine Arts, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.

- 2007 Art Gallery of Fine Arts Academy, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2007 Salon Gallery, Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2007 Creation Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005 El Gezera Fine Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005-2003 El Sawe Fine Arts Center- Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005-2003 El Sawe Fine Arts Center- Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005-2000 Small artworks Salon- Droup Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2004 Youth Salon 16, Palace of Arts- Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2004 the Egyptian Society of Fine Arts and Graphic, Arts Center, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2004 Egyptian Academy of Arts, Rome, Italy.
- 2004-2003 Fine Arts Center, Theatre Republic, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2004-2003 Fine Arts Center, Theatre Republic, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2004-1997 Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo,Egypt.
- 2003 Metro art Gallery, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2003 Avant-gardes Exhibition, Arts Center, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2003 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2003 National Exhibition of Fine Arts vol (28), Museum of Contemporary Art Cairo Opera House, Egypt.

- 2003 Metro Art Gallery, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2003 Avant-gardes Exhibition, Arts Center, Cairo, Opera House, Egypt.
- 2003 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2003 National Exhibition of Fine Arts vol (28), Museum of Contemporary Art Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2003-2002 Small artworks Salon, Cairo, Egypt
- 2002 Fine Arts Workshop, El hangar Fine Arts Center, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2002 Fine Artists Exhibition, Syndicate of Fine Artists, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
- 2002-1999 Vanguard Theater Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2001 Droup Art Gallery,Cairo, Egypt.

### WORKSHOPS

- 2010 Black and white drawing Workshop (pencil) Gezira Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2009 Assistant Artist, Cairo International Biennale 11, Project (Brave New World) Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2008 Assistant Artist, Purging Project, Video &, installation, What is happening today Exhibition Team work artist/ Wael Darwish, Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House Cairo, Egypt.
- 2007 Assistant Artist, The Present out of the Past Millennia, Kunst-museum Bonn, Germany.

### PRIZES

- 2011 First prize in Drawing, 22thSalon of Young Artists, Cairo, Egypt.
  - 2008 First prize in logo design Third world championship for University Youth in squash.
  - 2005 Third Prize, Vanguard exhibition, Cairo, Egypt
  - 2004 Cairo Atelier Prize, Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt
  - 2003 Cairo Atelier Prize, Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt
- ### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS
- Egyptian Museum of Modern Art.
  - 15th May Museum.
  - Alexandria Library.
  - New Cairo Airport.

## MARWA ADEL

### SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2013 Faceless, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2012 Safarkhan Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2012 French Institute, Alexandria, Egypt.
- 2012 French Institute, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2012 Hiding, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2011 Safarkhan Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2010 Safarkhan Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2010 Memory, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.

### COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION

- 2013 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa Booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE .
- 2012 Youth Salon 23, Opera house,Cario, Egypt.
- 2012 (WEYA) World Event Young Artists, Nottingham, UK.
- 2012 Liberation, A process review Art Exhibit at Havre Magasinet, Sweden.
- 2012 Dak’Art I Biennale de l’Art Africain contemporain, Dakar, Senegal.

