

3. June 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Abdullah Murad | Poetry of the Line

Works on Paper

Exhibition at the HOUSE OF SYRIAN ART in Bremen | Curated by Frizzi Krella

June 1 – October 5, 2024

Opening: May 31 2024 at 6 pm

One always has to succumb to the desire of the line, the point at which it seeks to appear and to cease. HENRI MATISSE

In June 2024, the House of Syrian Art will time show a collection of drawings and sketches by Syrian painter Abdullah Murad, assembled around a unique abstract painting *Untitled* from 2012 (mixed technique, 130 x 100 cm) owned by the Takla Foundation.

Murad is considered one of the most prominent contemporary Arab artists of the abstract expressionism.

The drawing depicts closely the movements of life itself, the ups and downs. the rise and fall.

As Matisse once so famously wrote, „one always had to succumb to the desire of the line, the point *at which it seeks to appear and to cease*“. Abdullah Murad perceives each line to have its origin in the human body. It stems from a stimulus of movement that bursts from deep within. Once he sets out to draw a line, it never mirrors the one that takes shape on the paper in front of him. Drawing is a playfulness of the lines. Inspired by a form of Arabesque and Asian calligraphy, Murad is always seeking to find an equilibrium in his drawings, a balance between line, set shape and blank space. All in search of the poetry of the line.

Abdullah Murad compares his initial line on paper to the motion of a bird setting out to fly – from spreading its wings to the moment of taking off. „Nonetheless art cannot exist without this moment of *following*, without the willingness to seize an opportunity, to grasp a chance – and consequently a joy or desire – which are an expression of the line itself, of its connection between hand and paper, the pencil or feather; the line becoming the master of skill and talent and all intentions connecting them as one while completing the process of taking its final shape.“ (Jean-Luc Nancy, *Die Lust an der Zeichnung*, p 56)

Thus, Murad is following his lines time and time again, trusting the innate intelligence of his hand, his heart.

Abdullah Murad draws and paints to create one, adding layer upon layer, arabesque lines and paint strokes, assembling collages and adding elements.

In order to fully explore the tension between balance and imbalance he uses various techniques ranging from delicate ink lines, drawings covered by semi-transparent color to thick brush strokes resembling pencil drawings. He plays with textures and surfaces, adding collages created with newspaper clippings and other materials.

"A painting needs time to reveal itself... it will not unveil its secrets at first sight", says Murad.

The drawings of the moment, however, are a product of uninhibited spontaneity, all of them eventually becoming pages in the diary chronicling the life of an artist.

Abdullah Murad was born in Homs in 1944 and graduated from the Academy of the Fine Arts of the University of Damascus in 1970 with a degree in painting. Inspired by the rhythm of the arabesque lines and eastern calligraphy, one can detect a strong influence of the colors of Fauvism and the movements of abstract expressionism in Murad's work. Guido La Regina, Fateh Mudarres, Nazir Nana and Elias Zayat were among his teachers.

However, he also looked to the West for inspiration and admires painters such as Braque, Soulage and Tàpies. Abdullah Murad lives and works in the Old Town of Damascus. Murad's work has been displayed in international exhibitions and auctions. It can be found in private collections and public institutions such as the Museum of Sharjah, the National Museum of Damascus and the Dalloul Art Foundation.

On the occasion of the opening an accompanying catalogue will be published: ***Abdullah Murad | Poetry of the Line*** | *Works on Paper with an Interview with the Artist and a Text by Frizzi Krella*. (Published by the Takla Foundation, ISBN 978-3-00-070771-6 | 10,00 €)

PROGRAM

Opening | Mai 31, 2024 | 6 pm

Introduction: Frizzi Krella, Director House of Syrian Art

Reading | June 1, 2024 | 6 pm

Cornelius Kopf-Finke will be reading Khalil Sweileh „The Weight of Regret“.

Madjid Mohit (Sujet Verlag Bremen)
in conversation with Frizzi Krella

Further events will be announced shortly.

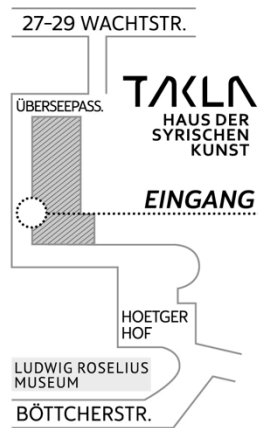
TAKLA

TAKLA HAUS DER
SYRISCHEN
KUNST

Open: Tue, Wed, Fri 2 to 5 pm
Sat 12 to 5 pm
Sun Thu and Mon closed

Entrance is free.

Guided tours on request: info@takla-stiftung.org



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PRESS IMAGES

Abdullah Murad



Untitled, 2024
Ink, watercolour on paper
29,5 x 18 cm



Untitled, 2022
Ink, gouache on paper
38 x 24,5 cm



Untitled, 2018
Ink, gouache on paper
29 x 20 cm



Untitled, 2014, Ink, gouache on paper, 33 x 24,5 cm



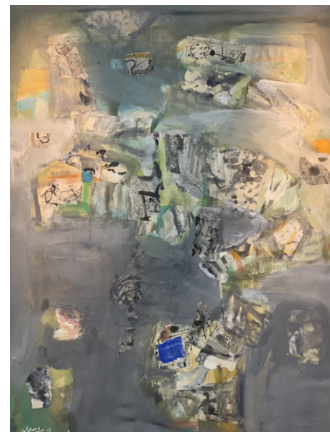
Untitled, 2024, ink, gouache on paper, 24,5 x 32 cm



from sketchbook, 2021
Untitled, Acryl on paper
30,5 x 24,5 cm



Untitled, 2021
Ink, gouache on paper
33 x 24,5 cm



Untitled, 2012
Mixed media
130 x 100 cm