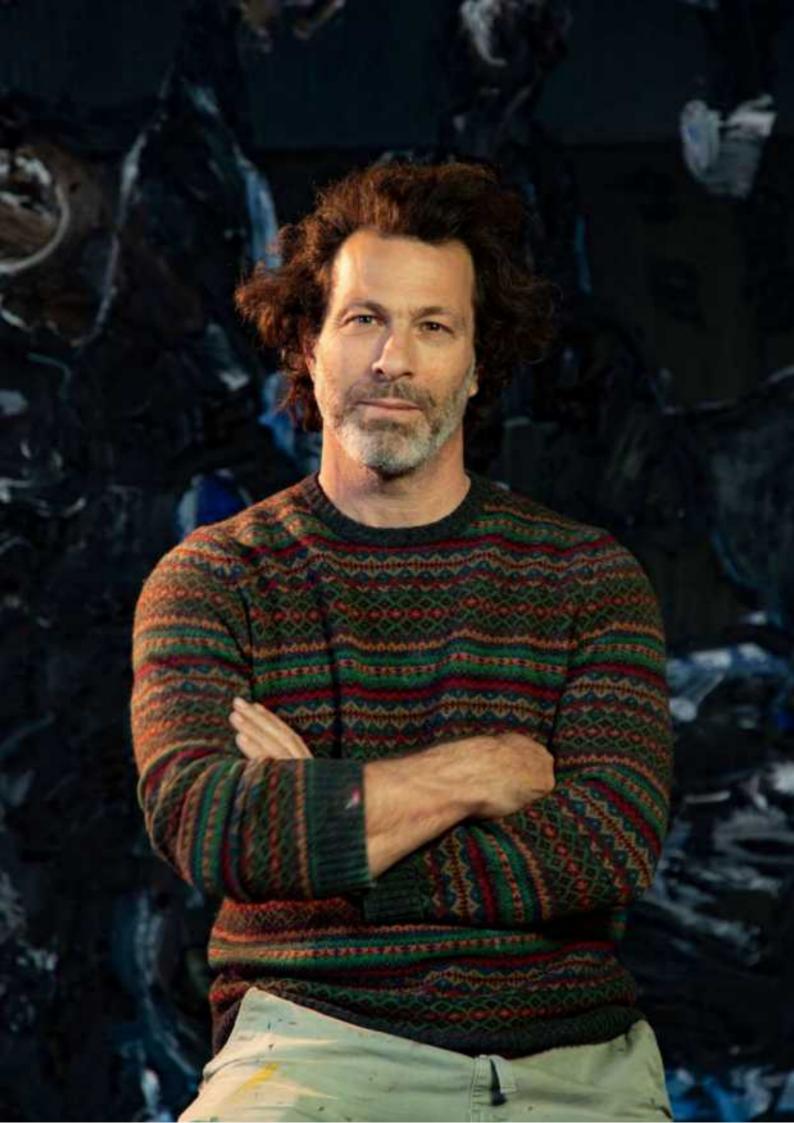


MARWAN SAHMARANI "Dirty Mirror Selfie"

The exhibition titled "Dirty Mirror Selfie" invites viewers to confront the complex interplay between self-perception and the often distorted realities that surround us. Through a provocative lens, the artworks delve into the darker aspects of human nature, reflecting the unsettling beauty found in ugliness and chaos. They challenge us to accept the uncomfortable truths of our existence—acknowledging the violence, sexuality, and horror that both fascinate and terrify us. In a region marked by significant political turmoil, this exhibition poignantly illustrates the paradox of advanced civilization juxtaposed with a regressive, aggressive human instinct. Each piece serves as a mirror, urging us to look beyond our superficial selves and engage with the raw, often disturbing realities that shape our lives and societies. As visitors traverse this exhibition, they are invited to reflect not only on the world around them but also on the unsettling truths that reside within.

The exhibition challenges visitors to engage in a profound confrontation with their own egos, revealing how what we perceive around us is intricately connected to our inner selves. Through the lens of "Dirty Mirror Selfie," the artworks lay bare the dirty realities we collectively carry, reflecting a shared consciousness that intertwines the conscious and the subconscious. The pieces are rich with flesh, depicting the tearing and wearing of human skin as a visceral metaphor for vulnerability and existence. Vivid colors pulse throughout the exhibition, embodying the ecstasy of life amidst the inevitability of death. This interplay of hues, particularly the myriad shades of skin, serves as a striking representation of our lived realities, evoking both the beauty and the fragility of human experience. Ultimately, the exhibition invites us to explore the complex relationship between life and death, suggesting that within the vibrant chaos of existence lies the ultimate truth.





















