



PRESS RELEASE

Paddle8 presents *Middle East Contemporary*, an auction of art works from the Middle East

Featuring highlights by Khaled Takreti, Mouneer Al Shaarani, Raffi Tokatlian, Fadi Yazigi, Joe Kesrouani, and Abdullah Murad

Bidding available online from September 10 – 24, 2014

Online auction house Paddle8 is pleased to present *Middle East Contemporary*, an auction featuring works by leading artists from the Middle East. The auction includes works by Khaled Takreti, Mouneer Al Shaarani, Raffi Tokatlian, Fadi Yazigi, Joe Kesrouani, and Abdullah Murad among other contemporary artists. *Middle East Contemporary* will be open for bidding on Paddle8.com from September 10 to 24, and is presented in partnership with Artscoops, the Beirut-based online art platform that specializes in Middle Eastern and African art.

Bidding is available at <http://paddle8.com/auctions/middleeastcontemporary> beginning September 10 and through September 24.

Highlights of *Middle East Contemporary* include:

Mouneer Al-Shaarani, *My Delicacy Refused All But Passion, Whereas My Resolve, But What Reason Demands*, 2013. Gouache on paper. Estimate: \$22,000–\$28,000

Combining the formalism of traditional calligraphic arts and the modern precision of graphic design, Al Shaarani pays tribute to his own cultural history and the legacy of calligraphy in the modern age.

Fadi Yazigi, *Untitled*, 2013. Mixed media on canvas. Estimate: \$12,000–\$18,000

Fadi Yazigi's works typically relate the conflicts experienced in everyday life in Syria. The figures in his works are often depicted as underdeveloped creatures or as half-human beasts, the grotesque bodies reiterating the public's disillusionment with the current socio-political climate.

Joe Kesrouani, *City Highlights 20*, 2011. Photograph. Estimate: \$7,000–\$9,000

Joe Kesrouani's "City Highlights" series provide aerial views of a city, in this case Souk El Gharb in Beirut, with portions of the cityscape illuminated by sunlight. Kesrouani received the "Prix de Jury at the Salon d'automne XXXI" for his "City Highlights 03."

View the complete auction at <http://paddle8.com/auctions/middleeastcontemporary>.

About Paddle8

Paddle8 is an online auction house that connects buyers and sellers of fine art and collectibles. Paddle8 has created a marketplace for collectors by presenting authenticated inventory through two types of online auctions: curated auctions of art and collectibles organized around a specific theme or by a cultural tastemaker, and benefit auctions in collaboration with non-profit organizations. Founded in 2011 by Alexander Gilkes, an auctioneer and LVMH veteran, and Aditya Julka, a Harvard Business School MBA and serial entrepreneur, Paddle8 has over 50 employees worldwide, with teams in New York, L.A., and London. Paddle8 is funded by the investors behind Uber, Vimeo, BuzzFeed, Paperless Post,



Warby Parker, and Bonobos, among others, as well as art-world insiders including artist Damien Hirst, art dealer Jay Jopling, and Matthew Mellon. paddle8.com

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