

The Future of a Promise - Vogue.it

Since months our attention has been drawn towards the uprisings in the Arab World, and the population's search for freedom and radical change.

A great creative force always accompanies revolutions, and slowly we discover new talents and learn more about the cultures that were unfamiliar to us. Generally less acquainted with art coming from this part of the world than with that of Russia or China, we begin to know more about the artistic renaissance of this whole region.

The Future of a Promise is the largest Pan-Arab show of contemporary art at the 54th [Biennale of Venice](#). From Tunisia all the way to Saudi Arabia, this landmark exhibition brings together more than twenty-five recent works by some of the most relevant Arab artists. Organized by Edge of Arabia, and curated by Lina Lazaar, a specialist in Post War and Contemporary Art at Sotheby's London. Lazaar's passion for Arab and Iranian Contemporary Art led Sotheby's to hold their first European auctions in this section in 2007. She has since curated these sales annually and has significantly increased the international exposure of Middle Eastern contemporary art. Lina is also associate editor of *Ibraaz*, and member of the Middle East and North Africa Acquisitions Committee of Tate Modern, London.

The Future of a Promise examines the way in which an idea is embodied in a formal, visual context and how a promise opens up a horizon of future possibilities, whether they are aesthetical, political, historical, social or critical. With the events currently unfolding in the Middle East, the question of the future and the promise inherent within culture has acquired an even more incisive degree of relevance.

The artists included in *The Future of a Promise* are not representative of a particular movement; they seek to engage with a singular issue in the [Middle East](#) today.

“Through the artworks selected, I wanted to investigate how artists from this diverse, fragmented region have responded to the often contradictory promises that have defined our history” says curator Lina Lazaar. “I am incredibly proud and honoured to be putting together this exhibition in 2011, at such critical times for the Arab world, and I very much hope to create the rightful platform for these voices to be heard.”

The Future of a Promise presents important works that range from installation, performance and photography, to video, sculpture and painting, and includes the following artists: **Ziad Abillama** (Lebanon), **Manal Al-Dowayan** (Saudi Arabia), **Ahmed Alsoudani** (Iraq), **Ziad Antar** (Lebanon), **Ayman Baalbaki** (Lebanon), **Lara Baladi** (Egypt/Lebanon), **Fayçal Baghriche** (Algeria), **Yto Barrada** (Morocco), **Taysir Batniji** (Palestine), **Abdelkader Benchamma** (France/Algeria), **Ayman Yossri Daydban** (Palestine/Jordan), **Mounir Fatmi** (Morocco), **Abdulnasser Gharem** (Saudi Arabia), **Mona Hatoum** (Lebanon), **Raafat Ishak** (Egypt), **Emily Jacir** (Palestine), **Yazan Khalili** (Palestine), **Ahmed Mater** (Saudi Arabia), and **Driss Ouadahi** (Algeria), as well as three **Abraaj Capital Art Prize** Winners, **Jananne Al-Ani** (Iraq), **Kader Attia** (Algeria), and **Nadia Kaabi-Linke** (Tunisia).

di [Chiara Donn](#)

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