



gold

OPERA GALLERY

# preface

Until today no other precious metal has fascinated mankind more than gold. Present since the creation of earth, gold was first discovered around 6,000 years ago and is the most malleable metal. Since then, gold has attained an unparalleled mystical aura.

The very first gold mine map was discovered in Egypt 5,200 years ago, and man-made gold artefacts appeared in the Balkans around the same period. Since the ancient times, gold has continued to captivate us. Gold finds its ways into almost every facet of modern life in some way, shape or form. Whether due to its rarity, vibrant colour, or the ease of application in several industries, gold has remained an element transcending millenniums, cultures and societies.

Used in ancient times for art and monetary value, gold was adopted by various countries as the "gold standard" up to 1971. The appeal of gold knows no culture, religion, or borders. Wars were fought for gold, people dedicated their entire life to finding gold, and gold itself became more than just a precious metal. Gold has been universally accepted as the highest attainable measure for a long time. Mathematical terminology includes the "golden rule", the "golden ratio", or the "golden number". Photographers refer to the "golden hour" as the best time of the day, due to the perfect natural lighting for outdoor photography. Chefs around the world have started to decorate their creations with pure edible gold. The highest achievements across a plethora of industries are rewarded with gold medals or sculptures.

The precious metal holds a very cherished place in the Middle East. Dubai, amongst other cities in the region, features a gold souk, testament to the tradition, culture, and importance of the precious metal in the peninsula.

Since the dawn of time, artists have been working with this material; whether using pure gold or adding splashes of gold to their creations, the world of art has and is celebrating the aurum metal.

Opera Gallery Dubai is proud to present a curated selection of artworks featuring gold. For a brief moment, the artists presented in this exhibition became modern day alchemists, and re-interpreted in their own personal way the mythical impact that gold can give the viewers. Kossi Aguessy's golden doll sculptures are a modern take on old idols. Roy Nachum's careful use of gold leaves on his canvas, is a subtle way to motivate the audience to heed the values and priorities in our society. While Valey Shende's gold sculptures are a social commentary on India, Robert Indiana used the most popular metal for his most famous sculpture, highlighting the timeless and universal message of love.

We invite you to delve into this exhibition, and discover a gold mine of extremely exquisite artworks on display in our newly remodelled gallery.

**Gilles Dyan**  
Founder and Chairman  
Opera Gallery Group

**Sylvain Gaillard**  
Director  
Opera Gallery Dubai

# introduction

Gold is a precious material, desired and worshipped for its rarity and sparkle and always a favourite medium of expression for a plethora of eminent artists. Its value knows no historical or geographical bounds. Gold has always been associated with the highest social classes, like the nobility inspired by its brilliance. The meaning of gold is equally strong but what it signifies varies in different cultures. Since the dawn of time, in the West, gold has been associated with personal splendour and wealth. On the other side of the Atlantic, the Incas' gold was primarily associated with rituals. Gold is the colour of the sun, whose light was extinguished when the conquistadors, led by Francisco Pizarro, pillaged many of their tombs.

Looking back in time to the ancient civilisations, gold was used to make objects of adornment as well as in rituals, like in the Inca tradition. There are a number of exceptional examples of funeral masks found in Greece and Egypt, like the famous Tutankhamun mask, which inspired David Mach in his work, *King Tutankhamun*. Gold's ceremonial allure is also celebrated by Manolo Valdés and his plant-like headdresses, with their resplendent golden patina.

It is undoubtedly the Arab world that has given us the most illustrious examples of artists who work with techniques such as inlay, damascening and filigree. Beyond art, gold has been present in architecture. During the Umayyad Caliphate, Byzantine-style gold mosaic and tiles were used to decorate the Great Mosque of Damascus. Gold is also a feature of calligraphy, such as in the iconic Blue Qur'an, with its Kufic script formed by fine layers of gold leaf. In our selection, Ahmet Nejat decorates his ribbons with inlaid Arab inscriptions, while Pokras Lampas uses calligraphy as a motif in his «Calligraffiti» pieces.

The East has totally captivated leading artists of the past and present, whose alluring golden works feature the bejewelled women and wealthy sultans of their imagination. Continuing this tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Orientalists, Jean-Pierre Roc-Roussey has dreamt up costumed figures on gold backgrounds in *Rêverie* and *Odalisque*.

The image of gold continues to spark human folly and the collective imagination with its mythology, such as the legend of King Midas, who was given by Dionysus the extraordinary ability to turn everything he touched into gold, preventing him from eating and drinking. Gold is also important in popular culture: Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* is dedicated to the American gold seekers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who, driven by the desire for wealth, either found their fortune or met their downfall.

Though gold has been fascinating and ambivalent in the history of art through the centuries, contemporary art has inherited its long history; today gold is being celebrated and reinvented by a new generation of artists.

Hortense Boulais, Art Historian

# Kossi AGUESSY (1977 - 2017)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1977 in Lomé, Togo, Kossi Aguessy studied Industrial and Interior design at Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design in London, UK. In 2008, Kossi Aguessy gained international visibility with his *Useless Tool* – a chair manufactured using military aircraft technology presented at the exhibition *Please Do Not Sit* at Tools Galerie in Paris, France. The following year, Kossi Aguessy's *Sparkling Joke* coffee table – entirely made of recycled plastic bottles and caps – caught the attention of the Coca-Cola Company. Kossi Aguessy subsequently collaborated with the brand to produce a set of furniture entirely made from recycled materials and was commissioned to design *Césarion*, the official trophy given to the winners of the Coca-Cola Sustainable Design Award. Kossi Aguessy's research in new technologies and sustainable energy motivated him to participate in the creation of Benin's first Fab Lab (Fabrication Laboratory), partly funded by the Centre Pompidou in Paris, France. His works have also entered the permanent collection of the museum, and he has proudly become the first designer of African descent to be granted a nominative section in this prestigious institution.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

### **I-DOLL, THE SUN, 2015**

Mirror polished bronze

Edition of 8 + 4 AP

75 x 55 x 50 cm - 29.5 x 21.7 x 19.7 in.

