

Wassef Boutros Ghali

A RETROSPECTIVE

1965 - 2016

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



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Spanning several decades, these works reveal Boutros-Ghali's distinctive balance between architectural order and painterly intuition. In both the large-scale canvases and intimate paper compositions, intersecting planes, subtle tonal shifts, and spatial rhythms evoke a meditative language that transcends geography, rooted in modernist ideals.

In both mediums, Boutros-Ghali's compositions are dynamic; they seem to breathe, their tensions and harmonies suggesting the shifting light, landscapes, and cultural forms that informed his vision. His work resonates with a timeless universality yet carries the imprint of a life lived between continents.

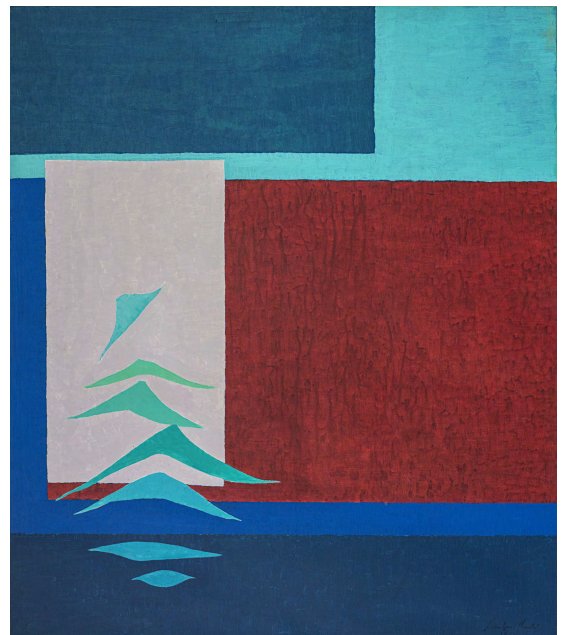
Boutros-Ghali challenges the traditional and leading convention of figuration with his commitment to abstraction as a modernist method of self-expression. Each piece demonstrates his mastery in balancing architectural rigor with the sensibility of a painter, transforming pure geometry into a language of contemplation and a constant state of visual flux.

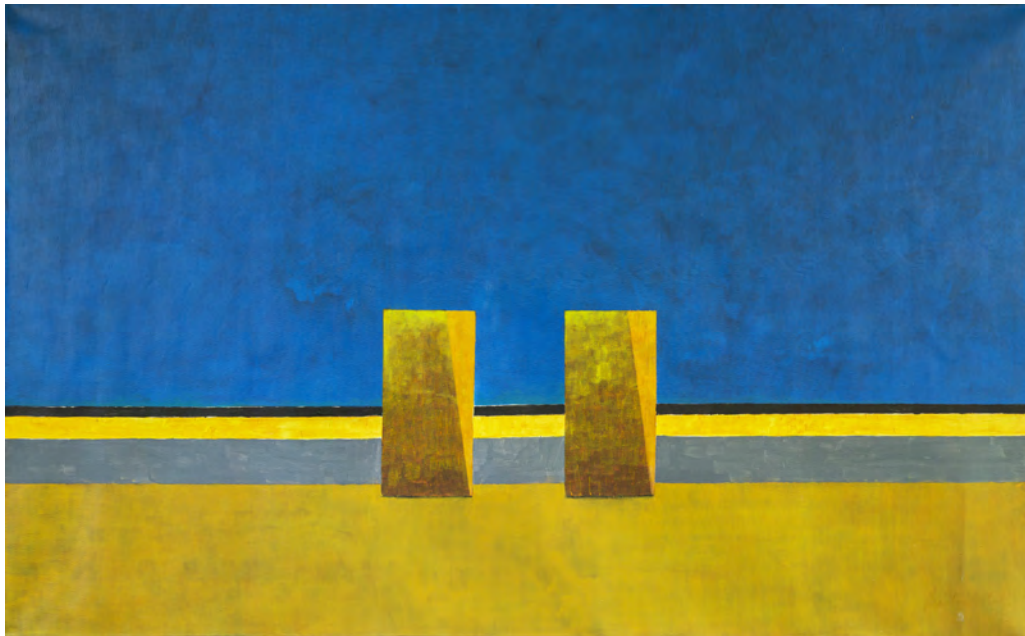
Challenging traditional figuration, Boutros-Ghali embraces abstraction as a modernist method of self-expression. Each work transforms pure geometry into a language of contemplation, achieving a poised equilibrium between static form and dynamic, ephemeral color a visual flux that resonates with timeless universality.



