ABDULLAH MURAD

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the canvas supplement

Dancing to Life's Melody

The Indefinable Abdullah Murad



Abdullah Murad, 'Abstract', 2006, Mixed media on canvas, 180 x 180 cm.

"Sometimes we miss that in our culture," or evident configuration; rather he of art." he says. "We focus too much on sadness - seeks to express the tensile relation that on expressing negative emotions."

enjoys a carefree and experimental explains Murad emphatically. "I am can be an electrifying force." relationship with painting. He is a serenely inventing something that does not exist." quiet man, a grandfather although far from elderly, and seems to have retained secrets at first glance," he says.

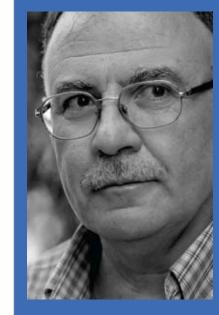
Murad's creative process is as complex smile. "I like that about my son."

Murad is an instinctive Fauvist and movement. "Art is not imitating nature," branch of a tree, for example,

rt is like as the understanding of his practice. He Murad's dreams, desires, fears and he is constantly invoking an expansion of a dance. applies layer upon layer of colour; often frustrations pour onto the canvas without space. This sense of openness can be You keep in thick impasto, other times thin and much deliberation for there is no philosophy put down to Murad's fascination for the moving translucent. He plays with textures and behind his work; it is simply the expression aesthetics of Chinese painting. "An empty surfaces, creating collages of newspaper of life. "I am playing," he says. "It is a space with just one off-centre line that to cut-outs bound together by waxy paper mystery where it comes from and where it indicates the branch of a tree, for example, whatever is going on," he says. "When glue. His brushstrokes oscillate from is going." Murad resists the temptation to can be an electrifying force," he says. I dance, I go crazy with joy!" It is no frantic and condensed to considered and over-analyse the process of painting. "I just surprise to hear that Abdullah Murad sparse. Forget symmetrical alignment, like to let things happen spontaneously," he is a fan of the Rio de Janeiro Carnival. Murad never pays claim to a hidden says. "I don't like to burden the playfulness improvisation is difficult to define. "I get

"We all have a daily obsession subconscious desires is a language that, A recurring question might sit in the back an inner joy akin to that of a child. He has to draw, to paint, to dance," he says. "It by definition, seeks to express that which of his mind, and the mere fact that there an innocence that is primitive, simple and is the release of positive energy." Murad the logic of words and phrases fails to is no answer is the wheel that turns the untainted. 'Improvisation' is the sounding does not see himself as a siphon for capture. Critics and collectors admire creative process; it is, "like spiralling," bell of his soul, manifesting in an array human expression; his role as an artist Murad's work because he is constantly he says, "Like dancing." There is no end of Abstract Expressionist works that is not exclusive or elitist; and he resists breaking the boundaries. His paintings to Murad's experimentation. "I need to exude energy and freedom. Grasping categorisation. "I don't like to be thought of possess a tactile force that stimulates break whatever becomes structured." the beauty of Murad's paintings is not as a painter," says Murad, whose three more than just the single sense of Out of destruction comes rebirth. "Art is instantaneous; time is needed to embrace children have inherited his creative seeing. His lines can compress like a health! Art is life! It is dynamism, struggle, the torrent of colour and motion in his impulse. His son, Fadi, has chosen to springboard in the corner of a painting; and especially joy," he says. For Murad, works. "A painting takes time to reveal study graphic design. "I am happy that ready to catapult into the open space. the notion that an artist must be a darkly itself," he says. "It does not reveal its Fadi is independent, building himself a Others are frantically compulsive, or brooding, introverted character is simply new direction, and trying to get out of fragile interventions dancing amid a disgraceful. "Why should artists add my influence," he says with a satisfied world filled with commotion. His colours darkness to this world?" he asks, "Art is collide and crescendo unpredictably and like lighting a candle." A

One who indulges in such energetic bored quickly," he says. "I find that my paintings are not limited to a single style." exists between balance and imbalance; "An empty space with just one Murad is always adding new elements; that pregnant potential of unexpected off-centre line that indicates the he explores different styles or revisits existing lines of enquiry with renewed vigour. Yes, he has done portraits, landscapes and sculptures, but Murad His ability to visually communicate finds himself entranced by Abstraction.



The Homs-born graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus, Syria, has been refining his unique style of Abstract Arabesque for more than three decades now. His work has been exhibited in several galleries and cultural centres throughout the Middle East and beyond, and has generated substantial critical acclaim. Murad's latest exhibition at Ayyam Gallery, Damascus, in March 2007 was an undeniable hit, and coincided with the release of a 150-page monograph showcasing the masterpieces he has painted in the last 20 years.

Considered one of the most celebrated Abstract painters in the region, Murad's paintings can be found in collections across the world. To date, two works have been auctioned by Christie's in their sales of Modern and Contemporary Arab art (February and October 2007), dramatically surpassing pre-sale estimates. When asked about the meaning of his paintings, Murad says, "I am not the one who decides; each painting is a living creature. She's the one to decide and explain her

