

Nasr**Warour**



Nasr Warour Manifestations of Creativity

“Every painting has its own life, its own world like an individual; the colours speak and they appear with different forms, bringing other elements to tell a story which then evolves into a painting. Colours have their own characteristics, landscapes, and culture. One understands their history and symbols better when one knows their origin and according to their geographical situation and nature.

Warour’s pieces in India ink suggest an extension of a previous calligraphic lexicon; vibrant in their movement, almost lyrical and freed from attributed spatial configurations.

As the themes and focus of artistic creation move from the immediately tangible to abstractions of metaphysics and faith, the images and narratives deployed are transfigured, interpreted, conjured and rendered supranatural and transmographic.

At once, devotion, philosophy, and the incarnate materialise as one. Particular societal and religious contexts dictate to what point and for how long such iconography is relevant and evocative.”

A segment of an essay by
Elizabeth Rogers
art historian and curator

EDUCATION / TRAINING

Nasr Warour (2 October 1968) is a Syrian-born artist, sculptor, painter, photographer, and brand designer.

Warour studied sculpture at the Suwaida Institute for Fine Art from 1985 to 1986, and later graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Damascus University in 1995. He also holds a Certificate of Photography from Damascus Institute, earned in 1991.



Exhibitions

Warour has exhibited his art at forums and galleries in Syria and abroad, notably at the Syrian artists' exhibition at the Syrian National Museum from 1997 to 2000, the Fine Arts Syndicate in Damascus from 1998 to 2000 and 2005, the Latakia Biennale in 1997, and the Beirut Artual in 1999. Warour's major works were regularly acquired by the Ministry of Culture in Syria until 2000, when he left to reside in the UAE.

More recently, Warour has had solo exhibitions at the Alliance Francaise and Visual Art Gallery in Delhi, India in 2008; Al Bareh Art Gallery, Bahrain in 2010; Sharjah Art Lounge, UAE in 2011, Beirut, Lebanon in 2012; and XVA Art Gallery, Dubai 2021.

He has also participated in several joint exhibitions and international art fairs in India, China, Singapore, Turkey, Lebanon, Bahrain, United Kingdom, Ireland, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Syria, and Italy. These include the Florence Biennale in 2009 and 2017, Art Dubai 2010, the First International Izmir Art Biennial in Turkey in 2011, and the Dublin Biennial in 2014. Notably, Warour won the Fourth Prize in the Painting Category of the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" International Award at the 2009 Florence Biennale, and the Second Prize in 2017.

Design

After he moved to UAE in 2000, Warour continued working as a creative graphic designer until 2015. He was behind the creation of UAE's official postage stamp as well as many brands and logos for private and government institutions like Emirates Palace, Al Marjan Island, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Etisalat, to name a few.

PHILOSOPHY

Warour began his art studies in Damascus, Syria in 1985, with sculpture as his primary medium of expression. His unique interpretations of the culture and history of his homeland led to the creation of many large-scale pieces that set him apart from his contemporaries.

Warour explored various techniques and media in order to find the perfect way to capture his vision and philosophy. In his contemporary work we see some of the sculptor of his formative years. His work deconstructs and dismantles the objects of everyday life into a maelstrom – but a balanced frenzy. The parts are rearranged in surprising ways, intentionally distorting reality and placing the idea at the center of the portrait. Warour understands how to break the form free from its sculptural silence and give it a temporal motion, in large part because of his exceptional ability to use monochromatic and polychromatic colors in dialogue.



His work might be dubbed cubist by some, or perhaps constructivist by others, and still others may attach the label of harsh expressionism. While Warour does not subscribe to any particular movement or school of artistic thinking, he has been inspired by the work of the twentieth-century British painter [Francis Bacon](#) for his exceptional skill of showcasing the performance of life in his artworks. In Warour's work one can also see the inspiration of the late [Fateh Al-Moudaress](#), considered by many to be the father of the modern art movement in Syria, as well as evidence of the rich heritage of Damascus and [Palmyra](#). Truthfully, Warour's style is an amalgamation of all these influences from home and abroad, from within himself and from the world that surrounds him. He is a student of no one; he has carved out his own stylistic niche.