Price on request

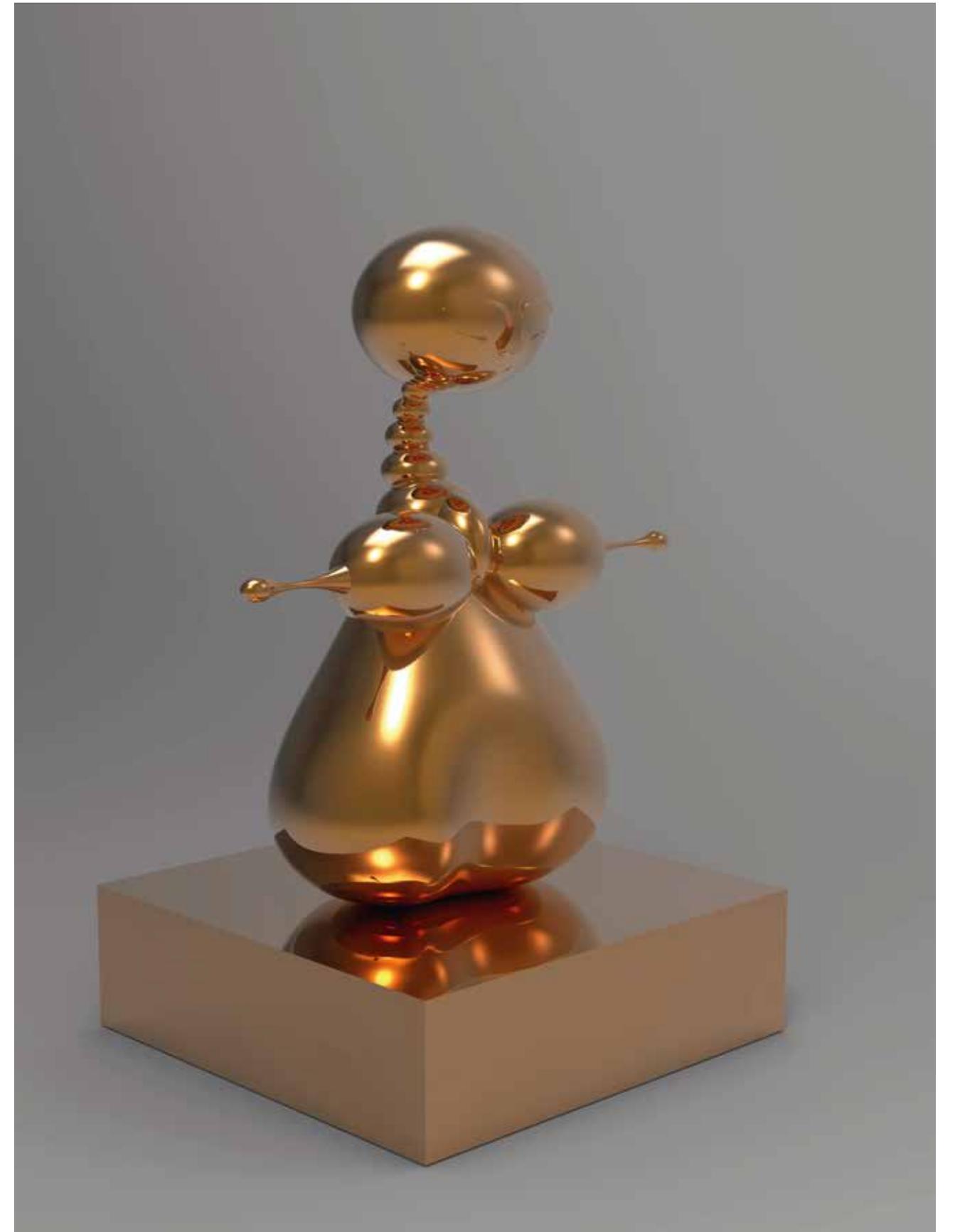


**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio

**I-DOLL, THE EARTH, 2015**

Mirror polished bronze  
Edition of 8 + 4 AP  
55 x 30 cm - 21.7 x 11.8 in.  
Price on request



# Yasmina ALAOUI (b.1977)

## BIOGRAPHY

Yasmina Alaoui was born in New York in 1977 of French and Moroccan descent. She studied Fine Arts at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris and earned a B.A. in Sculpture from the College of William and Mary, Virginia, USA. Immersed in a bicultural environment, Alaoui immediately asserted her refusal of all stereotypes. The underlying themes of all her works are directly related to her experiences of multicultural upbringing and she aims to bridge extremes by embracing opposites: secular and holy, classical and contemporary, order and chaos, repulsion and attraction. Her professional artistic career truly commenced with her collaboration with photographer Marco Guerra, a partnership that gave birth to the *1001 Dreams* series in 2003. Since then, Yasmina Alaoui has diversified her projects, underlining that her love for different media drives her towards working with a combination of them, constantly shifting between sculpture, painting, drawing, fashion and jewellery design, film making and musical composition. More recently, the artist started to explore new creative horizons, producing large-framed works—panel paintings, triptychs and square formats—with abstract compositions evoking landscapes visible from aerial view.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### **GOLD & WHITE TRIO #1, 2016**

Acrylic paint, pigments, salt and gravel on wood  
Triptych: 110 x 312 cm - 43.3 x 112.8 in.

Price on request

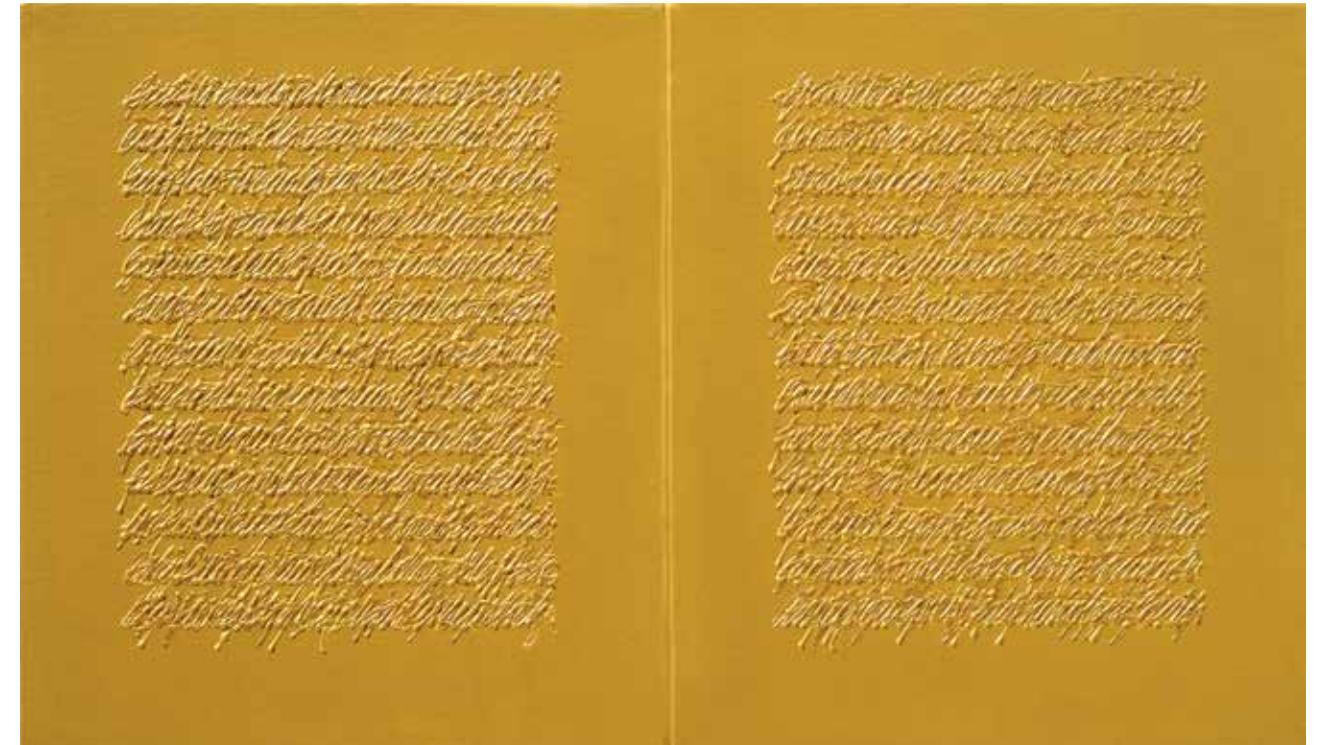
# Alessandro **ALGARDI** (b.1945)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Alessandro Algardi is an Italian artist, born in Milan in 1945. Fluctuating within the experimental field of visual poetry, Algardi's works observe the fluidity between the act of writing and the materiality of the canvas. Working on monochromatic canvas and paper, Algardi carves several layers of scripture onto one line, rendering the words unreadable and ultimately devoid of meaning. The painting, then, becomes the storyteller – a visual poem suggesting the limitations of language to denote a complete reality. Algardi has participated in over one hundred gallery exhibitions worldwide throughout this career including, among others, the Imago Art Gallery in London, the International Arts Center in Venice and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. His works often feature in eminent permanent collections, such as of the Dubugue Museum of Art in Iowa, the Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia, USA: the Museo Giovanni Verga in Vizzini, the Mart Museum in Rovereto and the Museo del Novecento in Milan, Italy.

## **PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



### **SIMILITUDINE ANICONICA (OR), 2014**

*Oil on canvas*

*Diptych: 35 x 60 cm - 13.8 x 23.6 in.*

Price on request

# ARMAN (1928 - 2005)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1928 in Nice, France, Arman was one of the most important artists to emerge in Europe in the post-war period. In 1960, under the auspices of the art critic Pierre Restany, Arman founded the Nouveaux Réalistes movement along with artists such as Yves Klein and Jean Tinguely. Arman is best known for his 'accumulations' and for his destruction and recomposition of objects. As the art historian Rosemary O'Neill phrased it, Arman's works seek to 'expose the psychological associations objects carry' and to 'inflect them with individual memory'. Arman's artworks form part of numerous private and public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Tate Gallery in London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. His violin compression is an excellent example of Arman's engagement with musical instruments. Recalling early phases of Cubism and the work of Kurt Schwitters, the fragments of the instrument are caught in a frozen explosion and seem to echo the music it once played.

