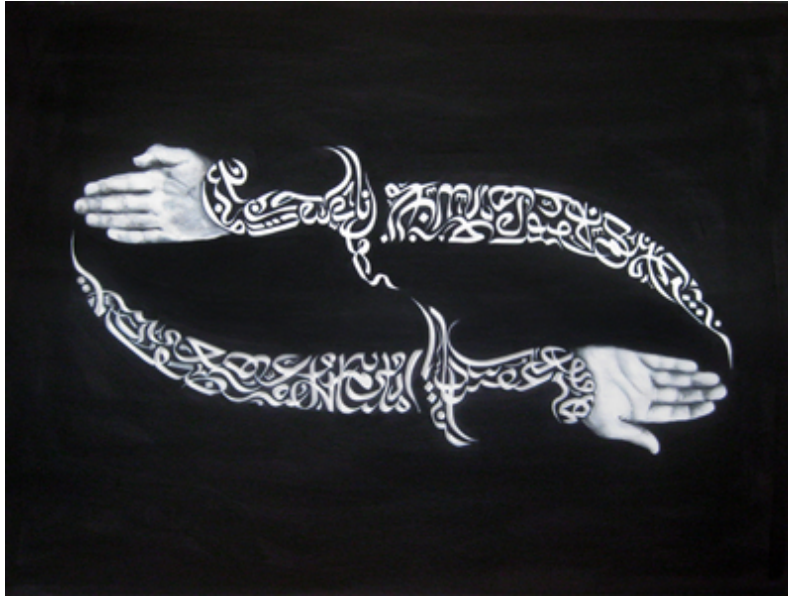


# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

**ABU DHABI 2013**  
**NOVEMBER 20-23, 2013**  
**Booth H2-11**



Ayad Alkadhi, *If Words Could Kill VI*, 2013, Acrylic, charcoal and pencil on heavy paper  
40 x 30 in / 101.6 x 76.2 cm

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce its participation in Abu Dhabi Art 2013, November 20-23 2013, at the UAE Pavillion and Manarat Al Saadiyat, booth H2-11. The Gallery will present a focused rendition of Leila Heller's iconic exhibition *Calligrafitti* and an installation of sculptures by Madrid-based British sculptor Richard Hudson.

Originally presented in 1984 at Leila Heller's former uptown gallery, and once again in September 2013 at Leila Heller Gallery in Chelsea, *Calligrafitti* explored a myriad of connections shared between the seemingly disparate styles of abstract expressionist art, graffiti writing, and calligraphy artists from the Middle East and its diaspora. For Abu Dhabi Art 2013, Leila Heller Gallery will focus its exhibition on a selection of works by Contemporary artists who push the boundaries of traditional Arabic and Persian script into new abstract configurations, amplifying the bridging of cultures, nationalities and politics. The works included are a testament to the continuous negotiations taking place within the calligraphic tradition.

Ayad Alkadhi incorporates Islamic calligraphy with imagery of hands and swords in his *If Words Could Kill* series. The black and white drawings are a reference to the dualities of good and evil. The blade of a calligraphic sword is replaced by an open palm-- a helping hand or a hand of destruction.

Two 60 x 40 inch *Grid* drawings by Hadieh Shafie will also be on view. Shafie's drawings are a re-interpretation of traditional calligraphic script and design repetition present in Iranian and

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Islamic art and design. The drawings are ultimately formatted into a form of Western Modernism: The Grid.

Korean born, New York-based artist Rostarr will present a selection of gold, black and white paintings and works on paper. Rostarr relies on an intuitive, free-form process to create abstract geometric shapes from which elements of calligraphy and iconography emerge. His work incorporates elements of graphic art, design and physics. By using various materials and combining fluid hard lines and soft splatter, the artist is able to enhance the expressive capacity of surfaces.

Two paintings by Amsterdam-based graffiti artist Niels "Shoe" Meulman will be exhibited. Meulman started combining calligraphy and graffiti as a way to tag his name in urban environments, ultimately labeling his style as "calligraffiti," traditional handwriting with a metropolitan attitude.

Three photographic c-prints will be on view from New York-based, Iranian artist Shirin Neshat. One work is from the artist's most recent series *The Book of Kings*. Neshat employs Persian calligraphy over black and white portraits of Arab youths, patriots and followers of the Arab Spring. The calligraphy is a mixture of lines from contemporary poetry and from the *Book of Kings*, the 60,000 verse-epic of Persia's historical and mystical past.

French-Moroccan artist Yasmina Alaoui will exhibit four works from her series *Zillij*. Based on geometric Islamic motifs and script, Alaoui's prints and paintings form opulent fields of abstraction that resemble tapestries and landscapes submerged in a variety of colors: a deep red fading to black, grey to black, and glittering gold across a dark canvas.

Two works by renowned Iranian artist Charles Hossein Zenderoudi will be on view. Known as the pioneer of Modern Iranian Art, Zenderoudi bases his work around the gesture and fluidity of calligraphic script. However, he uses repetition, a range of directions, and a variety of colors to ultimately create works of abstraction. His style has been described as 'an autonomous artistic language with universal roots.'

A work by Iran-born late artist Farideh Lashai will also be on view. Lashai holds a reputation as one of Iran's most prolific artists, as she was a deft painter of gestural abstractions. Understandably inspired by nature, her painting emerges as dynamic, filled with lyrical calligraphic writing.

Rachid Koraichi, an Algerian-born artist will present a work, called "Poem Of Beirut". Using Arabic calligraphy, Koraichi gives visual representation to Mahmoud Darwish's 'Ode to Beirut', connecting political issues in his native Algeria with the struggle for freedom of speech in Palestine.

In a separate space in the front of the booth will be a selection of polished bronze sculptures by Madrid based sculptor Richard Hudson. The co-existence and juxtaposition of the ancient and the modern are constant fundamentals in Hudson's work, resulting in surreal, mirrored and shapely sculptures.