The Blue Door, 2000
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 38 in.

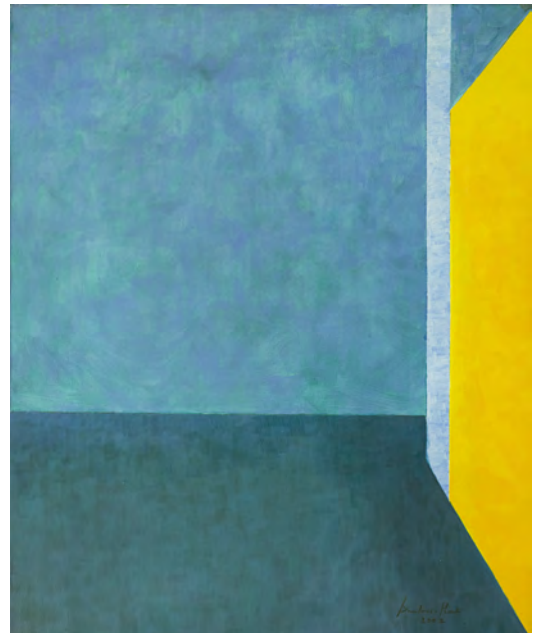
Untitled, 1987
Acrylic on Canvas
42 x 36 in.





The Gate, 2003
Acrylic on Canvas
43 x 71 in.

The Open Window, 2002
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 38 in.

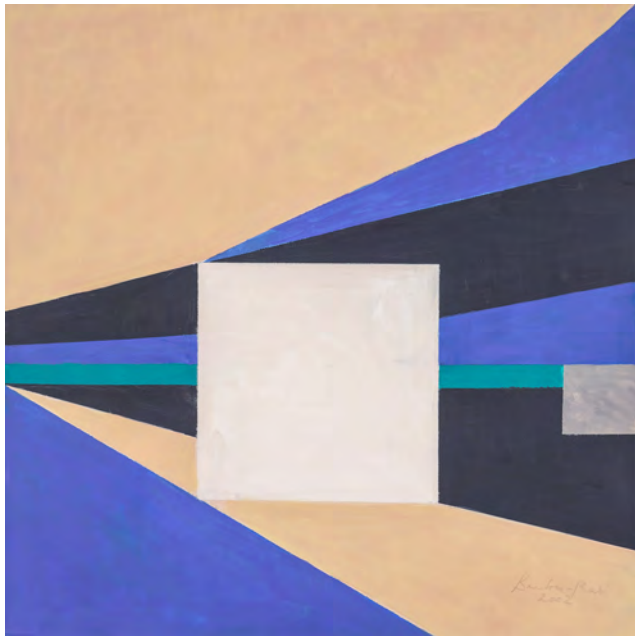




Horizon VI, 2000
Acrylic on Canvas
38 x 46 in.

Study for Horizon VI, 2000
Acrylic on Canvas
20 x 20 in.





Horizon XIII, 2002
Acrylic on Canvas
27.75 x 27.75 in.

Horizon VII, 2000
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 38 in.





Untitled, 2007
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 46 in.

Untitled, 2016
Acrylic on Canvas
27.5 x 27.5 in.





Untitled, 2003
Acrylic on Canvas
27 x 27 in.

