

# GETTING THE SCOOP

Mother and daughter duo Raya and May Mamarbachi founded Artscoops, a digital platform for art in the Middle East, where you can purchase contemporary and modern artworks directly from artists, commercial galleries and private collectors



They unearth artists who are analytical about the world and the ongoing turmoil and reflect it in their art. The site updates its content on regional artists, gallerists and art collectors. It also features advice on how to collect art and art as an investment. Here, the Mamarbachis reveal the top five Arab artists to watch.



## 1. Hassan Darsi, *Vagues Dorees*, 2009

Born in Casablanca in 1961, the artist, photographer and video artist Hassan Darsi has his work in collections such as the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp

and Zorlu Art Centre in Istanbul as well as private collections in Morocco. In this series, he explores gold as a symbol of power, wealth and potential danger.

## 2. Catherine Cattaruzza, Beirut, Year Zero, 1992

Catherine Cattaruzza is a visual artist based in Beirut. She obtained the higher national diploma in plastic arts and communication with honours from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Toulouse, France. Since 1992, she has created various video installations for personal and collective exhibitions taking place in the Middle East, Europe and North America. Her recent work *Body* (2009) is part of the permanent collection of the Arter gallery in Istanbul. Her core work tackles themes around the city of Beirut and the falsification of national identity.



## 3. Salam Omar, Untitled, 2014

Iraqi artist Salam Omar, born in 1960, develops photographs printed on plexiglass and placed on top of each other to create his own three-dimensional interpretation of Beirut. The work is an attempt to narrate the memory of the civil war. The use of mixed media takes the viewer through a city where architecture becomes a symbol of destruction.



## 4. Joe Kesrouani, Aleppo's Citadel, 2010

Joe Kesrouani, born in Beirut in 1968, explores issues of intimacy. Each of his photos tell an underlying story and reflect the imaginative world he has built through art. Kesrouani has

participated in solo and group exhibitions in London, Dubai, Paris and Lebanon. In January 2012, he received the Prix du Jury at the Salon D'Automne in Beirut.