## PROVENANCE

Atelier Arman



**UNTITLED, 1997**  
*Violin compression*  
Edition of 100  
51.5 x 24 x 4 cm - 20.3 x 9.4 x 1.6 in.  
Price on request

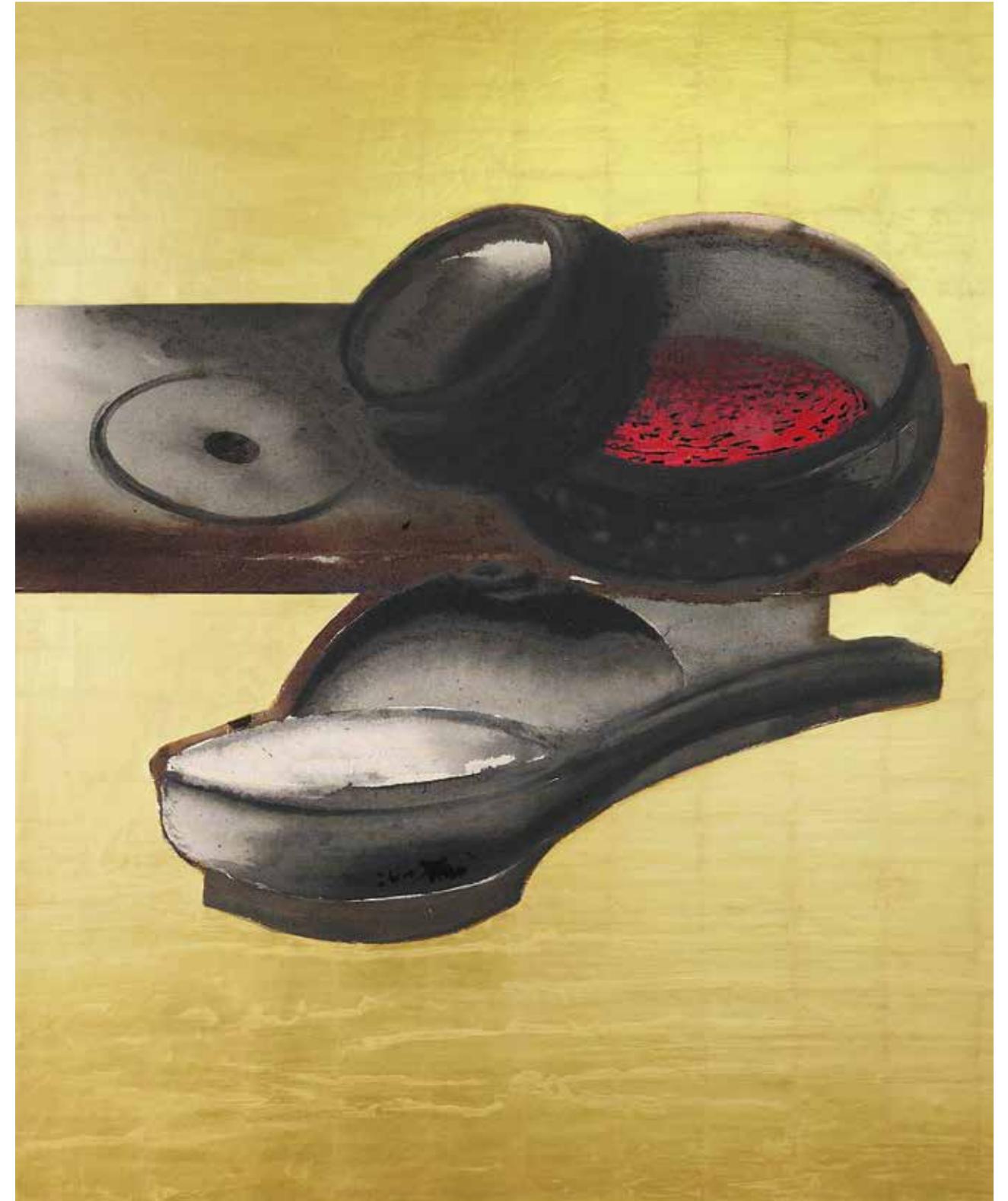
# Madhu BASU (b.1956)

## BIOGRAPHY

Madhu Basu was born in Calcutta, India and his parents were native of today's Bangladesh. In 1988, he graduated from the Fine Arts School of Calcutta. Upon his arrival in France the same year, he was welcomed as an invited visiting artist at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris. There, he started working with various pictorial techniques, and notably the pigment technique which has become the most essential medium of his work. Since 1989, his paintings have been showcased in a plethora of personal exhibitions, and featured in various art fairs worldwide. Basu's paintings offer many variations on the symbolism of the pot, flirting with the borders of abstraction and figuration; according to a Bengali saying "all the universe is contained in a pot". The vibrating light of Basu's plane black tints surely calls for poetic meditation.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



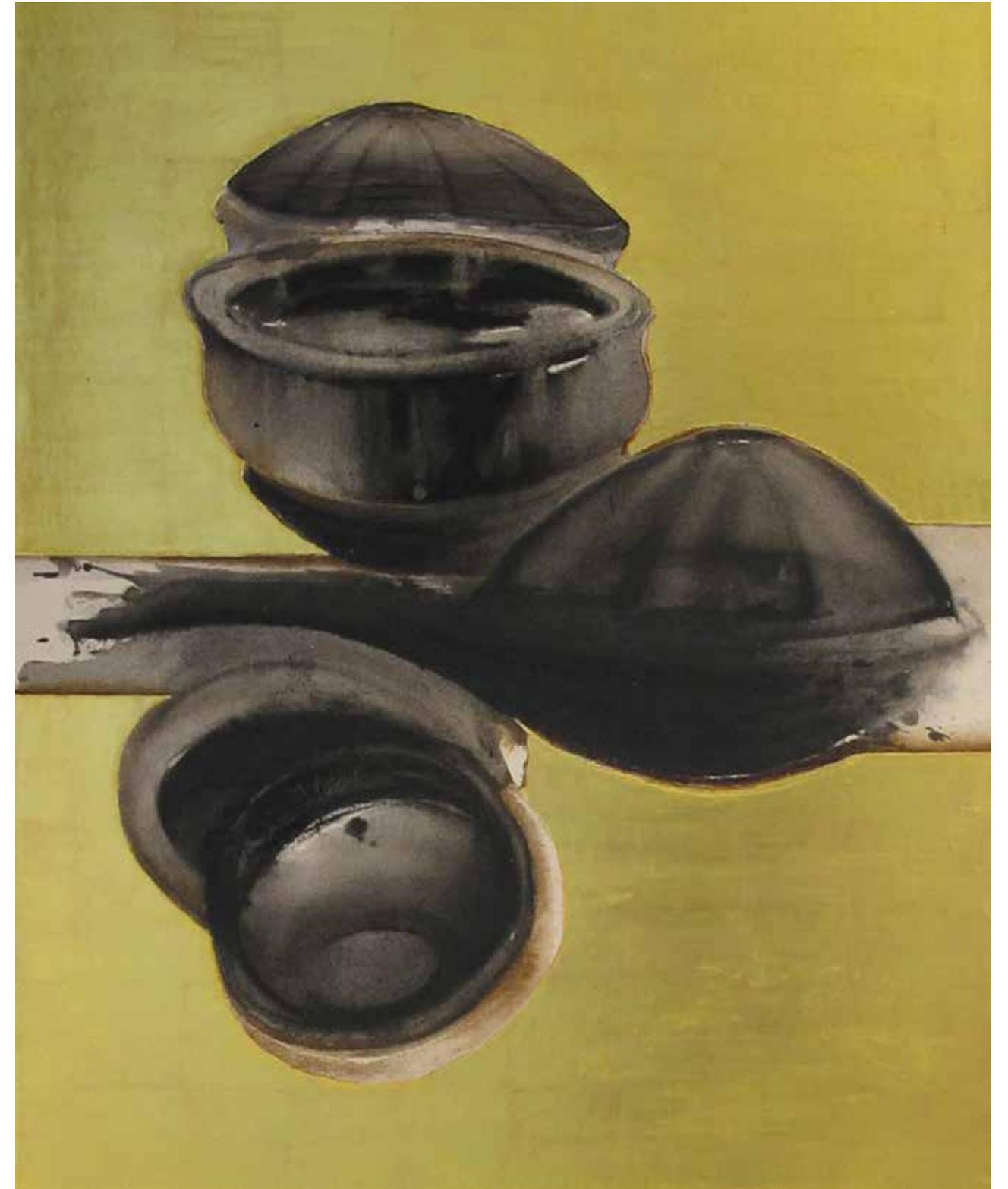
### CLASSIC-ESSAY N°1, 2017

Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas  
116 x 89 cm - 45.7 x 35 in.

Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**Essay, 2016**

Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas  
92 x 73 cm - 36.2 x 28.7 in.

Price on request

# Georges BRAQUE (1882 - 1963)

## BIOGRAPHY

Georges Braque was a tremendously influential French painter, collagist, draughtsman and sculptor, active in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Primarily known for his still-life paintings, Braque spent his youth in Le Havre apprenticing as a painter-decorator. In 1900, he moved to Paris to continue his training whilst taking evening classes in painting and drawing, eventually aligning with the style of Fauvism through his acquaintance with fellow artists Raoul Dufy and Henri Matisse. Around 1910, Braque began experimenting with geometry and simultaneous perspective in his works, reducing architectural structure to geometric forms. Working closely with Pablo Picasso, Braque spent the next five years developing Proto-cubism and Analytical Cubism before adopting the umbrella term of Cubism in 1911. For many years, Picasso and Braque's Cubist works were virtually indistinguishable from each other, yet Picasso's public notoriety and personality partially obscured Braque's legacy in art history. Today, Braque's works are held in major museums worldwide.



### PERSEPHONE (GOLD AND BLACK), 2008

*From the gouache Persephone, 1962 and signed  
'G. Braque', with his permission to reproduce  
Plexiglass  
Edition of 75*

100 x 100 x 48 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 x 18.9 in.

Price on request

# Salvador DALÍ (1904 - 1989)

## BIOGRAPHY

The Spanish Catalan artist Salvador Dalí is one of the most prominent figures to emerge from Surrealism. Instantly recognisable from their fantastic imagery, captivating colour schemes and dream-like juxtapositions of domestic objects, Dalí's most famous works draw on the psychoanalytic theories of Sigmund Freud to explore the fertile territory of the liberated mind. As his striking bronze sculpture suggests, courage and conflict are central to the human psyche. With the clean proportions, heroic postures and lifelike sense of natural form, this bronze could almost be mistaken for a neoclassical artwork, or a triumphant celebration of wartime valour. Dalí, however, complicates this reading by introducing a trademark surrealist touch. Alike many of his paintings, the uncanny element of this sculpture derives from his alteration of natural or organic form, in this case the removal of a rectangular section of the warrior's torso. This apparently destructive gesture is in fact indicative of Dalí's comprehension of art's creative potential. 'Surrealism is destructive', he once remarked, 'but it destroys only what it considers to be shackles limiting our vision'.

## PROVENANCE

Private collection, Paris

## CERTIFICATE

The authenticity of this work has been confirmed by the I.A.R. Art Ressources Ltd



### LADY GODIVA WITH BUTTERFLIES (BROWN), 1976

First conceived in 1976 and cast between 1984-2010

Patina bronze

Edition of 350 + 35 AP

51 x 41 x 23.5 cm - 20.1 x 16.1 x 9.3 in.

Price on request

# Reza DERAKSHANI (b.1952)

## BIOGRAPHY

Reza Derakshani is a painter, musician and performance artist born in 1952 in Sangsar, a small village in the Northeast region of Iran. Raised by a nomadic family in the mountains, Derakshani's diverse creative vigour was deeply influenced by the changing seasons and landscapes he grew up amongst. Harnessing the wonders of creation in multiple pathways of artistic expression, his admiration for natural beauty is always present in his work. Derakshani's career showcases collaborations with renowned artists, musicians and poets including Deepak Chopra, Madonna, Dawn Avery and Simone Haggiag, among many others. He currently resides in and works between Tehran, USA and Europe. Derakshani is regarded as one of Iran's most important contemporary artists.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

**EVERY YELLOW DAY AND EVERY  
YELLOW NIGHT, 2012**  
*Mixed media on canvas*  
300 x 180 cm - 118.1 x 70.9 in.  
Price on request



**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio

**ONE BIRD, ONE SONG, No. 1, 2013**

*Black sand on gold paste on canvas  
220 x 80 cm - 86.6 x 31.5 in.*

Price on request



# Timur D'VATZ (b. 1968)

## BIOGRAPHY

Timur D'Vatz is a figurative painter, born in Moscow in 1968. He studied at the Republican College of Art in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and then went on to study at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, UK. His work has won him several awards, including the A.T. Kearney Prize and the B.P. Portrait award from the London National Portrait Gallery in 2002. Depicting ancient symbols and legends in a striking, primarily earth-tone palette, D'Vatz's paintings are reminiscent of medieval history and art, which are made relevant through a contemporary vibrancy of colour.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### HUNTER WITH HOUNDS, 2007

*Oil on canvas*

125 x 160 cm - 49.2 x 63 in.

Price on request

# Katrin FRIDRIKS (b. 1974)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1974 in Reykjavik, Iceland, Katrin Fridriks is an abstract conceptual painter, living and working in Luxembourg. She fuses the natural energies of her native Iceland with an explosive, abstract expressionism and subtle Japanese calligraphy elements. Often presented through installations and visual compositions, she is giving an architectural dimension to her paintings. Through a wide range of works, Katrin Fridriks communicates her questioning of the world, human life and the future. Some of her series are constantly reworked, making her paintings evolve. Recent works include perspective studies of her black and white series, 'Gene & Ethics' and 'Stendhal Syndrome', as well as 'Crayons and Awareness', works that gave birth to the 'Riding Awareness' series. Her process brings her to the enlargement of drippings and flows, from singular strokes to the whole canvas, creating a zoom effect, which is referring to the aesthetics of macro photography. By creating these new perspectives, Katrin Fridriks' work brings an innovative dimension to abstraction.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