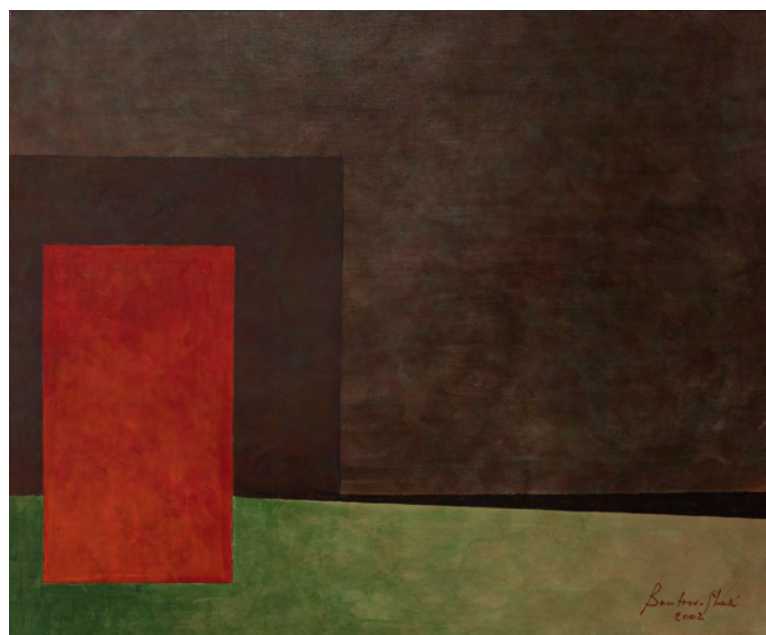
Untitled, 2015
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 38 in.





Untitled, 2008
Acrylic on canvas
38 x 46 in

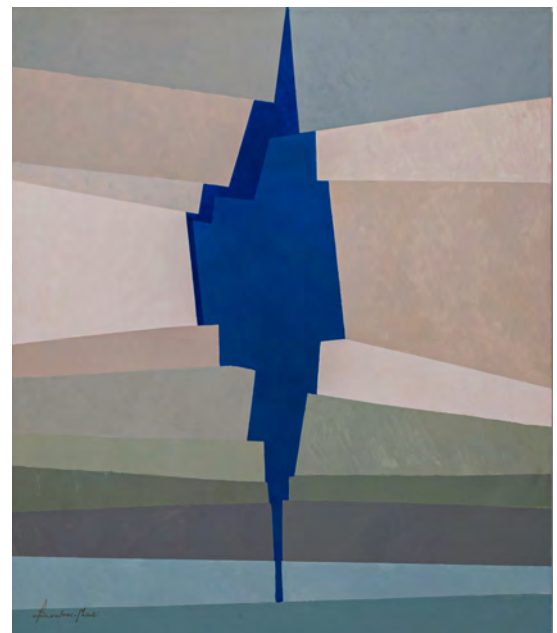
The Night Hunter, 2002
Acrylic on canvas
38 x 46 in





Untitled, 2001
Acrylic on canvas
38 x 46 in

Untitled, 2013
Acrylic on canvas
65 x 55 in





Untitled, 2001
Acrylic on canvas
71 x 43 in

Untitled, 2013
Acrylic on canvas
65 x 55 in





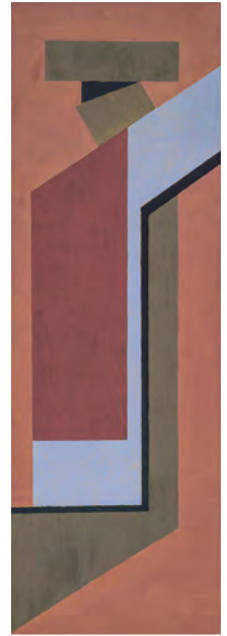
Untitled, 2001
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 38 in



Untitled, 2010
Acrylic on Canvas
71 x 23.5 in.



Untitled, 2010
Acrylic on Canvas
71 x 23.5 in.



Untitled, 2005
Acrylic on Canvas
59 x 19.75 in.



Regard (Look), 1991
Pen, ink & water colour on paper
27.5 x 39.25 in.



The Last Supper (La Cene), 1987
Pen, ink & water colour on paper
24 x 32 in.



Underwater, 1993
Pen, ink & water colour on paper
27.5 x 39.25 in.

Untitled, 1992
Water colour on paper
39.5 x 27.5 in.





Egyptian Wedding, 1972
Felt pen on paper
22.5 x 28.5 in.

Horizon XIV, 2003
Acrylic on Canvas
23.25 x 23.25 in.





Autumn I, 1987
Pen, ink & water colour on paper
31.5 x 24 in.