- 2012 NordArt Exhibition, Germany.
- 2012 Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial, UAE
- 2012 German International DVF Photocup.
- 2012 Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 2012 Al Thani award for photography, Qatar.
- 2012 Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Egyptian Art Today, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2012 National photography competition, Egypt.
- 2012 "9th European, Arab Festival of Photography, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2012 WEYA 1st World Event Young Artists festival.
- 2012 Date Palm Through the eyes of the world- Khalifa International Date Palm Award, UAE
- 2011 9th Bamako Encounters: Biennale of African Photography, National Museum of Mali, Mali.
- 2011 Marrakech Art Fair, Morocco
- 2011 Christie's Dubai Auction Sale, April, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 Christie's Dubai Auction Sale, October, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 “Familiar Features between reality and myth”, FA Gallery, Kuwait.
- 2011 Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon.
- 2011 Youth Salon of Cairo Num 21,Cairo, Egypt.
- 2011 "From the Nile to the Merrimack, A Selection of Contemporary Art from Egypt", UMASS University.
- 2011 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.51, Egypt.
- 2011 Still Valid “A selection of contemporary Egyptian art”- AUC-Egypt.
- 2011 "Parallel to Cairo Biennale" Exhibition, Egypt
- 2011 "Art and Music",Gezira Center of Art, Egypt
- 2011 Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 2011 Date Palm Through the eyes of the world, Khalifa International Date Palm Award, UAE
- 2011 Ninth session of the meetings, Bamako Biennale African & Photography under the slogan "Arab spring ", French Institute in Cairo, Egypt
- 2011 "8th European, Arab Festival of Photography, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2011 Safarkhan Art Gallery "Multiple Vision”, Cairo, Egypt
- 2010 Sotheby's Doha, December, Hurouf: The Art of the Word, Qatar.
- 2010 Photography Exhibition, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
- 2010 “Why Not “Exhibition, Palace of Arts, Opera House Ground, Egypt.
- 2010 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.50, Egypt.
- 2010 Safarkhan Art Gallery "The Collection" Modern and Contemporary art Egyptian Art, Egypt
- 2010 The 5th Spring Arts Salon, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
- 2010 Miniature Artwork Salon, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
- 2010 5th Youth Salon L'Atelier D’Alexandrie, Egypt.
- 2010 Youth Salon of Cairo Num 21, Egypt.
- 2010 The Art Fund Collection, Forty West, Egypt.
- 2010 Icon prize award, Egypt.
- 2010 Miniature Artwork Salon, Opera House, Egypt
- 2010 "Pathways" Changing Focus Photography Competition "AUC", Egypt.
- 2010 First Time Exhibition, Young plastic artist's Fifth Meeting- Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt.

- 2010 Biennale of Amsterdam, Holland.
  - 2010 Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2010 Al Thani award for Photography, Qatar
  - 2010 Selection of Egyptian Photography, Cairo Biennale, Egypt
  - 2010 Date Palm Through the eyes of the world, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2010 "7th European, Arab Festival of Photography, 1st International Photo Conference", Hamburg, Germany.
  - 2010 World photography organization competition.
  - 2010 Date Palm Through the eyes of the world- Khalifa International Date Palm Award, UAE
  - 2009 4th Youth Salon L'Atelier D'Alexandrie (AAW-2009), Egypt.
  - 2009 Photography Exhibition, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
  - 2009 the 4th Spring Arts Salon, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
  - 2009 Miniature Artwork Salon, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
  - 2009 Lovers Society of Fine Arts - Exhibition Num.49, Egypt.
  - 2009 Biennale of Port Said, Egypt.
  - 2009 Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2009 SIM “Signage, Imaging and Media Exhibition & Conference “Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, UAE.
  - 2009 UAE IMAGES Exhibition, Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, UAE
  - 2009 UNDERCURRENT, Contemporary Egyptian Art, Art Sawa Dubai, UAE
  - 2009 Bonjour la France Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2009 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa Booth, UAE
  - 2009 Invisible Presence: Looking at the body in contemporary Egyptian art.
  - 2009 Date Palm through the eyes of the world, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2008 3rd Youth Salon L'Atelier D'Alexandrie, Egypt.
  - 2008 Youth Salon of Cairo Num18, Egypt.
  - 2008 1st International Media Art Forum for Youth (IMAFY) exhibition
  - 2008 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.48 Egypt.
  - 2008 3rd Spring Arts Salon, ElSawy Cultural Wheel, Egypt.
  - 2007 Youth Salon L'Atelier D'Alexandrie, Egypt.
  - 2007 Exhibition “West & East “German Cultural Center, Egypt.
  - 2007 Youth Salon of Cairo Num18, Egypt.
  - 2007 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.47, Egypt.
- ### PRIZES
- 2012 FIAB Gold Medal, Al Thani award for photography, Qatar.
  - 2012 FIAB Medal, Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2012 Youth Salon of Cairo Num 23, Egypt
  - 2012 Golden Prize, 9th European, Arab Festival of Photography.
  - 2011 Best Arab Photographer, Emirates Photography Competition- FIAB Medal Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2011 Golden Prize, 8th European, Arab Festival of Photography.
  - 2011 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.51, Photography.
  - 2010 Silver Prize, 7th European, Arab Festival of Photography.
  - 2010 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.50, photography.
  - 2010 Youth Salon of Cairo Num 21, Egypt
  - 2010 First Prize for the best solo exhibition, Ministry of culture, Gezira Center of Art, Cairo, Egypt
  - 2009 Golden Eye Award, Emirates Photography Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2008 First Prize at the Oriental Weavers Design Contest.
  - 2008 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.48, Photography.
  - 2007 Lovers Society of Fine Arts, Exhibition Num.47, Photography.



