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## PRESS RELEASE

### LAWRIE SHABIBI AT ART ABU DHABI

Manarat Al Saadiyat, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi  
4 November VIP Opening 5 - 8 November Public days

Lawrie Shabibi is pleased to announce its return to Abu Dhabi Art with a booth presentation of five artists - Hamra Abbas, Nabil Nahas, Driss Ouadahi, Natahaniel Rackowe and Mona Saudi. *"The artists selected engage with the interface between architecture and semiotics"* remarks William Lawrie cofounder and director of Lawrie Shabibi *"In the cities of the UAE new architecture is about so much more than simply expanding cities. New architecture here quickly becomes iconic- the buildings themselves becoming symbols of the ideas and aspirations of those cities"*.

Marking a debut with Lawrie Shabibi are Mona Saudi and Nathaniel Rackowe. Born in Jordan and a resident of Beirut since 1969, Saudi is a sculptor who works exclusively with natural stone. Starting from basic geometric shapes - the circle, rectangle or square - she extracts from them striking forms that are at once both intimate and monumental. At Abu Dhabi Art the gallery will present *Growth* a sculpture that dates back to 2002 carved from Jordanian jade.

Rackowe on the other hand is a London based artist whose light sculptures create impressions of today's metropolitan experience evoked through the vicissitudes of light. Rackowe frequently uses mass manufactured products in his works and for the fair the gallery will present *SP12, 2012* a light installation assembled from scaffolding tubes, clamps and fluorescent light. Like Rackowe, Ouadahi takes inspiration from his urban environment, producing large-scale paintings that evoke a dreamlike perspective that blurs reality and the artist's imagination. A new painting will be shown at the fair - which also coincides with his exhibition 'Inside Zenith' running concurrently at the gallery space in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai.

Returning to the Abu Dhabi fair is Lebanese born New York based Nabil Nahas. This year the gallery will showcase two monochromatic star paintings - one in vibrant red and the other in a deep saturated black - both of which organically recall the geometry of Islamic decorative traditions and murqaranas (stalactite vaulting).

Finally, Lawrie Shabibi will also present works from the highly acclaimed series *Kaaba Picture as a Misprint* by Hamra Abbas. In this series Abbas reduces the form of the Holy Kaaba to its simplest recognizable form of two black rectangles and then further reducing the black to its constituent colours- cyan, magenta and yellow, which randomly overlap to become black.

"We are thrilled to be showing our artists at the fair" comments Asmaa Al-Shabibi, cofounder and director of Lawrie Shabibi "Abu Dhabi is becoming increasingly important as a city of culture- one can not underestimate the impact that its blockbuster shows and museums are having on the fabric of the city and its society".

## ARTIST BIOS

**Hamra Abbas** Born in Kuwait in 1976 Abbas currently lives and works between Lahore and Boston. She is the recipient of the Jury prize at Sharjah Biennial 9, the Abraaj Capital Art Prize in 2011 and was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize in 2009. Selected solo exhibitions have been at Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai; Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India; PILOT, Istanbul, Turkey; and Green Cardamom, London, UK. She has participated in group exhibitions at the Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, USA; Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK; Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India; Asia Society Museum, New York, USA and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, US. She has also take part in the Changwon Sculpture Biennial, Korea; deCordova Biennial, Lincoln, USA; Asian Art Biennial, Taichung, Taiwan; Sharjah Biennial 9, Sharjah, UAE; Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China; Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey; the Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia (2006) and the Cetinje Biennial, Cetinje, Montenegro. Her works are part of notable international public collections including the Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas, USA; Kadist Collection, Paris, France; British Museum, London, UK; Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India; Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; Art In Embassies Collection, USA; Koç Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey and Borusan Contemporary Art Collection, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Nabil Nahas** Born in 1949 in Beirut Nahas completed a BFA from Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 1971 and then an MFA from Yale University in 1973. Nahas has exhibited regularly at important New York galleries, including Robert Miller, Holly Solomon and Sperone Westwater, in Galerie Tanit in Hamburg, Ben Brown in London and Agial Gallery in Beirut. His works can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Vorhees Zimmerli Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey; the Colby College Museum of Art, Maine; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia; the Flint Institute of Art, Michigan; the Michigan Museum of Art UMMA; the British Museum, London; Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the High Museum, Atlanta. In July 2013 he was awarded the honour of the National Order of the Cedar, for services to Lebanese culture.