The Fish, 2018
Pen, china ink and
felt on paper
19.7 x 27.6 in.





Untitled, 2018
Pen, china ink and
felt on paper
19.7 x 27.6 in.



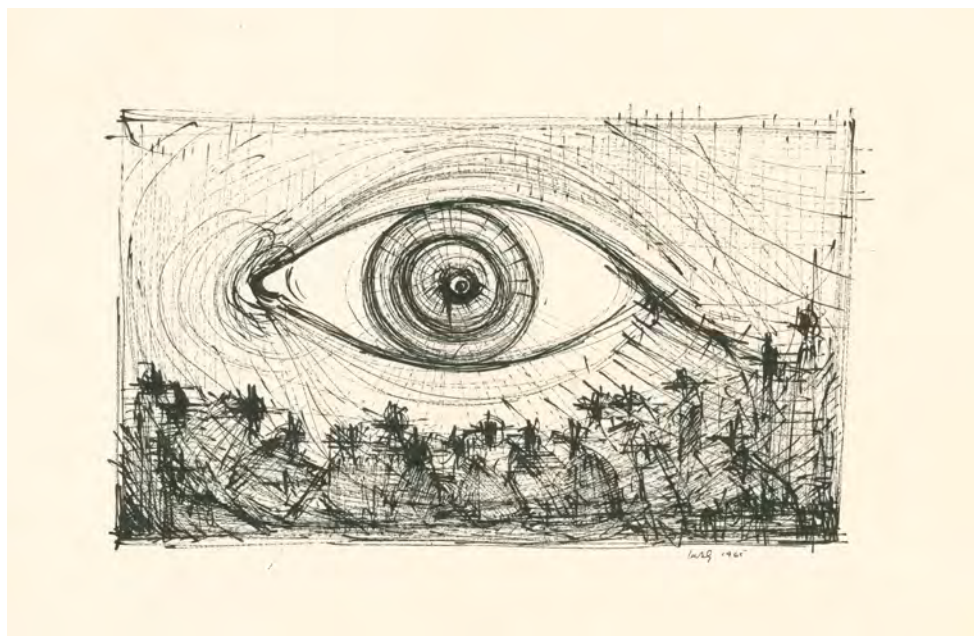
Untitled, 2018
Pen, china ink and
felt on paper
19.7 x 27.6 in.



Untitled, 1970
Water color on paper
18 x 20 in.

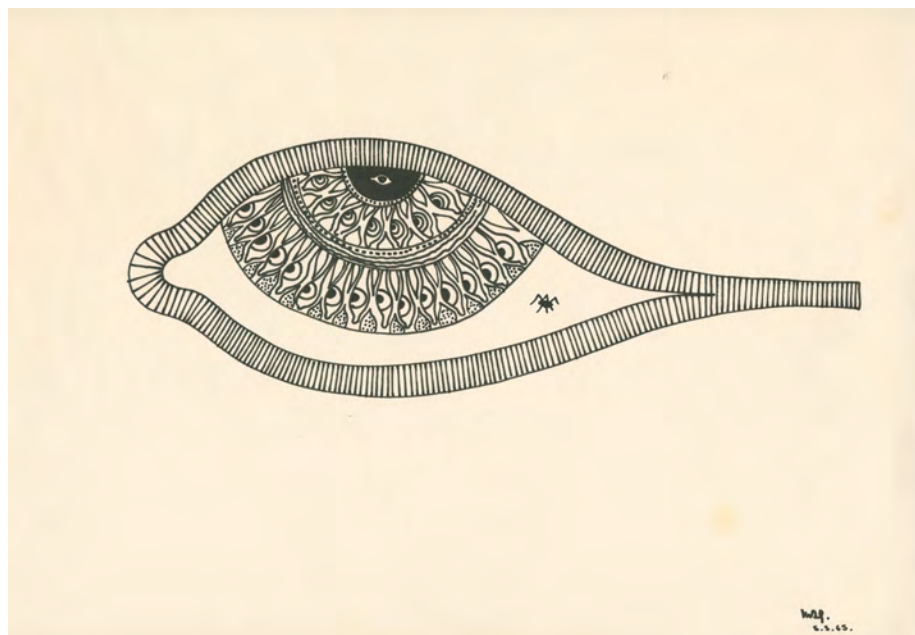
Untitled, 1977
Water color on paper
14.3 x 14.1 in.