## MIREILLE MERHEJ

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Nostalgia, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2013 Alumni exhibition LAU, Lebanon.
- 2012 Minotti, Lebanon.
- 2011 Q Contemporary, Lebanon.
- 2000 Space of Art, Lebanon.
- 1997 Maraya, Lebanon.
- 1997 LAU, Lebanon.

## SARA SHAMMA

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 “Diaspora”, Art Sawa,Dubai ,UAE
- 2013 “Q” Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 2011 “Birth” Art House, Damascus, Syria.
- 2009 “Love 2009” Curated by Fatina Al-Sayed, 360 MALL, Kuwait.
- 2008 “Sara Shamma 2008” Curated by Art House Damascus for 'Finishing Touch', Knowledge Village, Dubai, U.A.E.
- 2008 “Sara 1978” Art House, Damascus, Syria.
- 2007 “Music 2007” Curated by Fatina Al-Sayed for Cornish Club Event Gallery, Kuwait.
- 2007 Art House, Damascus, Syria.
- 2004 Kalemaat Art Gallery, Aleppo, Syria.
- 2004 Curated solo show by Fatina Al-Sayed at Karizma Art Gallery, Kuwait.
- 2002 Nassir Choura Art Gallery, Damascus, Syria.
- 2001 Shell Cultural Club, Damascus, Syria.
- 2000 Nassir Choura Art Gallery, Damascus, Syria.
- 1999 Sara Shamma 1999” French Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria.

### COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Florence Biennial, Florence, Italy.
- 2013 The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition, The Mall Galleries, London, UK
- 2012 Nord Art 2012, Annual International Exhibition, organized by KiC – Kunst in der Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany.
- 2010 Art Prize 2010, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.
- 2010 Nord Art 2010, Annual International Exhibition, Curated by KiC – Kunst in der Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany.
- 2009 Contemporary Istanbul, International Art Fair, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2009 Jableh Cultural Festival, 5th Edition, Jableh, Syria.
- 2008/09 Damas- Paris, Regards Croisés, organized by Europia Art Gallery at the Arab World Institute, Paris, France & at the National Museum, Damascus, Syria.
- 2008 UAE Through Arabian Eyes, the International Financial Centre, Dubai, UAE.
- 2008 Syrian Artists, Art House Damascus at Souq Wakef Art Center, Doha, Qatar.
- 2008 The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, ETSA Utilities Gallery, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia & The National Archives of Australia, Canberra, Australia.
- 2007 Panorama of Syrian Arts, Catzen Arts Centre, The American University Washington, D.C. USA.

- 2006 Syrian Artists, Syrian Cultural Centre, Paris, France.
  - 2005/06 International Painting Prize of the Castellon County Council, ESPAI (the Contemporary Art Centre), Castellon & the Municipal Arts Centre of Alcorcon, Madrid, Spain.
  - 2005 Women & Arts, International Vision, Expo Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE.
  - 2004 BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK.
  - 2004 Syrian Artists, National Library, Madrid, Spain.
  - 2004 Syrian Artists, Kalemaat Art Gallery, Aleppo, Syria.
  - 2003 FMA - Festival du Monde Arabe de Montréal, Montreal, Canada.
  - 2003 International Women Arts, Organised by Le Pont Art Gallery, Aleppo, Syria.
  - 2003 Syrian Artists, Gallery Amber, Leiden & Enschede, The Netherlands.
  - 2002 International Artists, Gallery M-Art, Vienna, Austria.
  - 2002 Mediterranean Biennial,(representing Syria) Kheir El Din Palace, Tunis, Tunisia.
  - 2002 Arab Artists, Dar AL Anda Art Gallery, Amman, Jordan.
  - 2001 ARTUEL, International Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon.
  - 2001 Two Syrian Artists, Coventry Museum Coventry, UK.
  - 2001 Lattakia Biennial, Lattakia, Syria.
  - 2001 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE.
  - 2001 Cairo Biennial Cairo, Egypt.
  - 2001 Women & War Art Exhibition, The Red Cross International Committee of Syria, Jordan & Switzerland.
- ### AWARDS & EVENTS
- 2013 Fourth prize in Painting, & Special Mention, Florence Biennial, Florence, Italy.
  - 2011 Nominated as the Celebrity Partner of The United Nations World Food Programme.
  - 2011 The Revealing of Shamma’s painting: “Fighting Hunger”at Damascus Opera House during the premiere of Syrian film director, Nabil Al-Maleh’s movie: “Story of a Painting”.
  - 2011 “Fighting Hunger” was then exhibited at The National Museum of Damascus, Syria.
  - 2010 Shortlisted for the Nord Art Prize, Annual International Exhibition, organised by KiC (Kunst in der Carlshütte), Büdelsdorf, Germany.
  - 2008 First Prize in Painting, Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, The South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
  - 2006 Fine Arts Syndicate Award, Damascus, Syria.
  - 2005 Shortlisted for the International Painting Prize of the Castellon County Council, Castellon, Spain.
  - 2004 Fourth Prize, BP Portrait Award. The National Portrait Gallery, London, UK.
  - 2001 First Prize (The Golden Medal), Latakia Biennial (Painting), Latakia, Syria.
- ### EDUCATION
- 1998 Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts (Painting Department), Damascus University, Damascus, Syria.
  - 1995 Graduated from Adham Ismaïil Fine Arts Institute, Damascus, Syria.
- ### COLLECTIONS
- Public Collections: The National Museum of Damascus, The British Council Collection Damascus, The Spanish Cultural Center Collection, Damascus.