Nothing Can Stop The Sound, 2024 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas



Nothing Can Stop The Sound, 2024 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas



Nothing Can Stop The Sound, 2024 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas





Sacrilege, 2024 180 x 250 cm Oil on Canvas



Between The Wars, 2024 200 x 250 cm Oil on Canvas



Golden Hour, 2024 200 x 250 cm Oil on Canvas



The Silence That Remains, 2024 180 x 225 cm Oil on Canvas



Every Summertime, 2024 180 x 225 cm Oil on Canvas



Faces of The Masquarade, 2024 180 x 250 cm Oil on Canvas





Cold Places, 2024 240 x 320 cm Oil on Canvas



Faces of the Masquarade, 2024 185 x 220 cm Oil on Canvas



Your Hand in Mine, 2023 170 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Caribou, 2023 170 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Savane, 2023 170 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas





Everything Now, 2023 180 x 200 Oil on Canvas



A Bird in the Hand, 2024 225 x 300 cm Oil on Canvas



Morning Sunset, 2024 220 x 300 cm Oil on Canvas



How Can You Love Me, 2022 225 x 300 cm Oil on Canvas

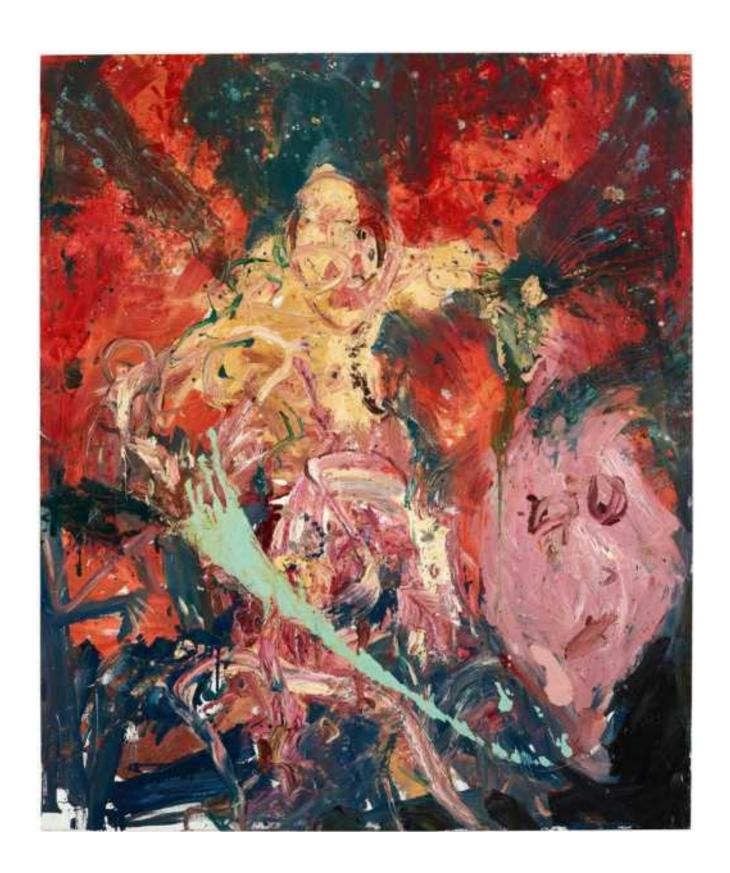








Roller, 2023 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas



Sun Hands, 2023 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas



Dance Yourself, 2023 170 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas







Gangster fairy tale, 2024 250 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Gangster fairy tale, 2024 250 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Judge-Jury-and Executioner, 2024 200 x 150 cm Oil on Canvas



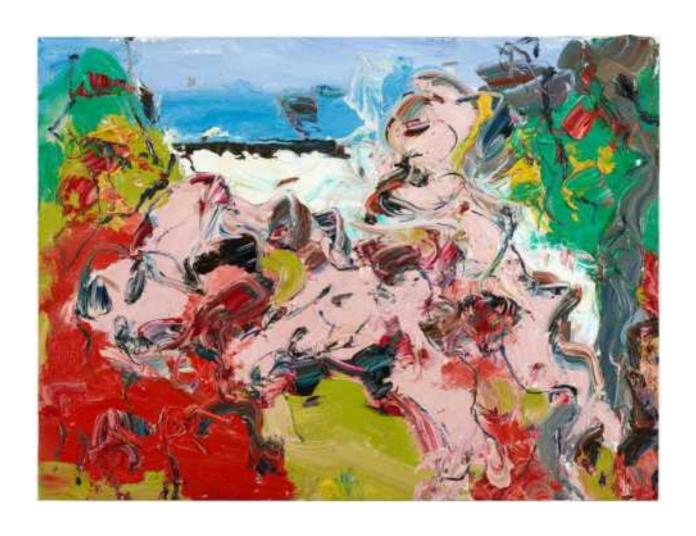
Judge-Jury-and Executioner, 2024 300 x 220 cm Oil on Canvas



