

**‘Palms and Stars’  
Lawrie Shabibi opens with Nabil Nahas solo show  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Lawrie Shabibi, the widely anticipated gallery opening in Dubai, will hold its inaugural exhibition on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 with the works of renowned Lebanese artist Nabil Nahas- his first solo show at a gallery in the Middle East.

Titled ‘Palms and Stars’ the show will comprise stunning new works through which Nahas reconnects to the places of his childhood, Lebanon and Egypt, in addition to earlier works from his seminal ‘Starfish’ and ‘Fractal’ series, and follows his stunning and critically acclaimed retrospective at the Beirut Exhibition Centre in June 2010.

Nahas has concentrated on two areas- his thickly encrusted starfish and fractal paintings, built up by layer upon layer of acrylic paint and finished in vivid colours, and his landscapes, expressive portraits of cedar trees and palms.

“I was delighted when Asmaa and William asked me to be the opening show of the Lawrie Shabibi gallery, my first gallery show in the region, and what better platform to present "Palms and Stars", a body of work that was inspired by the landscape of the region and deeply rooted childhood memories. These paintings come from the gut and I think this will resonate with the public,” said Nabil Nahas.

Often working in an abstract idiom, Nahas has moved through various themes and media in his continual need for self-re-invention. Although thoroughly schooled in Western abstract painting, he takes his inspiration from a diverse range of influences, most significantly nature, and occasionally Islamic art, in particular its abstract geometric and chromatic qualities. Characteristic of his work is the high degree of technical finish he lavishes on his paintings, regardless of theme or media.

“Nahas had established his reputation in New York art circles as a master of colour, texture and atmosphere, well before the current interest in contemporary art of the Middle East,” said Will Lawrie, co-founder and director of Lawrie Shabibi.

“We are thrilled to present the internationally established artist Nabil Nahas as our first exhibition in the gallery. Giving an overview of Nabil’s work over the past 15 years, this will lead a strong programme of shows throughout 2011,” added Asmaa Al Shabibi, co-founder and director of Lawrie Shabibi.

Nahas has exhibited regularly at important New York galleries, including Robert Miller, Holly Solomon and Sperone Westwater and at museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Katzen Centre and the American University Art Museum. His works can be found in collections which include Metropolitan Museum of Art, FAE, Musée d’art moderne, Pully-Lausanne, Switzerland, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha and Vorhees Zimmerli Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Supporting Lawrie Shabibi’s opening will be The Ivy, Dubai; London’s restaurant popular with the artistic community. The Ivy, Dubai is set to be at the forefront of Dubai’s exclusive dining experience and will be marking its debut appearance at Lawrie Shabibi ahead of its opening at the iconic Jumeirah Emirates Towers. Guests will have the chance to interact while enjoying a range of the brasserie’s classic canapés.

‘Palms and Stars’ will form part of the rich schedule of art exhibitions and cultural programmes during Art Week to kick-start the city’s established contemporary art fair; Art Dubai.

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**Further information** on Lawrie Shabibi can be found at [www.lawrieshabibi.com](http://www.lawrieshabibi.com).

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**Lawrie Shabibi** is an exciting new contemporary gallery located in Dubai's Al-Quoz industrial district focusing on both established and emerging contemporary artists from the Arab world, Iran, North Africa, South Asia and Turkey.

Founded in 2010 by William Lawrie (former director of contemporary art at Christie's) and Asmaa Al-Shabibi (former managing director of Art Dubai), the gallery engages the public with art that imparts a cultural and political discourse together with a powerful aesthetic.

**Nabil Nahas** was born in Beirut in 1949 and lives in New York City. Growing up first in Ciaro and then in Beirut, Nahas moved to the United States for university studies, first completing a BFA from Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 1971 and then an MFA from Yale University in 1973. In 1980 Nahas received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Grant.

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1973** Yale University, CT Yale University Chemistry Dept; mural
- 1977** Ohio State University, Ohio
- 1978** Robert Miller Gallery, New York
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- 1980** Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 1987** Holly Solomon Gallery, New York
- 1988** Galerie Montenay, Paris  
Holly Solomon Gallery, New York
- 1994** Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO
- 1997** Sperone Westwater, New York (catalogue)
- 1998** Baumgartner Galleries, Washington, DC  
Milleventi, Milan
- 1999** Sperone Westwater, New York
- 2002** 25th Bienal De Sao Paulo
- 2002-03** J.Johnson Gallery, Jacksonville Beach, Fl., November 8-January 3
- 2005** Galerie Xippas, Paris, 23 April – 28 May 2005  
Sperone Westwater, New York, 5 May – 25 June 2005
- 2009** "Nabil Nahas: untitled (trees)," Galerie Tanit, Munich, Germany, 23 January – 28
- 2010** March 2009  
"Cedrus Libani: Roots and Memory" FIAF, French Institute, 29 April – 29
- 2010** May 2010  
"Nabil Nahas: Works 1970-2010", Retrospective, Beirut Exhibition Center, 22 June – 22 August 2010

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1977** "Art on Paper," Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 13th Weatherspoon Annual Exhibition
- 1979** "Paintings on Loan from Private Collections," Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
"New York Now," Phoenix Museum, AZ  
Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
- 1980** "Subject Space," Pratt Institute Gallery, New York
- 1981** Studio Museum of Harlem, New York
- 1983** "Twentieth Century Art From the Metropolitan Museum," Queens Museum, Queens, New York
- 1987** "Razzle Dazzle," SSC&B Worldwide Advertising, New York  
"Art against Aids," Benefit Auction organized by Livet-Reichard, New York
- 1988** "American Baroque," Holly Solomon Gallery, New York  
Chicago Art Fair (Holly Solomon Gallery, New York)  
ARCO, Madrid (Galerie Montenay, Paris)
- 1989** Chicago Art Fair (Galerie Montenay, Paris)
- 1993** Edward Thorp Gallery, New York
- 1994** Brian Gross Gallery, San Francisco, CA

- 1996** Sperone Westwater, New York
- 1997** Galerie Tanit, Munich
- FIAC, Paris (Sperone Westwater, New York)
- "What's Hot," Baumgartner Galleries, Washington, DC
- 1998** FIAC, Paris (Sperone Westwater, New York)
- 1999** "Group Exhibition," Sperone Westwater, New York
- FIAC, Paris (Sperone Westwater, New York)
- 1999-** "Souvenirs: Collecting, Memory, and Material Culture," The Museum Guild Hall, NY, 9
- 2000** October 1999 - 9 January 2000
- 2000** "Arte Americana; Ultimo Decennio," Museo d'Arte della Citta di Ravenna, Ravenna, 8
- April - 25 June 2000 (Catalogue)
- "Le Temps Fractal," Galerie Xippas, Paris, 17 June - 29 July 2000
- 2001** "Painting Abstraction II," New York Studio School, New York, 24 May - 30 June 2001
- "Green on Greene," Sperone Westwater, New York, 1 November - 15 December 2001
- (Catalogue)
- 2002** "American Fractals," Blanden Memorial Art Museum, Fort Dodge, Iowa, 20 January -
- 17 March 2002 (Catalogue)
- XXV Bienal de São Paulo 2002, 23 March - 2 June, São Paulo, Brazil.
- "Invitational Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture," American Academy of Arts and
- Letters, New York, 4 March - 7 April 2002.
- "Blobs, Wiggles and Dots, Webs and Crustillations," The Work Space, New York, 17
- May - 12 June 2002.
- Katzen Arts Center, American University Museum, "Convergence, new art from
- Lebanon", 8 April - 16 May 2010
- 2010**