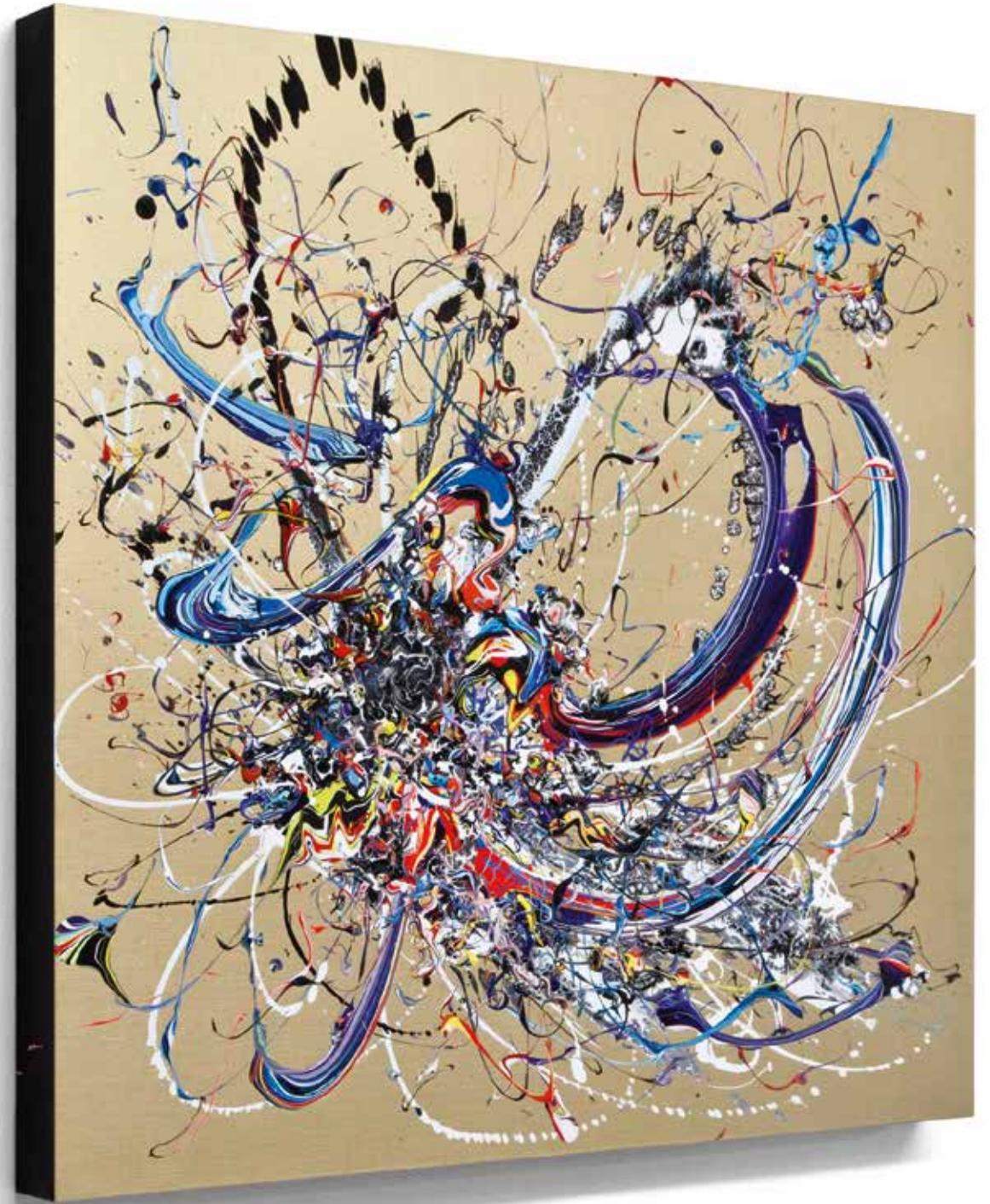


### **GOLDEN WAVE AWARENESS, 2016**

Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 x 5 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 x 2 in.  
Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**GOLDEN AWARENESS RIDE, 2015**

Acrylic on canvas  
130 x 130 x 10 cm - 51.2 x 51.2 x 3.9 in.

Price on request

# Ran HWANG (b.1960)

## BIOGRAPHY

Ran Hwang is a Korean installation artist who studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, USA, and attended the Graduate School of Fine Arts at Chung-Ang University in Seoul, Korea. She is best known for her mesmerising, large-scale wall installations constructed from thousands of meticulously placed buttons, beads, pins and threads on wooden panels. Hammering thousands of materials into a wall in a Zen-meditative process, Hwang's works suggest a metaphor for the resilience and persistence of nature in the light of mass production of materials such as those she uses in her works. Ran Hwang has held exhibitions notably in the USA at the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen, Texas, as its first artist-in-residence, as well as at the Queens Museum of Art, New York, and at the Seoul Arts Center, Korea.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### HEALING BLOSSOMS RG, 2016

Paper buttons, beads and pins on plexiglass  
109 x 109 cm - 43 x 43 in.

Price on request

## Robert INDIANA (b.1928)

### BIOGRAPHY

A pre-eminent figure in American art since the 1960s, Robert Indiana's highly original body of work includes some of the most recognisable images in contemporary culture. Born in New Castle, USA in 1928, Robert Indiana moved to New York City in 1954 and took the name of his home state. Fittingly, his work explores the American identity, his personal history and the power of words and language, a concept that inspired the well-known LOVE image. Adopted as an emblem of the Love Generation of the 1960s, the image proliferated and was reproduced onto countless products, becoming an icon of modern art and emphasising the universality of the subject. In addition to painting and sculpture, Indiana has produced a significant number of prints, collaborations, graphic posters and stage sets. Indiana played a central role in the development of assemblage and pop art and is widely considered one of the most creative artists of his generation. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world.

### PROVENANCE

Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea  
Acquired from the above by the previous owner



### LOVE, 1966-2002

Polychrome aluminium

Edition of 6 + 4 AP

Gold faces - Red sides: 182.9 x 182.9 cm - 72 x 72 in.

Gold / Blue: 91.4 x 91.4 cm - 36 x 36 in.

Price on request



# Yves KLEIN (1928 - 1962)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1928, Yves Klein was one of the most important artists in post-war European art and a key figure in the French artistic movement Nouveau Réalisme, which was founded in 1960 by the art critic Pierre Restany. Klein is known above all for his blue monochrome paintings, which were rendered in International Klein Blue, a bright blue pigment that was to become the artist's trademark. Influenced by Zen and other metaphysical philosophies, Klein believed his blue paintings opened onto an immaterial and infinite space that was akin to a pure idea. As the artist once famously said, 'Blue has no dimensions, it is beyond dimensions, whereas the other colours are not'. Klein's works have been exhibited in numerous museums and form part of important private and public collections across the world.

## PROVENANCE

Archives Yves Klein



**TABLE MONOGOLD™, 1963-2014**  
3 000 sheets of gold leaf, glass,  
plexiglass, wood and steel  
125 x 100 x 37 cm - 49.2 x 39.4 x 14.6 in.  
Price on request

# Pokras LAMPAS (b.1991)

## BIOGRAPHY

Pokras Lampas was born in 1991 in Korolyov, Russia, and is today one of the most distinguished representatives of contemporary calligraphy. He started creating graffiti in 2008 and shortly after was inspired by the "Calligraffiti" movement; hence he turned his focus to street calligraphy. Later, Pokras Lampas was invited to become an official Calligraffiti ambassador while he was also working on a self-developed "Calligrafuturism" style. He is particularly involved in a range of projects including street art and exhibitions and since 2013 he regularly works with major Russian and international brands. Recently, Lampas collaborated with high fashion brands and developed a menswear collection. Over the past years, he took part in group exhibitions and art projects held in Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Korea and the UAE. In 2015, he created the world's largest calligraffiti on the roof of a building in Moscow: the artwork can be seen from a satellite and on Google Earth.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