The Exiled, 2022 225 x 180 cm Oil on canvas



The Exiled, 2022 170 x 150 cm Oil on canvas



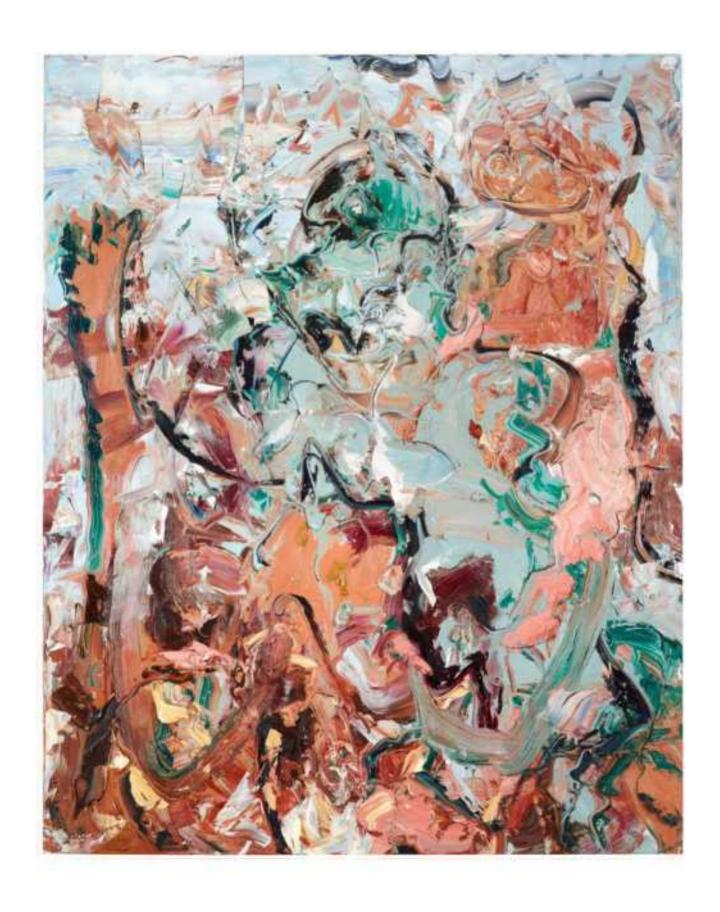


Soul Obsession, 2022 250 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Wolf, 2022 250 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas





The Dream of Saturn 3, 2021 200 x160 cm Oil on Canvas



The Dream of Saturn 2, 2021 200 x160cm Oil on Canvas

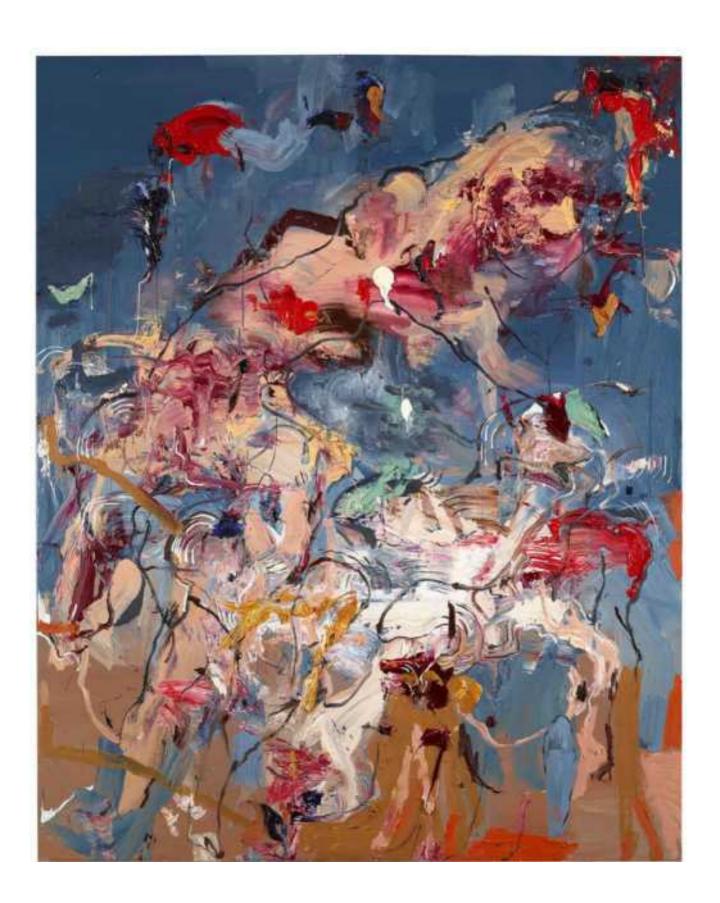
What went down, 2022 250 x 200 cm Oil on Canvas



