

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Lawrie Shabibi presents *HEROES & VILLAINS*  
Our summer group exhibition  
12 June, 2011 to 31 JULY, 2011

**Artists**

Ali Abdel Mohsen  
Zena El-Khalil  
Asad Faulwell  
Aicha Hamu  
Farsad Labbauf  
Marwan Sahmarani  
Gazelle Samizay  
Yasam Sasmazar  
Katayoun Vaziri



Lawrie Shabibi is pleased to present its summer exhibition *HEROES & VILLAINS*, a group exhibition that embodies Lawrie Shabibi's commitment to presenting a diverse range of artistic talent from the wider Middle East region.

Who are today's heroes? Who are the villains? In 2011, the year of change, the answer to this has never been less clear. Those who we adulate one minute might repulse us the next. Heroes commit villainous acts and yet even villains can redeem themselves. The very idea that they were ever villains at all depends on perspective and timing. In the fast-paced changes in today's world, the absolutes in politics and morality are exposed as illusory, expeditious and ambivalent. *HEROES & VILLAINS* explores these grey areas in vivid colour, demonstrating the heady mix of glamour, drama, melodrama and grit that characterizes our notions of heroism and villainy.

A number of the artists selected for the show have never been exhibited in Dubai before and work in a variety of media including collage, photography, video, sculpture and other three dimensional work. This

includes Afghan video artist and photographer **Gazelle Samizay**, whose work explores the intersection of her Afghan heritage and American upbringing through her status as a woman; the Iranian artist **Asad Faulwell**, whose new works of intricately woven collages celebrate the largely unsung female freedom fighters who struggled to end French occupation in Algeria; **Aicha Hamu**, the Moroccan multi-disciplinary artist here presenting a stunning polyptych of Elizabeth Taylor and her seven husbands; **Katayoun Vaziri** whose nationalist Iranian posters of the 80's are manipulated by the general public; and the extraordinary graphic scenes of urban decay by the young Egyptian **Ali Abdel Mohsen**.

Other artists included are **Zena El-Khalil**, whose densely-wrought collages composed of toys and political images are her way of making sense of the turmoil in her native Lebanon; **Yasam Sasmazer**, the young Turkish sculptor whose haunting yet appealing images of children have been causing a sensation; **Farsad Labbauf**, who paints figures with an almost calligraphic touch, and whose work can be found in the Saatchi Collection and **Marwan Sahmarani**, the 2010 Abraaj Capital Art Prize winner.

#### **Further Information**

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

Lawrie Shabibi, Alserkal Avenue, Unit 21, Al-Quoz, Dubai

Opening Hours: 10am to 6pm Sunday to Thursday. Saturdays 10am to 4pm

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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.*