

AB DISCOVERY 2016

***Ayad Alkadhi (Iraq), Caroline Jane Harris (UK),
Fuad Hamdi (Iraq), Golnaz Fathi (Iran), Jaffar Al Oraibi (Bahrain)***

Globalization brings the world together: Cultures meet, borders dissolve and a vast cultural diversity emerges. The greatest benefit an individual gains out of this is the chance to broaden his or her horizon. Herein, the international contemporary art scene reflects the positive aspects of a multicultural society in the most perfect way. In the course of the last few month AB Gallery came across remarkable and very talented artists from many different and highly diverse countries. Their amazing art pieces, which are on display now at the AB Gallery, demonstrate the overwhelming cultural wealth of mankind on a small yet magnificent scale.

Ayad Alkadhi was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1971. He left his home country after the first Gulf War. Today he lives and works in New York City. The artist received his MFA from the New York University's ITP Tisch School of Arts. His works are part of well-known collections (e. g. the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) and are exhibited internationally on a regular basis. In his art, Ayad Alkadhi focuses on political and cultural issues of the Middle East, particularly Iraq. Herein, Arabic calligraphy is a major and reoccurring element. For instance, his series *If words could kill* (2015) is inspired by the traditional art of the calligram. A calligram is an arrangement of words or letters constructed in a way that creates a visual image. The shape of a dagger or a sword can thus represent the power of words unmistakably.

The British visual artist **Caroline Jane Harris** (*1987, London, UK) follows a different intention altogether. Being part of a generation that is aware of rapid (technological) developments, she is balancing between traditional and contemporary processes. Specifically the techniques of photography and print in the West have changed remarkably in the past few decades. The artist blends both media in her art and combines them with manual work. Following numerous, time-consuming steps she develops her final art piece from photography to a multi-dimensional object. Caroline Jane Harris received her MFA from the City and Guilds School of Art in London in 2015. Throughout her artistic career she received various awards amongst other things and presented her pieces to an international audience.

AB GALLERY

across borders

The paintings by **Fuad Hamdi** (*1962, Iraq) show multiple and sometimes rather mysterious sceneries: Intertwined bodies, a man with tie riding a llama or a group of interacting people with a wolf: Without question, these works tell stories. However, it is up to the viewer to decipher their content and meaning. The Iraqi artist works completely intuitively contrary to using a thought through concept or composition. Emotions, expression, coincidence and intuition are key aspects of Fuad Hamdi's working process and essential in order to understand the pieces. The art by the painter can be defined literally as "an emptying of inner emotions". Meanwhile the final result of an art piece remains uncertain until the very end. Fuad Hamdi has lived in Canada for many years and has a long artistic career as freelance artist behind him. In Iraq, he used to be a member of the Iraqi Artist Council and Iraqi Art Association. Amongst others, he exhibited in Syria, Iraq, Italy and Canada.

The work of **Golnaz Fathi** (*1972, Tehran, Iran) is based on fundamental studies of Persian calligraphy. During the course of her six-year training in calligraphy at the Iranian Society of Calligraphy she was able to perfect and deepen her skills. She became one of the very few women who reached the highest level within that (still male-dominated) discipline. Within only a few years the Iranian developed her own and very personal style - an "unknown language". Working almost meditatively, her working process is slow and intense. In her artwork the written word has a high priority. However, it is not meant to communicate in a traditional way, i. e. deciphered with the eyes. In fact, these "non-texts" as she entitles them, are supposed to be read with the heart and should be perceived over emotions (contrary to the intellect). In addition to Golnaz Fathi's intense training in calligraphy she also holds a BA in graphic design from the Azad University in Tehran. Her pieces are exhibited internationally in galleries and culture centers. Furthermore, her art works are part of well-known collections such as the collection of the British Museum in London.

One of the most prominent, contemporary artist in Bahrain is **Jaffar Al Oraibi** (*1976, Bahrain). Exploring the role of the individual in today's society is an issue that reoccurs in his art. Moreover, his works display the many notions Jaffar Al Oraibi has on topics such as fear, desire or love. In his art the artist investigates these central aspects carefully. Typically, single figures with thick and strong contours define his paintings. The multidimensional nature of Jaffar Al Oraibi's art works offers a wide range of interpretations and depicts the artist's concern with the innermost thoughts and instincts of humanity. During the past few years the Bahraini artist has exhibited in Bahrain, Qatar or London and won a number of international prizes with his artwork.

We would like to invite you to the opening of the show on April 24, from 11 am to 4 pm. The exhibition runs from April 24 to May 21 at the AB Gallery Lucerne.

For more information please give us a call: + 41 41 982 08 80, write us an email: office@ab-gallery.com or visit our website: www.ab-gallery.com.