Wild Child, 2022 250 x 200 cm Oil on canvas



Should I call Sandro , 2022 200 x 160 cm Oil on Canvas















ABOUT THE ARTIST

With strong brushstrokes and vivid colours, Marwan Sahmarani's practice reflects on the increasing political turmoil and tension felt throughout his native Lebanon. He explores the cyclical patterns of violent history manifesting throughout the Middle East so that what persists in his practice is an expressive exploration of violence – of feeling, bodily motion, nature and its man-made counterpart. The conflict between inner and outer is central, but the real crux of his inquiry is deceivingly simple: how two people can arrive at a point where they attempt to destroy each other. This appetite for destruction spans human history, and it is our failure to transcend this annihilating force that continues to haunt Sahmarani. His works attempt to interrogate this failure, while also endeavoring to explore the raw emotions at the heart of violence.

In his landscape paintings created in the mountain village of Tarbena Spain, looser brush strokes dissolve into symphonies of colour in order to the capture the exuberance within nature. This transition in location, from urban to rural, has transformed his work into what he identifies as more personal and more intense. Ultimately, it has prompted a focus on the act of painting itself, leading to what he described as a "fleshy" use of thick layers of paint in order to depict an interplay of gesture, movement, texture, and colour evoking the collective unconsciousness. What emerges from the landscape work in this context is the connection between violence and expressivity: how the brutality of nature shows a primal energy of the elements, especially when compared to its man-made counterpart.

Born in Beirut (1970) and based between Beirut and Spain, Marwan Sahmarani has participated in a variety of Solo and Group Exhibitions in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2023 The Dream of Saturn, Leila Heller Gallery, UAE
- 2022 Hot Sun, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2021

- Before the Blast, Leila Heller Gallery,
- 2017 Dubai, UAE
 - Drifting Island, Leila Heller Gallery,
- 2015 Dubai, UAE
- 2014 New Paintings, Gallery Kashya Hildebrand, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 Black Moon, Gallery Kashya Hildebrand, London, England Marie Marie, The Devil In Me Has Taken
- 2011 You For A Ride, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 The Wolf Is Crying Like A Child, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2010 The Dictators: Studies For A Monument, Selma Feriani Gallery, London, UK
- 2009 The Feast of the Damned, Art Dubai, Abraaj Capital Art Prize, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 The Dictators: Studies for a Monument, Boutique 1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 Can You Teach Me How to Fight?, The Third Line Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 Paintings and Drawings (1990-2005), Mogabgab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2005 Masturation, Ard Bia Gallery, Galway, Ireland
- 2004 Beirut el Koubra, Mogabgab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2004 Mecca Cola, Clair Obscur, Montreal, Canada
- 2003 No-body, Mogabgab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2003 Non-dit, Mogabgao Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1997 Non-dit, Alternative, Montreal, Canada
 - Le Prophète, Mogabgab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2010 Abraaj Capital Art Prize, Dubai, UAE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Carpets of Eden, Gardens of Fantasy, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 Contemporary Lebanon: Art beyond violence, The Lebanon pavilion, Singapore
- 2013 Traces, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
- Times, Spazio Qubi Gallery, Turin, Italy
- 2011 Heroes and Villains, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 Rebirth, Beirut Exhibition Centre, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2010 All About Beirut, Kunsthalle whiteBOX, Munich, Germany
- 2010 Convergence: New Art from Lebanon, American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2007 Espejismos: Contemporary Art from Middle East and North Africa, International Festival of Puebla, Puebla, Mexico 2004 Pensées et Measures, La Fabriq, Montreal, Canada, 1994 Le Prophète, Espace E.S.A.G. Paris. France

BIENNALES AND MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Between A Rock And A Hard Place, 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece 2011 Third
- 2 Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art
- O10 Abraaj Capital Art Prize 2010, Museum of Art & Design, New York, NY, USA Told/Untold/Retold, Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

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Back cover: Shadow of the Palms, 2024 100 x 80 cm Oil on Canvas

Conceptual Statement by Marwan Sahmarani

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