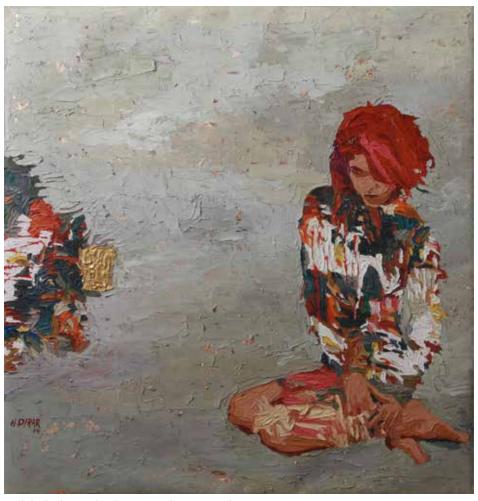


Albareh is proud to present in Bahrain, Hossam Dirar, one of Egypt's most energetic emerging artists. In this exhibition, the Cairo-based artist will showcase a number of oil and mixed media canvases that build upon his 2013 series "Faces", but yet finding subtler places for an intimacy and warmth that is always elsewhere, far in the distance, almost unreachable. In his depictions of women, the artist is simultaneously looking at carefully and taking distance from his subject matter. Neither abstract not figurative, Dirar's compositions are created out of pure material, and assembled almost in the manner of frames and moving images rather than at standstill. The ubiquity and speed of his native Cairo is palpable in the fragile environments he builds; it is but through a combination of tension and void that these works gain sculptural frames and become three-dimensional

Heritage and future blend in his practice, as he draws on ancient Egyptian art, and on the classical tradition of icons and portraits, with their singular effects of oblique perspective and distance. As an astute observer, in these paintings of women, Dirar is asking questions about the female form, with almost child-like curiosity: He is imagining their personalities and their lives, their private surroundings and backgrounds. Nevertheless he is not interested in telling a story: He wants to capture a single moment of intense human experience. It might be the wait, the despair, the impatience. The time quality associated with the works is presented as an accidental snapshot, as in the night paintings of American realist Edward Hopper. Dirar's moment however are a lot more fragile and less open to the viewer: There is something at work between the painter and the woman.

As it is known from his earlier work with photography, installation and particularly the paintings of Cairo, based on photographs from convoluted times, Hossam Dirar also stands at the threshold of the contemporary, with his brush and palette wanting to emulate the digital, and thus creating documents which are both historical and temporary. But what is a temporary document? It is the question that the works beget. In the same manner that classical Egyptian art translated every aspect of everyday life into art and made it last for thousands of years, the artist is interested in leaving behind a document about the digital age, with the same weight of time that the ancients taught us and that by all means, is absent from contemporary art nowadays. Dirar's iconography functions as a fresco, accidentally found on the abetted wall of a grand palace.



Untitled 1 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 100x100cm | 2014



Untitled 2 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 100x100cm | 2014



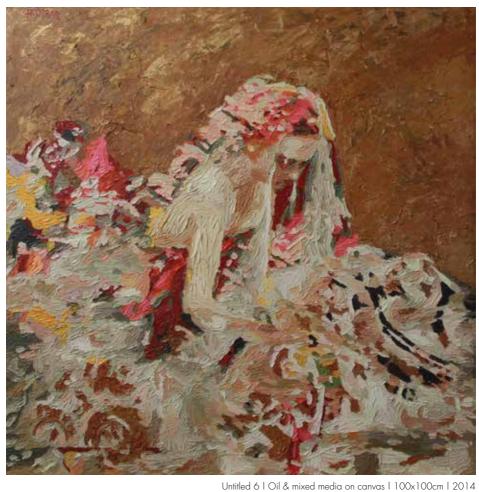
Untitled 3 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 110x101cm | 2014