Untitled, 1965
China Ink on paper
13.8 x 17.8 in.

Untitled, 1965
Ink on paper
18 x 14 in.





Untitled, 1970s
Felt pen on paper
17 x 14 in.

The Guard, 1968
Brush & Indian Ink on Paper
28 x 20 in.





Untitled, 1987
China Ink on paper
19.5 x 14 in.

Untitled, 1967
China Ink on paper
25.5 x 19.5 in.





Encounter, 1987
China Ink on paper
17 x 24.8 in.

Untitled, 1987
China Ink on paper
19.5 x 14 in.





Ban An-Phel 2018

WASSEF BOUTROS GHALI
1924 - 2023

Born in Cairo (1924–2023) to a political family, Boutros-Ghali pursued art from a young age, training under Jaro Hilbert. He initially chose architecture but later dedicated himself to painting, merging structural precision with lyrical color harmonies.

As a U.N. consultant, he worked on urban projects across the Middle East and Africa while deepening his artistic practice. Political upheaval in 1963 forced him to experiment with Chinese ink drawings, shaping his later style.

Moving to New York in 1971 revitalized his approach, shifting his focus from figurative improvisations to bold abstraction influenced by Rothko and Reinhardt. Larger canvases and vibrant acrylics became his signature. A return to Cairo in 1985 provided uninterrupted freedom to refine his meticulous yet expressive compositions.

Boutros-Ghali continued to paint until his passing on March 15, 2023, at the age of 98.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Wassef Boutros-Ghali: A Retrospective and Catalogue Raisonné launch; Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
- 2023 Wassef Boutros-Ghali: Echoes of Creativity; albertz benda gallery, Los Angeles
- 2023 Wassef Boutros-Ghali; Arts Club London; curated by Wedel Art, London
- 2021 Wassef Boutros-Ghali /LEVANTE; Christine König Galerie, Vienna
- 2021 Wassef Boutros-Ghali: Paintings 2000 - 2016; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago
- 2020 Wassef Boutros-Ghali: A Retrospective; albertz benda gallery, New York

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Expansive Change: Distortion as Dialogue in Modern and Contemporary Art; Leila Heller Gallery, New York
- 2024 World Builders: Artist as Architect; Leila Heller Gallery, New York
- 2022 Exhibition N°120 (maybe); Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris

ART FAIRS

- 2025 Abu Dhabi Art Fair; Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
- 2024 Abu Dhabi Art Fair; Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
- 2021 The Armory Show; albertz benda gallery, New York
- 2021 Frieze Masters; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Albertz Benda Gallery, London
- 2021 The Armory Show; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2020 The Armory Show; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2019 Art Basel Miami; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Miami

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Barjeel Art Foundation, Shariah, UAE
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL

SELECTED PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 Al Qassemi, Sultan Sooud, Introduction, Catalogue Raisonne
- 2025 Vally, Sumayya. "Abstraction is an Ancient Technology," Catalogue Raisonne
- 2025 Adamson, Glenn. "A Conversation with the Artist," Catalogue Raisonne
- 2025 Honarpisheh, Donna. Title TBD, Catalogue Raisonne
- 2021 Gyimesi, Jenna. "These Retirees Were Just Artists in Waiting," AARP, July, 2021
- 2020 Hawa, Kaleem. "Wassef Boutros-Ghali: A Retrospective, Brooklyn Rail, December 20, 2020
- 2020 Clavarino, Elena. "Wassef Boutros-Ghali: A Retrospective," Graydon Carter's Air Mail
- 2020 MacAdam, Barbara. "Imaginary Geometry: Wassef BoutrosGhali's Art," New York, NY;
- 2019 Grosso, Caroline. "Art Basel Miami Beach 2019: The Ultimate Guide to What to Do and What to See," L'Officiel USA. December 7, 2019
- 2003 El Chiati, Wafika. "Wassef Boutros-Ghali: A Retrospective," Cairo, Egypt.

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