Warour's aesthetic goal is not simply to enchant the eye with a compelling design, but instead to transform something fragmented and destroyed into something beautiful. The viewer dismantles the symbols and shapes and reconfigures them into various expressionist possibilities of his or her own making.

All the elements are here; that is, the lines, the colors, and the shapes that depict the essential idea. The artist's goal is not to beautify the shape so as much as to beautify his own search for inner abstract beauty.

Warour's work is a departure from the convention and imitation so often seen in the arena of contemporary fine art. Because of this he has received many accolades from various museums and public institutions in Syria, the United Arab Emirates, India, and Italy, as well as notable collectors from around the world.

BOOKS ABOUT THE ARTIST



The color bird's logic

A visual journey into the aesthetic experience of the artist Nasr Warour

Author | Ebrahim Mahmoud

Language: Arabic

Pages: 300

Publisher: Demozi Publishing House

[Buy](#)



Cloud belongs to one

The space of the artist Nasr Warour

Author | By Hsain Warour

Language: Arabic

Pages: 192

Publisher: Demozi Publishing House

[Buy](#)



SELECTIONS BY THE ARTIST

READ OUT
200X200 cm
Ink and acrylic on linen

2015

Just as ancient cave petroglyphs aimed to capture man's complicated and symbiotic relationship with his environment, Warour's petroglyphs evoke our relationship with our current environment and systems, societies, countries, politics and religions. Though we each live in this vortex of structure, each of us also moves independently.

Words are one of Warour's biggest inspirations. However, Warour rarely uses words in his art and if he does, he makes sure they have their own substance and weight.. EQRA' [READ], is the first word revealed in the first chapter of the Holy Quran. A consciously powerful word, it is an invitation to acknowledge, in the name of the greatest creator, passing to the light. The artwork READ OUT was built using the READ word 355 times, the same number of days in the lunar year calendar.

As with the endless universal spiral movement, the artist oriented the strongest letter of the word READ (ق Q) in the center, to lead our attention in the right direction of the organized vortex.

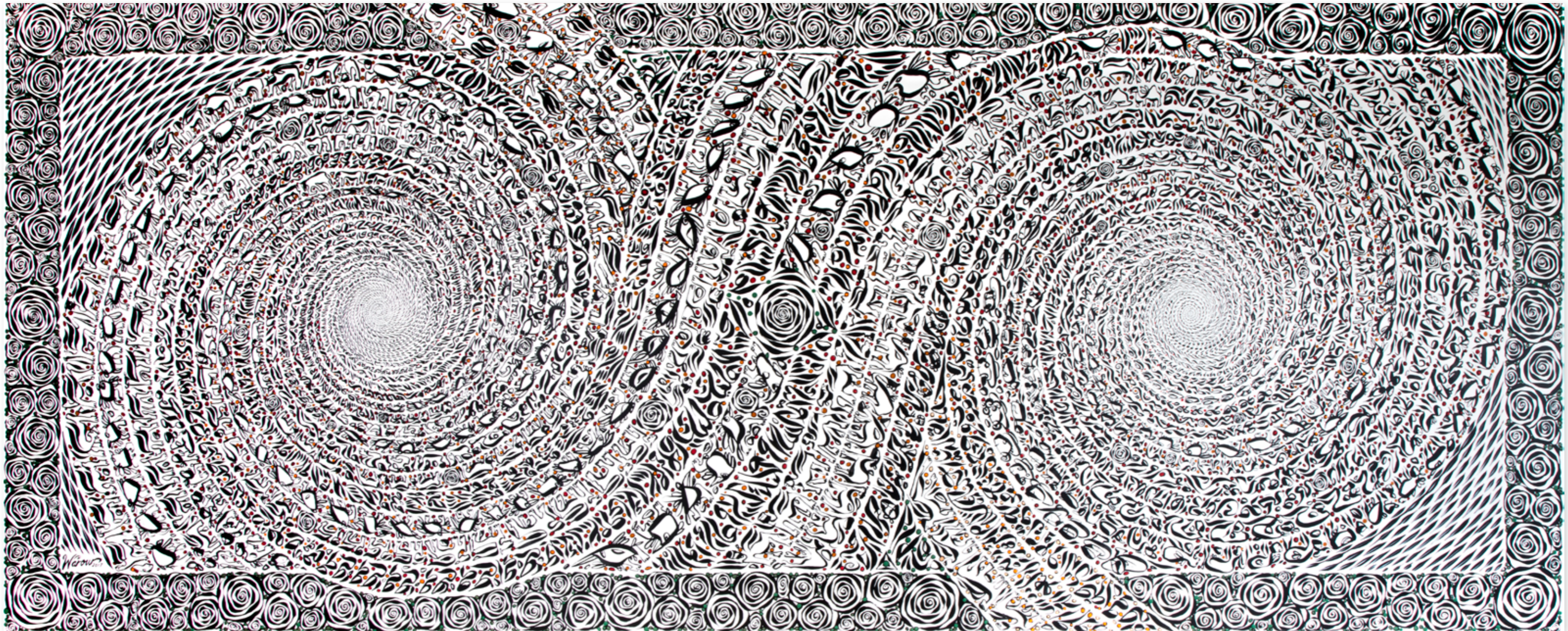
Every single READ symbol is different, each having a unique character and iconic personality unit, in one journey and in one vision.