Untitled 4 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 103x67cm | 2014



Untitled 5 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 111x87cm | 2014







Untitled 9 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 84x84cm | 2014

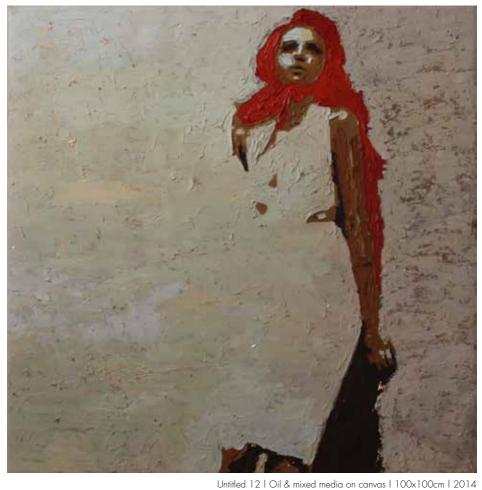


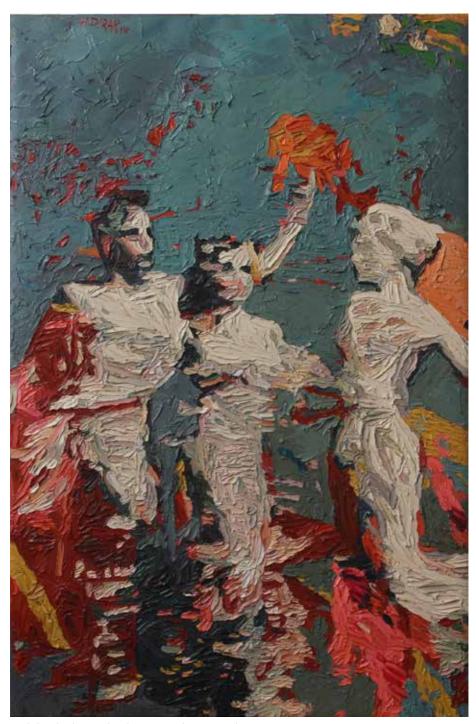
Untitled 10 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 97x85cm | 2014





Untitled 8 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 115x97cm | 2014





Untitled 13 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 100x64cm | 2014



Untitled 7 | Oil & mixed media on canvas | 105x175cm | 2014

## **About Dirar Hossam**

Hossam Dirar was born and raised in Cairo, and graduated from the applied arts department at Helwan University, Egypt, in 2002 and since then his work has been showcased in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Egypt, Slovakia, Germany, France, Italy, Austria and South Africa. Living and working in Cairo, Dirar is one of Egypt's most significant contemporary artists, included in Saatchi's portfolio of emerging artists to invest during 2013. Hossam Dirar is a multi-disciplinary artist working across painting, photography, installation, video and graphic design. His works are conceived as a re-interpretation of Egypt's rich visual heritage, overlapping between the multi-cultural character of Cairo, the city's complex and ever expanding urban façade, the region's traditional iconography and the influence of contemporary media in shaping cultural referents.

## Solo Exhibitions

01/2013	Egyptian Revolution Kosice (2013 European Capital of Culture), Slovekia
11/2012	Once Upon a Time Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
04/2012	We Need New Oxygen & From 11:00 till 11:03 Installation & Video Art Saad Zaghloul Cultural Center, Cairo, Egypt
01/2012	Egyptian Revolution Anniversary The Egyptian Academy, Rome, Italy
10/2011	Wad3 Moshtarak El Sawy Culturewheel, Cairo, Egypt
09/2011	Lotus Revolution 2011, Touring Exhibition Vienna, Bratislava, Prague, Budapest, Kecskemét, Maribor, Graz Organizer: The Cultural Office of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Vienna
07/2011	To Egypt with Love II Safarkhan Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
05/2011	To Egypt with Love in Vienna Palais Porcia, Vienna, Austria Sponsor: The Egyptian Embassy in Vienna
04/2011	To Egypt with Love, tribute to the Egyptian revolution Safarkhan Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
12/2010	Abstract Artworks Collection Hanfaninha Gallery, Cairo, Egypt

## Group Exhibitions

06/2013	Arts-Marts Exhibition The Four Seasons Nile Plaza, Cairo, Egypt
05/2013	Division, Installation Art The 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Exhibition Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
04/2012	The 34th Annual General Exhibition Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
01/2012	Festival of the Egyptian Revolution Anniversary The Egyptian Cultural Institute, Paris, France Organizer: The Cultural Office of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Paris (Coverage:http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=P6LnIVcthtw&feature=share, Interview with Al-Arabiya TV: http://www.alarabiya.net/ articles/2012/01/28/191041.html)
01/2012	Tutankhamun Festival The Festival of Egyptian Culture, Frankfurt, Germany
12/2011	Freedom to Create Photography Exhibition Cape Town, South Africa

## Education

1995 – 2000 BA Fine Art

Faculty of Applied Arts, Helwan University, Cairo (graduated with honors, best Graduation project

amongst all entries)

Major studies: Graphic Design, Painting, Printmaking, and Mixed Media. Minor Studies: Product Design, Photography, Multimedia, Textiles, and Ceramic

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Albareh Art Gallery P.O. Box 26282, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel +973 1771 7707

art@albareh.com | www.albareh.com