**Driss Ouadahi** Born in Casablanca, Morocco, of Algerian parents in 1959 Ouadahi has held solo exhibitions in New York, San Francisco, Düsseldorf, Germany, and Istres, France. He has also taken part in a number of group exhibitions such as *25 Ans de Créativité Arabe*, Institute de Monde Arab, Paris; *Le Retour*, 3ème Festival International d'Art Contemporain d'Alger; *Magreb: Dos Orillas*, Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid; *Future of a Promise* at Venice Biennale 54; Cairo Biennial 12, and CU Art Museum, University of Colorado in Boulder. His work is in the public collections of the Herbert-Weisenburger-Stiftung, Rastatt, Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf; Nadour Collection; Barjeel Art Collection, Sharjah, UAE; Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Geneva and Stadtparkasse Baden-Baden. Prizes include Centre d'Art Contemporain, Istres, Marseille (2003) and the Grand Prix Léopold Sédar Senghor Prize at the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Dak'Art, the Biennial of Contemporary African Art in Dakar, Senegal (2014).

**Nathaniel Rackowe** Born in 1975 in the UK and currently living in London Rackowe graduated from the Slade with an M.F.A in sculpture. Selected solo shows include *The Consequence of Light*, Bodson Gallery, Brussels; *Reflections on Space*, BISCHOFF/WEISS, London and *Shift*, BISCHOFF/WEISS, London. Recent group shows include *Lumiere*, Light Festival of Durham, UK (2013); *Dynamo: A century of light and movement in art, 1913-2013*, Grand Palais, Paris and *The Double Illums Bolighus*, Copenhagen. Public Art Projects include DEN FRIE Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen; *Spin*, Lima Peru; *RP3*, Economist Plaza with the Contemporary Arts Society, London and *LP4*, Victoria Station, London. His works are in notable public collections including CIFO (Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation), Miami, USA; Jumex Collection, Mexico; Museum of Modern Art, Lima, Peru; LVMH Collection, Paris, France; Museum of New Art, Tasmania, Australia; David Roberts Collection, London, UK; UK Government Art Collection, London, UK; Hauser & Wirth Collection, Zurich, Switzerland; and Ernst & Young Collection, London, UK.

**Mona Saudi** Born in Amman, Jordan, 1945 she studied sculpture at the ENSBA in Paris, and currently lives in Beirut. Selected solo exhibitions include Europaia Gallery, Paris; The Mosaic Rooms, London, and a Retrospective at Darat Al-Funun, Amman in 1995. Select group exhibitions include International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt; *Forces of Change*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC, USA, *Arab Contemporary Artists*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France and *Arab Artists*, Kunst Hus, Oslo. Mona Saudi has been commissioned to created large-scale sculptures in public spaces in Amman, Paris, and Beirut. Her sculptures are found in private collections and museums worldwide including the Institut du monde Arabe, Paris whose marble work dominates the entrance to the institute. In 1993 she was awarded the National Award for Arts in Jordan.

## **ABOUT LAWRIE SHABIBI**

Lawrie Shabibi is a contemporary art gallery housed in a 3000 square foot warehouse in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. The gallery's programme supports international contemporary artists mainly from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. By holding a regular programme of exhibitions, screenings and talks, publishing catalogues and participating in international art fairs, the gallery engages the wider local and international community. The gallery represents Hamra Abbas, Adel Abidin, Wafaa Bilal, Asad Faulwell, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Taus Makhacheva, Nabil Nahas, Driss Ouadahi, Nathaniel Rackowe, Marwan Sahmarani, Larissa Sansour, Yasam Sasmazer, Shahpour Pouyan and Adeel uz Zafar.

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