HOME CARPET
500X200 cm
Ink and acrylic on linen

2017

These spirals of black symbols are painted in an engineered pattern that reflects the conformity and randomness of the human experience. The movements of this vortex create our life forces; it is within the vortex that structures and power-systems are established, by humans and by natural forces. Although we all live in the vortex of structures and systems, each of us moves independently.



THE IMAGE OF THE ONE

120X150 cm

Acrylic and charcoal on canvas

2010

"The space takes its importance and identity from us as part of the universe in permanent movement and change in its shape, sound, smell, weight, temperature and rhythm. By space, I don't mean its physical state but the words and expressions that emanate from the self within its surroundings.

Words and expressions that can fly and fill the hollowness that's scattered far and wide. Or simply plummet like a dead sperm unable to swim. Or they could find themselves submerged and infused into the light and in the flowing equations that lie between us. Or they can just be kept imprisoned in their extremism."

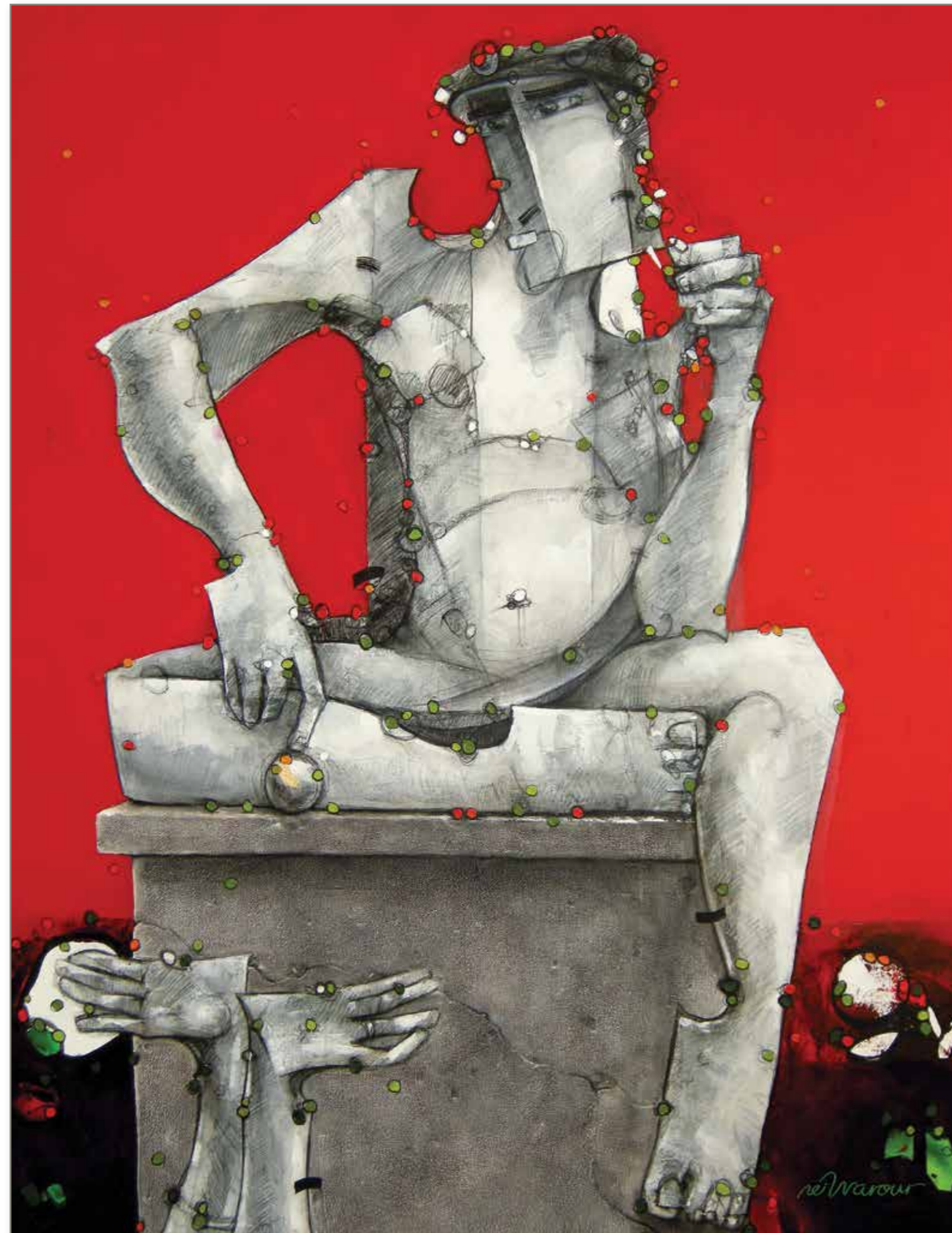
Nasr Warour



PLUS NEGATIVE ONE

115X120 cm

Acrylic, ink, and charcoal on canvas



THE BAPTIST | 2021
90X75X60 cm
Coal dust and ash

Since 2019, Nasr has been extracting the pictorial and iconographic elements from his collection "READ OUT THE VORTEX" (2015 – 2017) and developing them in different media such as charcoal, sand, paper, and marble dust. The elements and objects in the collection currently number more than 1,000; to transform these elements into sculptural works within themes and chapters will take many more years.