Shamma’s works can be found in private collections in the following countries: Austria, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom & the USA.

## ZENA ASSI

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Bug Soldiers, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2012 Still Nature, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2011 Omissions selectives, Alwane Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2010 Cityphilia, Albareh Gallery, Manama, Bahrain
  - 2010 Mass Movement, Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai, UAE
  - 2009 Public Space, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2009 Un peu de Beyrouth, Alwane Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2008 Cite et Citadins, Alwane Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- ### COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS
- 2014 "Art14 London Fair", Art Sawa booth, Olympia, Kensington, London, UK.
  - 2013 “Abu Dhabi Art Fair", Art Sawa booth, Saadiyat Cultural District, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
  - 2013 Syri-Arts Auction, Downtown Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2013 Art13 London Fair, Art Sawa booth, Olympia, Kensington, London, UK
  - 2013 Journey through our heritage, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2013 Pullman Art Night, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2013 Atfal Souriyah, Mark Hashem Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2013 Art Night Special Edition- DIFC, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2012 OverTure, Miami Art fair, Art Sawa booth, Miami, USA
  - 2012 Dress Code Project, Contemporary Art Platform, Art Sawa with “CAP”, Kuwait
  - 2012 The Lebanese Creations 1959,2012, Espace Claude Lemand, Paris, France
  - 2012 XXXI Salon d'Automne , Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2011 Subtitles , Royal College of Art, London, UK
  - 2011 XXX Salon d'Automne , Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2011 Shubbak , London, UK
  - 2011 Menasart Fair, Art Sawa booth ,Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2011 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa Booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE
  - 2011 Rebirth, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2010 XXII Biennale of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
  - 2010 Zoom, Miami, USA
  - 2010 Contemparabia, Dome, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2009 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE
  - 2009 Salon d'Automne , prize: mention speciale du jury, Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon.
  - 2008 Regards d’artistes III, Alwane, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2008 Creative Expressions, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2008 Regards d’artistes II, Alwane Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2008 Art Paris Abu Dhabi art fair, Art Sawa Booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE
  - 2008 Opening, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE
  - 2008 XXVIII Salon d’Automne, Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2006 Collective Exhibition, Alwane Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
  - .•2006 XXVII Salon d'Automne, Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon

- 2005 XXVI Salon d'Automne, Musée Sursock, Beirut, Lebanon
- ### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
- Margaret, Obank, “Zena Assi: Cover Story”, Banipal Magazine, issue. 32, London, cover & first pages: (2008).
  - Al Ali, Nawal, “Cite et Citadins”, Min Wa Ila Magazine, Jerusalem, cover page & p10-13: (August 2008).
  - Malhamé Harfouche, Nicole, “Cité et Citadins: Peintures Signées Zena Assi Farah”, La Revue du Liban, issue. 4165, Lebanon, p34: (5-12 July 2008).
  - Khalaf, Colette, “Dans la Mégalopolis de Zena Assi”, L’Orient le Jour, Lebanon, p6: (2 July 2008).



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