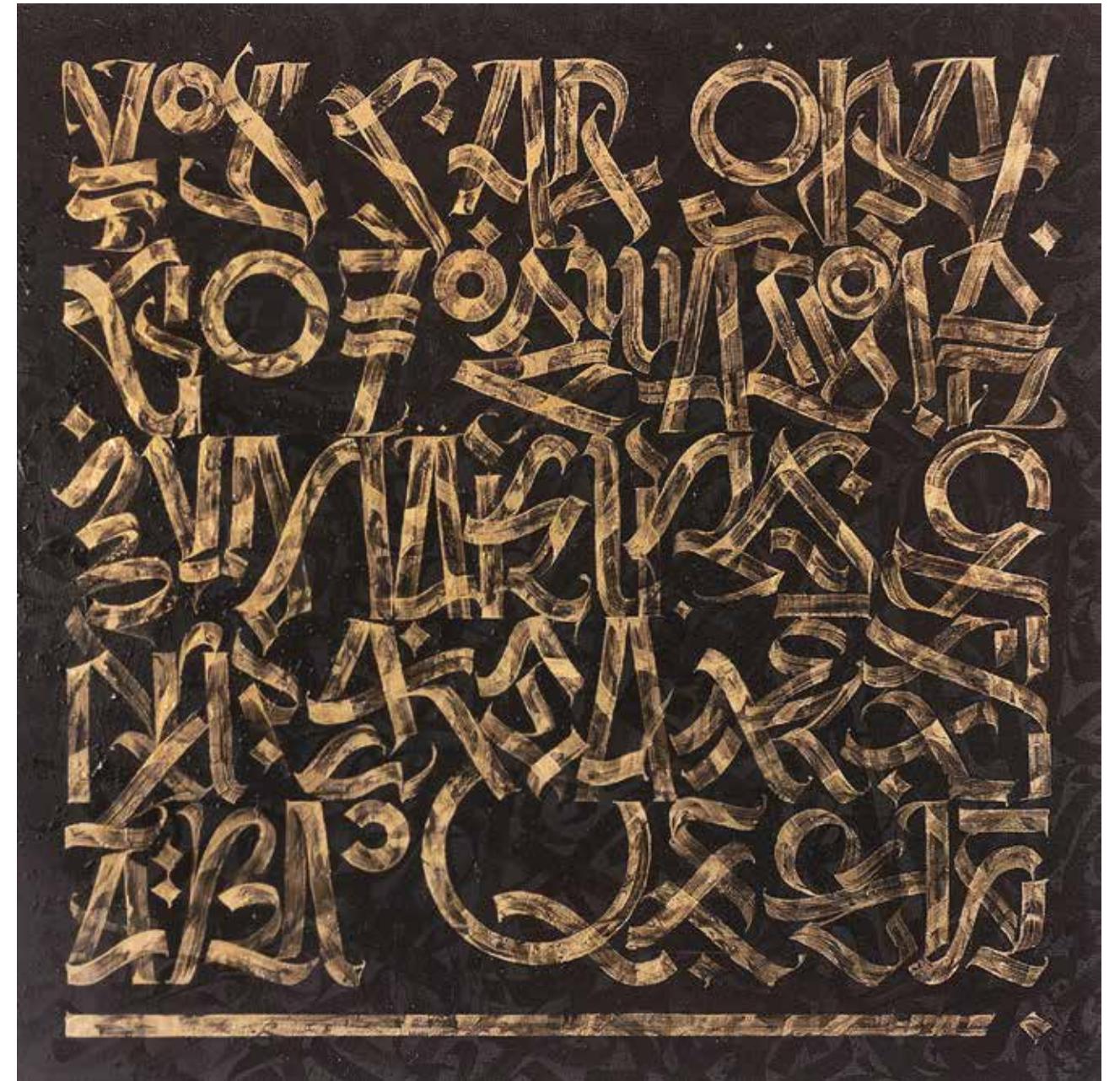
### FROM THE DESERT, 2016

Acrylic paint on three kinds of gold paint on canvas,  
paint made with a secret technique based on inverted  
colours. Modern latin calligraphy in self-developed  
Calligrafuturism style  
118 x 118 cm - 46.5 x 46.5 in.

Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**YOU CAN ONLY GO FORWARD BY MAKING MISTAKES, 2016**  
Glossy black and gold paints on canvas. Mixed media. Modern  
latin calligraphy in self-developed Calligrafuturism style  
100 x 100 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 in.  
Price on request

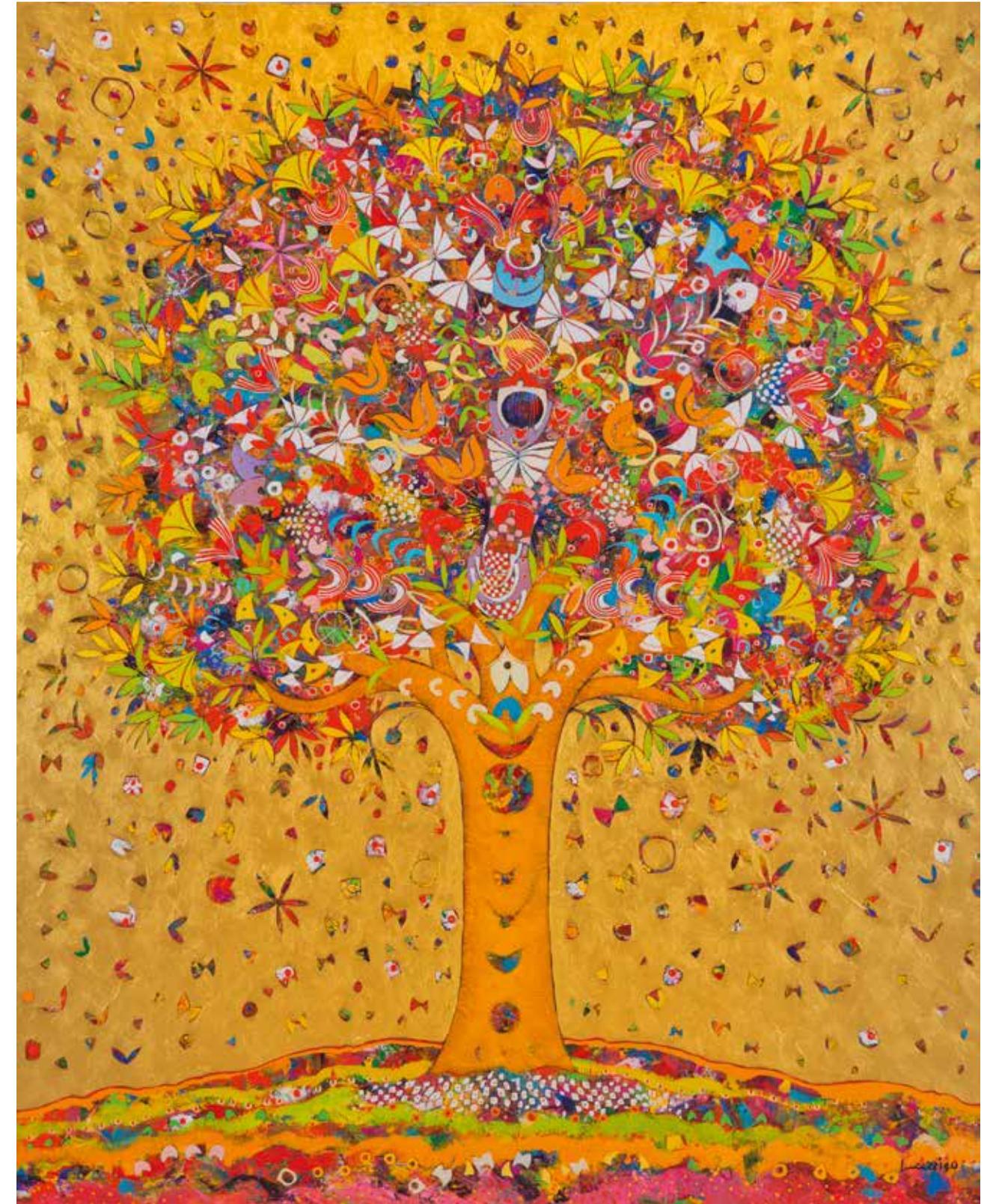
# Jean-François LARRIEU (b.1960)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in the Midi-Pyrénées, France, in 1960, Jean-François Larrieu made a spectacular debut as an artist by winning the Grand Prize by François Villon Academy; the painting prize by the Béarnais museum of the city of Pau in his teens. Since 1990, he has presided over the Salon d'Automne de Paris and over the government-affiliated Foundation for Graphic and Plastic Arts. He is also the president of the Foundation of the Historic Salons of the Grand Palais and President of the Taylor Foundation in Paris since 2010. Jean-François Larrieu has exhibited in over sixty solo exhibitions worldwide since the beginning of his career in 1982. His work has been the focus of major museum exhibitions including the Museum of Modern Art, Nanjing, China; the National Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan; the Santilana Foundation, Santander, Spain; the Museum Surssock, Beirut, Lebanon; the Fine Arts Museum, Shanghai, China; the Lima Museum, Lima, Peru; the Okinawa Garden Museum, Tokyo, Japan and the Fine Arts Museum, Bordeaux, France.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



**ROYAL TREE, 2017**  
Acrylic on canvas  
162 x 130 cm - 63.8 x 51.2 in.  
Price on request

# Li LIHONG (b. 1974)

## BIOGRAPHY

Li Lihong was born in Jing Dezhen, China, in 1974, in the village where royal porcelain has been produced for centuries. After learning the art of ceramics with his master Qin Xiling, he applied himself to modernising the great ceramic creations, considered too traditional. With the arrival of large industrial companies such as Coca-Cola or McDonalds in China in the 1980s, he transcribes this new way of life in the ancient pottery tradition. Through his plastic language, he expresses the change of Chinese society and its capacity to assimilate the various cultures to which the country confronted. He currently resides in Shanghai, China.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### APPLE CHINA 2013 - GOLD, 2013

Porcelain

Edition of 300

22 x 22 x 22 cm - 8.6 x 8.6 x 8.6 in.