Warour was born and educated in Syria. In 2000 he moved to Dubai, UAE, where he helped to build a burgeoning cultural scene. In 2021 he relocated to the United States, where he hopes to earn similar esteem for his unique artistic vision.

EXHIBITIONS

Official Art Events

- Cultural Center of Suweida, Syria 1986
- Syrian Annual Art Exhibition, National Museum Damascus, Syria 1997
- Latakia Biennale (Recognition) Syria 1998
- Youth first art exhibition, Al Shaab Ballroom (Award) Damascus, Syria 1998
- Syrian Annual Art Exhibition, National Museum. Damascus, Syria 1999
- Fine Art Syndicate Exhibition Damascus 1999
- Artuel Beirut, Lebanon 1999
- Florence Biennale, Seventh Edition Italy (Lorenzo El Magnifico Award) 2009. Shanghai Art Fair
- China September 2010 Dubai Art Fair
- UAE 2011 Izmir Biennale
- Turkey 2011 Beirut Art Fair
- Lebanon 2013 Syrian Contemporary Art Fair
- Lebanon 2013 Dublin Biennale
- Ireland 2014 Beirut Art Fair
- Lebanon 2014 Singapore Art Fair
- Singapore 2014 Bahrain Art Fair
- Manama 2015 Florence Biennale 2017
- Italy (Prime Award)

Solo Exhibitions

- Suweida Cultural Center Suweida, Syria 1987
- DUCTAC Dubai, UAE 2008
- Alliance Française New Delhi, India 2009
- Visual Art Gallery New Delhi, India 2009
- Babel Theater Beirut, Lebanon 2010
- Al Bareh Art Gallery Manama, Bahrain 2010
- Al Riwaq Art Gallery Sharjah, UAE 2011
- XVA Art Gallery Dubai, UAE 2021

Joint Exhibitions

- Ritz Carlton, Bahrain 2009
- Grand Hyatt, Dubai 2009
- Ritz Carlton, Muscat, Oman 2009
- Grand Hyatt, Doha, Qatar 2010
- Al Markiya, Doha, Qatar 2010
- Al Ahram Collection, Cairo, Egypt 2016
- Kalamat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey 2017



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