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Syrian painter Ahmad Moualla's tribute to late Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish

Syrian painter Ahmad Moualla has debuted his most recent body of work at an exhibition held at Green Art Gallery.

Oct. 4, 2011 - *PRLog* -- Entitled "Grey Ash" this exhibition references an earlier body of work created by Moualla in 1997 and which was dedicated to the late Syrian playwright Saadallah Wannous, who passed away in the same year. Considered one of the founding members of Syrian modern theatre, Wannous wrote an impressive body of short plays whose fundamental theme evolved around the relationship between the individual, society and its authorities; a theme also central to Moualla's practice.

Over a decade later, Moualla revisits those very ideas, this time dedicating a seminal 400 x 440 cm sized monochromatic painting to one of the Arab world's most prominent literary figures, the late Mahmoud Darwish. In this work, Moualla revisits Darwish's poem, "The Dice Player" which he wrote shortly before his death. The excerpt below reflects the undertones presented in Moualla's new body of work:



Ahmad Moualla, Untitled, 2011, Mixed media on canvas

I'm the way the dice fall

sometimes winning sometimes losing

I'm like you or maybe slightly less ...

I was born beside the well where three single trees stood like nuns

I was born without ceremony or a midwife

and belonged to a family

by chance inheriting its features, idiosyncrasies and illnesses:

What affects the individual's relationship to society? How much power does the individual actually possess to be able to resist that which he has been inherently brought in to? How much of that is choice, or freedom of will, and are these anything more than idealized concepts? At a time in the Arab world where questions are being evoked, yet its answers that are more readily given, the artist asks the viewer to simply pause and re-question.

The exhibition, "Grey Ash" is on view at Green Art Gallery until November 10th 2011. For more information please visit <http://gagallery.wordpress.com>

Born in Syria in 1958, Moualla is considered as one of the leading post-modern artists in Syrian expressionism. He was the first to introduce performance in his work, first exhibited at Atassi Gallery in 1997 with the exhibition entitled "A tribute to Saadallah Wannous". Moualla graduated from the Damascus University of Fine Arts followed by the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Since then he has participated in various exhibitions in Dubai, Cairo, Paris, Istanbul and Graz (Austria) among others. Recent exhibitions include "Signs: Contemporary Arab Art" at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York (2009) and "New works" at Green Art Gallery Dubai (2009).

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Oct 04, 2011 News

Green Art Gallery was first established in 1995, and was a key player in the development of major modern Arab artists in the region. In late 2008, keeping only the name intact, Green Art Gallery went through a complete rebranding and restructuring of its identity, artist roster, and curatorial focus. In 2010 the gallery relocated to a 3000 sqft warehouse space which allowed for the innovative and ambitious projects which were to follow. Central to the curatorial program are contemporary artists of all media from the Middle East, North Africa, South East Asia, and Turkey, who rely heavily on a research-based practice. Most recently the gallery has continued to grow with the additions of internationally renowned and emerging artists including Hale Tenger, Kamrooz Aram, Seher Shah, and Shadi Habib Allah to the artist roster.

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Email : ***@gagallery.com ✓
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Group Exhibition: Theatre of the Absurd

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