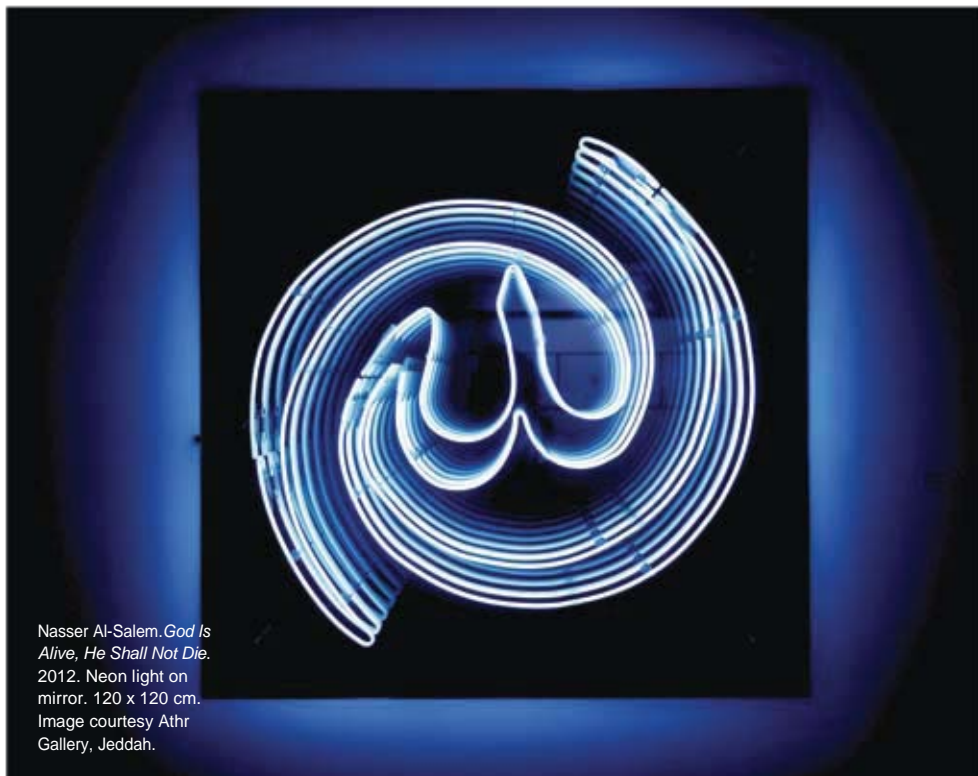


# FRESHMEN ON THE ABU DHABI ART FLOOR



Nasser Al-Salem. *God Is Alive, He Shall Not Die*. 2012. Neon light on mirror. 120 x 120 cm. Image courtesy Athr Gallery, Jeddah.

Jeddah's **Athr Gallery (1M8/B1)** is among four spaces showing Contemporary Saudi art the fair and brings works by four of its artists – Nasser Al-Salem, Sadiq Wasil, Sami Al-Turki and Ayman Yossri Dayban (two pieces by the latter's *Malcolm X Subtitles* series have recently been acquired by The British Museum, London). The gallery's participation at Abu Dhabi Art stems largely from the fact that "the Gulf-based fair is a serious one and also supported by an important government body," says Athr's Mohammed Hafiz. "We believe in enhancing our presence to strengthen our position between institutions and patrons." The price bracket for the works begins from as low as \$2900 to as high as \$89,000 for Dayban's *The Bell*, showcased in the *Beyond* section. Al-Turki, who participated in the ADACH collateral event at the 2009 Venice Biennale, presents new photographic works, while Dayban showcases one of his largest pieces from his *Subtitles* series, extracted from the epic movie, *The Message*. "This particular scene is essentially a strong commentary on what's happening in the world today," says Hafiz.



Yazan Khalili. (Detail) *Colour Correction 2* (from *The Camp* series). 2007–10. Digital lambda C-type print. 61 x 99.5 cm. Image courtesy Edge of Arabia, London.

The newly instituted **Edge of Arabia Projects (1M4/B4)**, an offshoot of Edge of Arabia – a leading platform for the promotion of Middle Eastern and particularly, Contemporary Saudi art – showcases works by Palestinian-born Yazan Khalili and Saudi artist Abdunasser Gharem at a price range of \$3200-48,000. Gharem has just completed a residency in Morocco's Dar Al-Ma'mun where his interaction with the local craftspeople, who specialise in wood carvings for mosques, led him to create his signature stamps in three unique woodworks. Khalili, on the other hand, shows work from his *Colour Correction* series in which the artist reconfigures refugee camps in Ramallah using colours. "Essentially, it's about imagining a better situation," said the gallery's Stephen Stapleton, who added that discussions are being held on the possibility of turning Khalili's *Colour Corrections* into a performance piece in Ramallah.

Of the 42 galleries which occupy spaces in Manarat Al-Saadiyat and the Norman Foster-designed pavilion, 10 are newcomers.

Participation at Abu Dhabi Art's fourth edition marks the first time that **Paul Stolper Gallery (1M10)** shows in the region. The London-based space brings in a collection of works by stellar names on the Contemporary art circuit – Peter Blake, Gavin Turk, Damien Hirst, Pablo Genovés and Shepard Fairey, with whom the gallery has worked with to produce both print and unique works. "We were impressed by the fair's gallery selection," said Paul Stolper's Steve Reed; "the fair seems very well organised and we feel that some of our artists would be of particular interest to Abu Dhabi clients." Prices for the works offered range between \$4800-48,000.



Gavin Turk. (Detail) *Triple Elvis Blue on Paper*, 2012. Silkscreen on 410 gsm Somerset Satin Tub Size. 152.4 x 122.5 cm. Image courtesy Paul Stolper Gallery, London.



Since its establishment a decade ago, Athens's **The Breeder (2P6)** has taken part in fairs across Europe and the USA; Abu Dhabi Art marks the gallery's debut in the region. "This fair is the perfect platform to introduce our programme to a select audience in the Middle East, especially as Abu Dhabi is on its way to becoming a major art hub," says the gallery's George Vamvakidis. Works by two of The Breeder's 27 artists will be on show – Mindy Shapero and Antonis Donef – both of whom create labour-intensive pieces, with the former focusing on sculpture and the latter on collage. "Though they come from completely different backgrounds, both create a very personal cosmos that is abstract and chaotic but which is also poetically universal," adds Vamvakidis.

Mindy Shapero. (Detail) *Final Inversion*. 2012. Wood, paper mâché, acrylic paint and gold leaf. 44 x 100 x 100 cm. Image courtesy The Breeder, Athens.

Other new participating galleries include **Artspace, Dubai/London, 1M3**; **CDA Projects, Istanbul, 1M14**; **Galleria Continua, San Gimignano/Beijing/Le Moulin, 1M19**; **Kukje Gallery, Tina Kim Gallery, Seoul/New York**; **Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, 1M5**; **Simon Lee Gallery, London, 1M18**; **Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei/Beijing, 1M7**.