Price on request

# David MACH (b. 1956)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1956, David Mach is a Scottish sculptor and installation artist known for his large-scale assemblages of mass-produced objects. He studied at the University of Dundee and the Royal College of Art, London. In 1982, he held his first solo exhibition at Lisson Gallery. Mach was nominated for a Turner Prize in 1988 and in 2000 joined the Royal Academy of Art as a Professor of Sculpture, where he continues to lecture as one of the leading artists of the New English Sculpture movement. Highly regarded for both his smaller-scale collage works and large scale public installations, Mach has exhibited in several of the world's foremost museums, including the Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery, London; the City Art Centre of Edinburgh; and the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, USA.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



**KING TUTANKHAMEN, 2008**  
*Mixed media postcards on wood*  
122 x 122 cm - 48 x 48 in.  
Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**CROSS CULTURE, 2008**  
*Mixed media postcards on wood*  
122 x 122 cm - 48 x 48 in.  
Price on request

# Georges MATHIEU (1921-2012)

## BIOGRAPHY

Georges Mathieu was born in Boulogne-sur-Mer in 1921. An abstract painter, art theorist and member of the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Mathieu is considered as the pioneer of European lyrical abstraction. A self-taught artist, Mathieu moved to Paris in 1947 where he worked in the day and painted in the evenings in a rented studio near the Palais du Luxembourg. Mathieu was one of France's most famous and successful painters at the peak of his career. Mathieu is renowned for his large-scale paintings featuring his distinctive calligraphic style, characterised by dynamic gestural strokes. His gestural style could be attributed to the influence of Hans Hartung and Jackson Pollock. From 1954 Mathieu staged the painting of large-scale works as theatrical events where he would paint in front of an audience. In 1978, a great retrospective of Mathieu's works was held at the Grand Palais, Paris, and more recently, in 2002, at the Jeu de Paume in Paris.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio  
Private collection, New York

## CERTIFICATE

The Comité Georges Mathieu has confirmed the authenticity of this work



**COMPOSITION, 1958**  
Oil on canvas  
81 x 130 cm - 31.9 x 51.2 in.  
Price on request

# Yassine MEKHNACHE (b.1979)

## BIOGRAPHY

Yassine Mekhnache is a French self-taught painter, born in Lyon in 1979, who works and lives in Paris. His recent works are hybrids combining the art of embroidery with abstract expressionist painting. Starting out as a graffiti artist in the early 2000s, Mekhnache later moved on to a more classical painting style using more traditional materials. In these paintings, Mekhnache also incorporates components drawn in marker pens and paint drippings, both nods to his past in the graffiti movement. In 2007, he started painting on canvases of woven cotton, hand-made by women embroiderers in Tamesloht, a small village near Marrakech, Morocco. In these works, he brings together the delicacy of religious embroidery with the vibrancy of colours and the effervescence of brush strokes. Mekhnache's spiritual pilgrimage does not stop in Morocco, as he also draws inspiration from the East, and especially India's Pondicherry region, referenced in his work through the use of silk and sequins. The artist has named this series *La Conférence des Oiseaux*, a reference to the work of Persian Sufi philosopher and poet Farid ud-Din Attar.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS

### THE SEAL OF SIMURGH #2, 2017

Hand embroidery, ink and oil on canvas

D: 220 cm - 86.6 in.

Price on request

# Roy NACHUM (b.1979)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1979, Roy Nachum attended The Cooper Union school in New York, USA. His experimental paintings, installations and sculptures incorporate elements traditionally used in conceptual and interactive art. His large-scale works often include Braille text, aiming to create a witty, compelling and autonomous artwork. He sees his work as an "eye opener"; a vehicle meant to allow viewers to confront their own existential apprehensions. Roy Nachum starts a painting before leaving the viewer free to complete it. Indeed, he encourages people to touch and interact with the work, believing that human interaction is what keeps the work alive and what breaks down the barrier between spectator and "sacred object". His work is included in many significant public and private collections worldwide. In 2017 he was nominated for a Grammy Award for best album cover for his art direction of singer Rihanna's acclaimed album *Anti*.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

### GUN METAL, 2016

Oil on canvas  
203 x 142 cm - 80 x 56 in.

Price on request



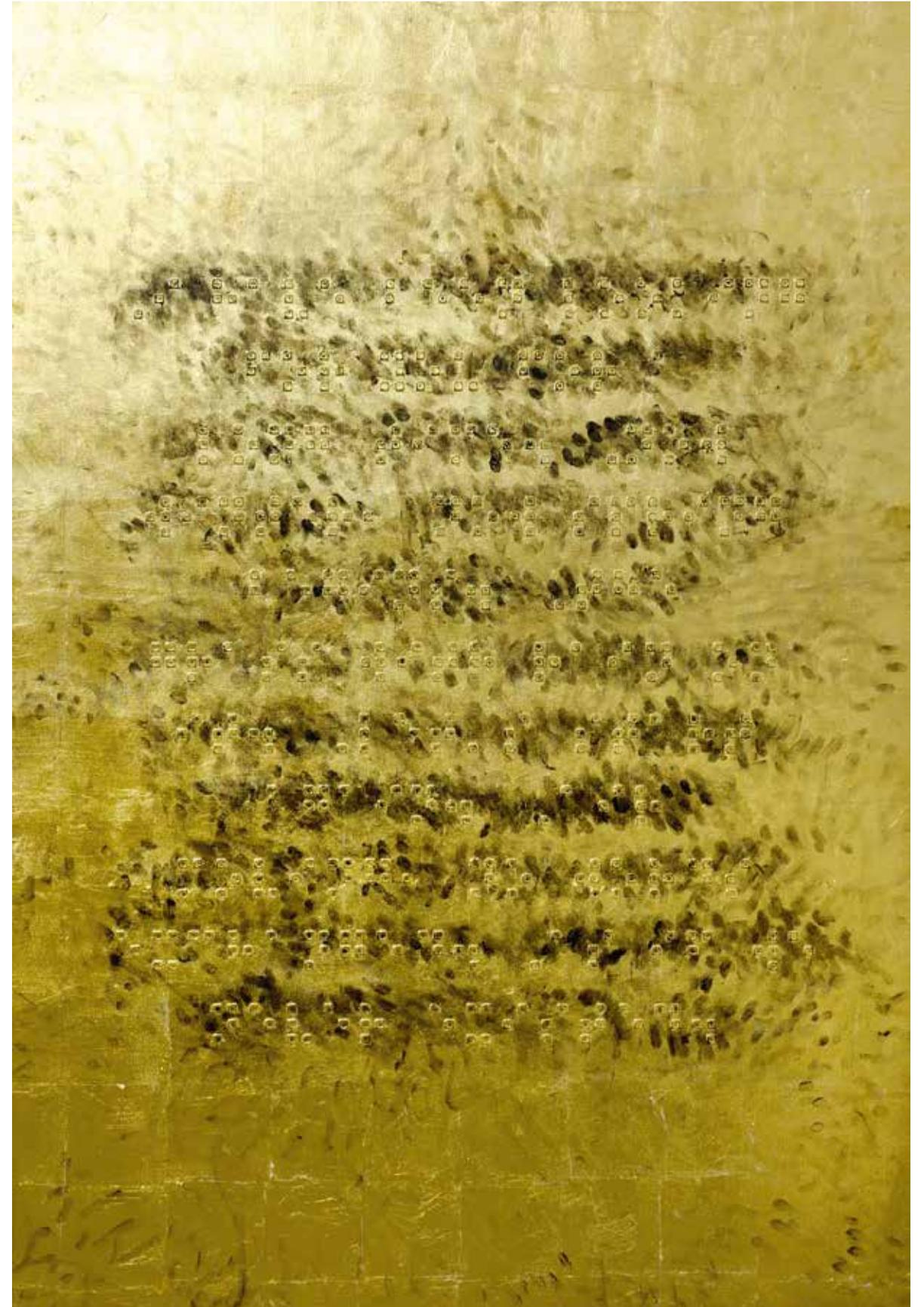
**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio

**Air, 2015**

*Oil, ash and burns on canvas*  
193 x 137 cm - 76 x 54 in.

Price on request



# Ahmet NEJAT (b.1956)

## BIOGRAPHY

Ahmet Nejat was born in Iran in 1956. He began his studies in 1984 at Mimar Sinan University's Graphic Design Department and obtained his Master's degree in Painting from the Özdemir Altan Atelier in 1992. His art essentially revolves around painting and miniature art. During his studies, he worked in his own studio and took part in many solo and group exhibitions worldwide. His works are represented in numerous private and public collections and have been exhibited not only in Turkey, Iran, USA, and UAE.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### Hic I, 2013

Gold foiled plexiglass  
Unique piece

44 x 125 x 42 cm - 17.3 x 49.2 x 16.5 in.

Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**KALIGRAFI-BEZEMELI Hic 2, 2013**

Gold foiled plexiglass

Unique piece

35.5 x 35 x 38 cm - 13.9 x 13.7 x 14.9 in.

Price on request

# Baseem RAYYES (b.1970)

## BIOGRAPHY

Baseem Rayyes was born in 1970 in Damascus, Syria. He started drawing at the age of six and it was at this time that Rayyes started using a box of charcoal and coloured sticks that his father had given him. The artist started to paint before graduating from the Agricultural Engineering School at Damascus University. He is a member of the Emirates Society of Fine Arts in Al-Sharja and of the Fine Arts Society in Damascus. He has held many solo and group exhibitions in Syria, USA, Turkey and France. He was awarded the Al-Sharja Arab Creativity Short Story Prize for his collection *Tomorrow, I Will Sew My Mouth* and the Honorary Prize in Ghanem Ghabash for his short story *The Man with a Wheelchair*. He also wrote and directed an eleven-minute short film entitled *The Boundaries of the Grey*.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

### STEP TO THE MOON, 2013

Mixed media on canvas  
160 x 120 cm - 62.9 x 47.2 in.

Price on request



**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio

**JOURNEY TO DESERT, 2013**

Mixed media on canvas  
160 x 120 cm - 62.9 x 47.2 in.

Price on request



# Jean-Pierre **ROC-ROUSSEY** (b.1951)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Jean-Pierre Roc-Roussey was born in 1951 near Paris, France. A solitary soul, Roc-Roussey is characterised in his work by an elaborate pictorial technique, a flamboyant palette and composition that transcend both time and trends. Reminiscent of the Italian masters of yore, his work is a never-ending quest for monumental characters and larger-than-life sizes. His travels and keen interest in mythology have inspired Roc-Roussey in his choice of themes for his series, veritable meditations on human nature: goddesses, women samurais, divine creatures, dancers and their cohorts. His paintings, like calligraphy, are composed of so many artistic pendulums swinging between emptiness and abundance, between a character's soul and his exterior shell. Roc-Roussey's lifework is an invitation to penetrate a rich and captivating imaginary world.

## **PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



### **RÊVERIE, 2017**

*Oil on canvas*

97 x 195 cm - 38.2 x 76.8 in.

Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**ODALISQUE, 2017**  
Oil on canvas  
97 x 195 cm - 38.2 x 76.8 in.  
Price on request

# Matteo SBARAGLI (b.1980)

## BIOGRAPHY

Matteo was born in 1980 and lives and works in Forli, near Bologna, Italy. He graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna in 2006 and the same year created the group "Mandra" with his friends. His art mainly consists of large portraits, emanating a real expressiveness. Sbaragli looks for a constant balance between the real and the imaginary. 'I am often inspired by a simple photography, the most commonplace possible. It is not the subject that has to hold strength in itself, but the art of painting'.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR WON'T STOP #1, 2012**

*Oil on aluminium*  
220 x 170 cm - 86.6 x 66.9 in.

Price on request

**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio



**BREATHER HOLE, 2009**  
*Oil on brass*  
75 x 80 cm - 29.5 x 31.5 in.  
Price on request

# Peyman SHAAFI (b.1974)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1974 in Tehran, Iran, Peyman Shaafi studied calligraphy and Persian scripts from an early age and started his work with classic Nastaleeq, but later decided to break the rules and create his own style of writing. He draws inspiration from colours and the soul of each letter, while using his musical background to make letters move and dance. Peyman Shaafi is the first artist to create paintings on 3D canvases in different geometrical shapes built from scratch. Although he works mostly with oil paints, his pieces with mixed media create a different texture with tiny cracks across the surface which gives them an old, worn-out look. After a successful exhibition in Seyhoun Art Gallery in Los Angeles, Peyman Shaafi held a solo exhibition in Tehran. The Simurgh figures and the letter "ع" are ubiquitous in his works. A letter which calls for infinite readings, "ع" can jeer, laugh and dance; appear as a fish bone or a human skeleton or become so abstract that no longer looks like a letter of the Persian alphabet. To Peyman Shaafi, the beauty of letters lies in their ability to convey rich meaning either through words or by their combination in a painting. His 3D collection has been on display in AUN Art Gallery, Tir and his calligraphy works will be shown at Mojdeh Art Gallery. His group exhibitions at Heller Art Gallery in Dubai and Ayyam Young Collectors Auction in Tehran have recently received international recognition.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio



### **GOLD EUPHORIA, 2015**

Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 150 cm - 59.1 x 59.1 in.

Price on request

# Valay SHENDE (b. 1980)

## BIOGRAPHY

Valay Shende is an Indian sculptor born in 1980 in Nagpur, India. His life-size sculptural installations question the evils striking urban society, and especially his home country of India. Concerned with the man's tribulations of everyday life, Valay's keen observations reveal themselves through skillfully rendered objects, profiles and symbols. Meticulously crafted and articulate, his sculptures reveal an artistic, social and moral vision wrought with physical and metaphysical presence. Valay received his Diploma in Art Education in Nagpur before graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in sculpture in 2004 from the Sir J.J. School of Art in Mumbai, India. His work has been exhibited widely in India and internationally. Valay Shende was notably awarded the 2004 K.K. Hebbar Foundation Award, the First Prize at the India Sabka Festival in Mumbai in 2002, and the Best Sculpture Award from the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society in New Delhi, in 2002.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

## CERTIFICATE

The artist has confirmed the authenticity of this work

## PUBLIC NOTES

The Dabbawala has been a recurrent motif in the artist's work. Made up of numerous working clock faces, with a lunch box shaped as the stomach organ in hand, Valay Shende's Dabbawala represents the importance of precision and punctuality of India's 'tiffin-carriers' to ensure the satiation of hunger. The Mumbai Dabbawala System, which promises 'on-time delivery, every time', was the subject of an extensive Harvard Business School study in 2010.

### **DABBAWALA, 2015**

*Copper plated brass cases, wrist watches, gold plated fibre glass stomach, colour-coated MS base*

*Edition of 5 + 2 AP*

*174 x 81 x 61 cm - 68.5 x 32 x 24 in.*

*Price on request*



**PROVENANCE**

Artist's studio

**CERTIFICATE**

The artist has confirmed the authenticity of this work

**PUBLIC NOTES**

India's phenomenal boom towards growth and greater prosperity is rapidly expanding the middle-class, who are demanding luxuries that they were denied during the pre-liberalisation era. An iconic symbol of middle-class luxuries is the scooter, which zips through big metropolitan cities, delivering food from western chains to newly-rich families.



**SCOOTER, 2011-2012**

Gold-plated brass discs

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

111.8 x 177.8 x 71.1 cm - 44 x 70 x 28.2 in.

Price on request

# Manolo VALDÉS (b.1942)

## BIOGRAPHY

Manolo Valdés began training as a painter in 1957 at the Academia de Bellas Artes de San Carlos de Valencia, Spain. He is one of the few artists who have mastered multiple media including drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking. On each medium, he is considered superbly original and constantly provocative. Before starting his solo career in 1981, Valdés formed the group Equipo Crónica along with Joan A. Toledo and Rafael Solbes. Manolo Valdés moved away from linear irony to interpret the image as a symbol and a vehicle for contact between the artwork and the spectator. He continuously seeks inspiration in the creations of the grand masters such as Velázquez, Rembrandt or Goya. Influenced by historical masterpieces, Valdés creates large pieces of art in which the lighting and colors express a sense of tactility. His work has met great critical acclaim and public recognition. It features great museums worldwide, as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York or the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

## PROVENANCE

Artist's studio

## CERTIFICATE

The artist has confirmed the authenticity of this work



**Ivy, 2012**

Brass

Edition of 9

115 x 115 x 80 cm - 45.3 x 54.3 x 31.5 In.

Price on request

*In memory of Kossi Aguessy*

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