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Arena for Contemporary African, African-American and Caribbean Art

Mohammed Omar Khalil

16/06/16 at 21:43 pm by admin



Mohammed Omar Khalil

Alhambra, 2010.

About:

Mohammed Omar Khalil was born in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1936 and lives and works in New York City since 1967. Khalil is one of the Arab world's most important contemporary painters, having influenced two generations of regional artists. His work, spanning over forty years, across painting and print-making, is in a privileged position between the canon of modern Arab art and the artist's ground-breaking practice, searching for a dialogue between dissimilar cultures. Profoundly influenced by his travels throughout the Middle East – in particular Morocco and Sudan – and the art history of Europe that he became immersed in during his studies in Italy, Khalil has brought to life a pioneering form of art, in which elements and patterns from tradition merge with pop art and fine prints.



Paulo #1, 2011.



Petra 1, 1986-1997.



Sigh #2, 2010.

Khalil's work illustrates with vividness the complex relationship between the symbolic forms of the East and the conceptual art born in Europe. His series "The Battle of San Romano" is a contemporary rendition of the history paintings by the 15th century Florentine artist credited with pioneering in visual perspective, and not unlike Khalil, someone who transitioned between the late Gothic and the Early Renaissance. Using the same dimensions as Ucello's grand-scale panels, the Sudanese artist's canvases reproduce the perspective depth in a collage technique deploying his multi-layered signature symbolic order, merging at once fresco and mosaic. The effect is heightened by the introduction of decorative elements from the Islamic world and a balanced aura of earth colors.(text Albareh Art Gallery)