

# ASIAN ART NEWS

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## Kathmandu Int'l Art Festival



**The Seventh Asia Pacific Triennial \* Tokyo**  
**1955 – 1970: A New Avant-Garde \* Yilpinji:**  
**Australian Aboriginal Art In Croatia \***  
**Pinchas Cohen Gan \* Auction \* Reviews**

Based on this and their current understanding of the ink, Nan Qi (b.1960, Zhejiang), Cai Guangbin (1963, Heilongjiang), and Zhang Quan (b.1967, Hubei) have developed their own form of expression while drawing on ancient and respected Chinese ink painting traditions to make something contemporary.

G-Dot Art Space is located at Central Gallery Street, Eastern Art District, Songzhuang Tongzhou, Beijing 101118. Tel: (86-131) 6153 3351. Website: [www.g-dotartspace.com](http://www.g-dotartspace.com).

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### ENGLAND

#### Interventions

**M**anchester Art Gallery is presenting Raqib Shaw's largest solo exhibition to date. This major exhibition, on view through May 27, 2013, features 28 recent (and many previously unseen) works by the artist including large-scale paintings, sculptures, and works on paper, drawn together from private collections around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of the artist, Manchester Art Gallery has been transformed with flower installations. Inspired by Shaw's passion for flowers and plants, his studio has created sculptural interventions of willow and driftwood planted with spring bulbs and the exterior of the gallery appears to be in bloom for the duration of the show.

Shaw has created a major new painting for this exhibition, in response to George Stubbs's *Cheetah and Stag with Two Indians*, one of the most popular works in the gallery's collection. Shaw's stunning yet provocative work is displayed alongside Stubbs's original painting in the 18th century collection gallery.

Other major works on



**Raqib Shaw, Absence of God VII, 2008.** Image: Courtesy of the Artist and White Cube. © Raqib Shaw.

display include *Adam*, a painted bronze overlaid with black diamonds, sapphires, and rubies. The show also features a selection from Shaw's recent series *Of Beasts and Super-Beasts*, first shown in Paris in 2012. These glitter- and rhinestone-encrusted acrylic works on paper feature incredibly detailed creatures and still-lives drawn from the artist's imagination and highlight Shaw's passion for drawing.

Shaw's opulent paintings and sculptures evoke the work of masters such as Holbein and Bosch in their treatment of often unsettling subjects. But they also reflect

the ornate style of Persian miniatures and Kashmiri and Japanese textiles. Beneath their beautiful jewel-like surface is a collection of dark and violent images inspired by ancient myths and religious tales from both Eastern and Western tradition.

Raqib Shaw was born in Calcutta and lived in Kashmir for many years. He studied for both his BA and MA at Central St Martins School of Art. He shot to fame at the young age of 33, when his painting *Garden of Earthly Delights III* was exhibited in a group exhibition. Shaw is also included in the 7th Asia Pacific

*Triennial of Contemporary Art* currently on view in Brisbane, Australia. The Manchester Art Gallery exhibition will travel to the Rudolfinum in Prague (June 6 – October 15, 2013).

Located in the heart of the city, Manchester Art Gallery hosts a renowned collection of fine and decorative art and delivers an ambitious program of temporary exhibitions that bring world-class historic, modern, and contemporary art to the city. The exhibition is collaboration between Manchester Art Gallery and Rudolfinum Prague. A full color publication accompanies the exhibition with an essay by Professor David Lomas.

Manchester Art Gallery is at Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL. Tel: (44-161) 235 8888. Website: [www.manchestergalleries.org](http://www.manchestergalleries.org).

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### THE UNITED STATES

#### Within The Gray

**T**oo often, the Middle East and its people are cast along extremes. The region's traditions and culture are stereotyped to fit modern vs. traditional, religious vs. secular, and its artists are often expected to create works that fit within an historical Oriental aesthetic.

At Mana Contemporary, the Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) in collaboration with Leila Heller Gallery will show works by prominent Iranian and Arab artists that explore not the binaries and stereotypes of the Middle East, but rather the space between. Having undergone geographical relocation and exile, these artists inhabit an ambiguous and contested space, situated within a contemporary landscape permeated by cultural and historical legacies. The exhibition, entitled *The Space Between*, will be on view from March 3 to May 5, 2013.

These works reflect a

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dialogue between the artists and the political, geographical, traditional, and spiritual spaces they frequent. Shoja Azari interrogates not only the traditions and politics of his homeland Iran, but also the American military presence and political influence in the region. Ayad Alkadhi's work explores the loss and terror of the horrors that took place in his native Iraq. Leila Pazooki's work inhabits yet another space—the tight realm set upon non-Western artists as they are incessantly compared to their Western counterparts and held up to a Westernized aesthetic expectation. The exhibition will also feature work by Khosrow Hassanzadeh, Hadieh Shafie, and Roya Akhavan. These artists no longer inhabit the white or black of the spectrum, but find themselves dispersed within the gray.

Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) is a nonprofit exhibition space providing an equal-opportunity platform for artists, curators, scholars, and institutions—based in the Middle East and its diasporas—to showcase new and influential works of art. MECA's core mission is to broaden the perception and educate the greater public about the Middle East. With a yearlong program of events, exhibitions, film screenings, and lectures, MECA creates an exciting forum for cultural exchange (website: <http://themeca.org>).

Founded in 1982, Leila Heller Gallery has established a reputation in both the primary and secondary art market. Known for an active and innovative exhibition schedule, the gallery shows paintings, works on paper, sculpture, installation, and video from international contemporary artists to modern masters, with a specialization in artists from the Middle East (website: <http://leilahellergallery.com>).

Mana Contemporary is at 888 Newark Avenue,



**Youssef Nabil, *You Never Left*** (still image), 2010, Bluray. Image: Courtesy of Nathalie Obadia Gallery, Paris/Brussels.



**Hadieh Shafie, *Untitled*** (from *Telesm* series), 2012, ink, acrylic, and paper with printed and hand-written Farsi text *Esheghe* (love). Image: Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery.

Jersey City, NJ 07306. Tel: (1-800) 842 4945. [www.artmanafest.com](http://www.artmanafest.com).

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## HONG KONG

### Visual Echoes

**S**hin Hwa Gallery is presenting the third solo exhibition of works by Lim ChaeWook in Hong Kong, through March 28, 2013.

Lim ChaeWook is a *shanshui* photography artist from Korea. His works always contain nature's monologues and dialogues in the landscapes. From the wind to the forest, from the rocks to the trees, from the mountain ridg-

es to the sky, there are quiet conversations echoing in Lim's landscapes. He perceives these visual echoes and places them into his works with the inspiration from *shanshui* paintings.

Lim selects and interprets



**Lim ChaeWook, *Mt Seorak 1306***, 2013, archival pigment print on hanji, 33 x 100 cm. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Shin Hwa Gallery.

a specific piece of landscape, for its visual echo somehow talks to him. He answers back with his unique frames that magnify the landscape. A dialogue with nature is formed at the fleeting moment when the object is being photographed. This dynamic between the nature and Lim penetrates all through his works.



**Lim ChaeWook, *Mt Seorak 1312***, 2013, archival pigment print on hanji, 100 x 100 cm. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Shin Hwa Gallery.