

May 2020

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Mehdi Moutasher: Measuring Space

Exhibition October 30, 2017

Albareh Art Gallery
Kingdom of Bahrain
2 November – 2 December 2017

Mehdi Moutasher’s work is influenced by two aesthetics, the western geometric abstraction, and the Islamic decorative motives that forsakes literal representations for its own geometric abstraction and complex calligraphy.

‘... anyone accustomed to looking at Western art will see in Mehdi Moutashar’s work how he has been influenced by the geometric abstraction and the minimalism of the west. However, an eye accustomed to Islamic art will recognize school of thought of the Abbasid Mustansiriya Madrasah in Baghdad. The artist sees himself at the crossroad of these two traditions.’
Dominique Clevenot, 2012

The exhibit at the Albareh Art Gallery will comprise a selection of Moutashar’s recent works – wall pieces, constructions in space, and models. – and will be organized in what the artist refers to as three ‘time-frames.’ Beginning with the Cube, one of the artist’s oldest constructions dating back to the 1980s, he surrounds it with a large installation that is spread over two walls, to give ‘material form to the major role of the module in the artist’s oeuvre, the importance of orientation, and the multiplication of viewpoints depending upon the light and the visitor’s movements.’

The second part of the exhibition is a series of wall pieces made using elastic wire, which the artist uses as a new way of drawing which he uses to question the vibrations and continuity of the straight line.



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The third and final part of the exhibit is a series of models, representing the significance that Moutashar places on creating models as part of the work process of creating art, allowing the viewer a glimpse into how the idea for an artwork originates and the art creation process that yields the final work. It is an invitation to the veritable 'laboratory represented by the studio.'

Mehdi Moutashar was born in Hilla, Iraq in 1943. He moved to Paris in 1967, and since 1974, has lived and worked in Arles. He was a professor at Ecole National Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, from 1974 to 2008. Moutashar's work has been exhibited globally, in such countries as Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the UAE, and the US.

Image:

Mehdi Moutashar. SIX PLIS A 15° ET 60°, 2014 Painted metal, 158 x 223 cm

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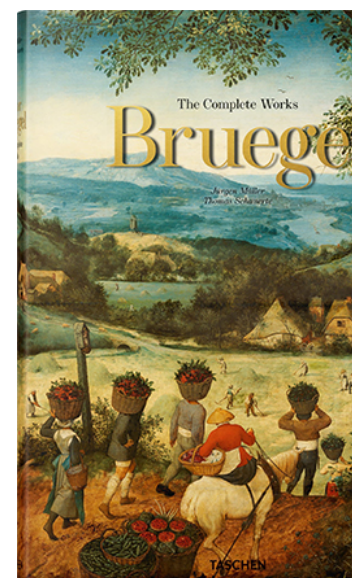
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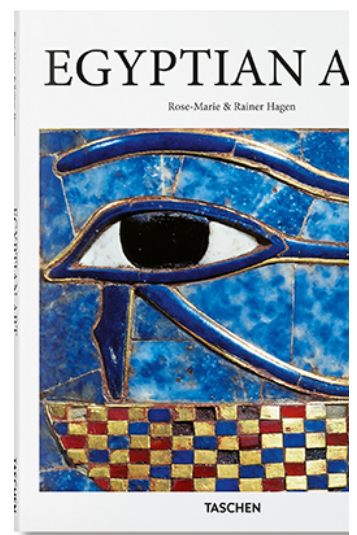
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