



naqsh collective, from the Jaffa Collection
White engraved corian with brass
Dim.: 137 cm X 275 cm Year: 2015

**TABARI ARTSPACE ART SEASON FINALE
'STITCHED STORIES'
AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY NAQSH COLLECTIVE**

April 23 – July 1

Tabari Artspace is delighted to announce 'Stitched Stories' a solo exhibition of works by naqsh collective that will mark the gallery's final exhibition of the 2018-19 art season.

One concern in this era of globalization is that regional design traditions and visual cultures will start to fade out, which is why the work of naqsh collective (previously shortlisted for the Jameel Art Prize 5, 2018) is all the more important. The Jordanian sisters behind the concept work in unison, taking elements for their previous experiences in graphic design, architecture, embroidery, and jewellery-making to form exquisite works that lift elements from the rich textile traditions of the Middle East, repositioning them in a contemporary context. naqsh collective breathe new life into intricate embroidery designs, each of which tells a story about its place and culture of origin, in place of needle work they introduce unexpected and enduring materials like brass, marble, and wood to create a previously unforeseen aesthetic that is both pleasing to the contemporary gaze and underlines the continued significance of Middle Eastern visual culture in the present day.

On display will be works spanning several series including: Road to Damascus (2016); Road to Egypt (2016); Wihdeh Collection (2015); Jaffa (2015); and Bride's Cushion (2018). Each piece is an education on the nuances that define Middle Eastern culture. The selected piece from the Jaffa series (2015) saw the designers take their inspiration from the storied city and looked to an old photograph of Jaffa port, a destination that was once a thriving trading hub for merchants. Their work highlights Jaffa's pivotal role in cross-cultural exchange as traders came and went from the cities that dotted the Mediterranean and beyond, bringing with them new ideas, materials, produce and cultures and taking with them a piece of the Middle East. The designs are realized in what the artists describe as "the noble and timeless materials of stone and brass," choices which are intended to emphasize the enduring appeal of their culture and to continue to tell their stories for generations to come. Also, on display will be the 'Bridal Cushion' an evolution of a previous piece, the 'Bride's Rug' (2017), which tells the story of a female dowry that the bride would traditionally prepare, shortly before her wedding, to take with her to her new home.

On their aesthetic nermeen abudail says:

"We unleash the potential of Middle Eastern embroidery from its classical frame and pay tribute to the embroidery itself which shaped us. It is love and admiration to our rich heritage and culture that shaped our aesthetic, grasping from our ancestors and reshaping the designs with nisreen's background in architecture along with my graphical understanding."

One the Jameel Art Prize nisreen abudail says:

"Having our artwork displayed in the Victoria and Albert Museum (London) and touring the world afterward gave us the chance to tell the story of our pieces worldwide, the initiative of the center plays a major role in creating a platform for international dialogue, therefore providing more opportunities for the artists of the Middle East."

[name] will be on display at Tabari Artspace between April 23 and July 1

-ENDS-**ABOUT naqsh collective**

Founded in 2009 in Amman, Jordan, naqsh is the joint endeavor of two sisters, nisreen and nermeen abudail. 'naqsh' translated, means to 'engrave' which was the first form of lasting artwork that left a print by humanity. Tapping into their rich heritage and affording it new meaning, naqsh collective is at the crossroads between age-old Arab world design practices and a clean, contemporary aesthetic repositioning element of Middle Eastern art, architecture and heritage in a minimalist frame. Their delicately hand and fine machine finished artworks and sculptures coming together to create a new visual language. naqsh collective have exhibited extensively at exhibitions and events such as: Milan Design Week; Amman Design Week; Design Days Dubai; and Saudi Design Week and their works have been displayed in museums in Lebanon, Sharjah, and Palestine.

ABOUT nisreen abudail

Born in 1976 in Amman, Jordan, nisreen abudail received her B.Arch in architecture from The Jordan University of Science and Technology. Carving out a career in her home country nisreen used architecture as a departure point for her personal exploration of art and design. In her spare time nisreen honed her creative process outside of the confines of architecture, with a distinct minimalist aesthetic she experimented with embroidery, textiles, jewellery, furniture and even handcrafted cards that were exhibited in local venues. In 2004 nisreen moved to the USA where she simultaneously developed her career as both an architect and artist, studying screen-printing at the Corcoran College of Art in Washington, D.C and exhibiting her artwork in local and national art shows and festivals including Artscape (2007). In 2009 the Embassy of Jordan in Washington D.C. invited nisreen to participate in Arabesque: Arts of the Arab world, an international festival of Arab culture organised and hosted by the city's prestigious John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Returning to Jordan in 2009, together with her sister, nermeen abudail, nisreen co-founded naqsh collective.

ABOUT nermeen abudail

Born in 1980 and hailing from Amman, Jordan nermeen abudail graduated with a BA in graphics from Yarmouk University. Rapidly establishing herself as a leader in graphic design, working with prominent regional and international agencies, nermeen was keen to take her talents to the next level. In her next move, together with her sister, nisreen abudail she went on to establish naqsh. Currently based in Dubai, her creative efforts are typically within the branding industry fusing her understanding of local culture with her understanding of brand building and identity to produce work that exudes international appeal.

ABOUT TABARI ARTSPACE

Tabari Artspace, formerly Artspace Dubai, was established in 2003 by art collector Maliha Tabari, with the aim of promoting Middle Eastern art to a global audience.

Strategically located in Dubai, seventeen years ago the gallery embarked upon an ambitious programme of exhibitions with the aim of cultivating an international community and creating fresh discourses centered around contemporary Middle Eastern art. As a pioneer of this movement Tabari Artspace played a pivotal role in establishing the careers of the Middle Eastern Masters that are collected and exhibited internationally today.

Tabari Artspace continues to honour the masters it built in the past while introducing a new generation of artists that have matured in an era of technology, globalisation, and unprecedented socio-political issues. In 2017 the gallery rebranded from Artspace Dubai to Tabari Artspace. The name 'Tabari' stems from Lake Tiberias and brings into focus our understanding of borders, space, and identity - just some of the universal topics tackled by the Middle Eastern artists of the 'now'. As Middle Eastern art continues to flourish in front of an international audience Tabari Artspace puts forward a programme of artists that challenge its conventions, push boundaries, and break down borders with fresh approaches.

"As our geographical borders blur in our era of mass-migration art has the ability to capture and communicate key social issues that are relevant for all. We now welcome a new wave of Middle Eastern artists that uphold an international outlook. A generation that seeks change and progress."

-Maliha Tabari, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT

Harriet Bardsley
e. Harriet@TabariArtspace.com

VISIT TABARI ARTSPACE

Tabari Artspace,
The Gate Village Building, DIFC Dubai
t. + 971 4 323 0820
w. www.tabariartspace.com