

Harper's BAZAAR

ARABIA

ART

ISSUE 25

Dia Azzawi
PIONEERING
THE IRAQI
ART FRONT

NEWSHA
TAVAKOLIAN
REFLECTIONS FROM
ANOTHER WORLD

MARC QUINN'S
TRACES
of LIFE

Jashanmal National Co.



110277212
HARPER'S BAZAAR ART
12299

AED 30

**AGA KHAN MUSEUM
'SYRIA: A LIVING HISTORY'**

Bringing together over 5,000 years of art highlighting the contributions that the diverse cultures within Syria have made to the world, Aga Khan Museum presents *Syria: A Living History*, a story of the marvelous cultural traditions of both ancient and present-day Syria. Strongly informed by a distinctive landscape and history, artists of Syria throughout the ages have made priceless contributions to world heritage. Many of the works on display are being exhibited together for the first time and will give audiences a unique insight into a mélange of personal experiences with reflections on modern day Syria. Exhibition highlights include an eye idol from Syria carved around 3,200 BC, a stele with the depiction of a prayer from Tell Halaf, which still bears marks of a Second World War bomb raid, and the contemporary works of Elias Zayat and Fateh Moudarres.

Aga Khan Museum, Toronto.
agakhanmuseum.org Tel +416 6464677.
Until 26 February.

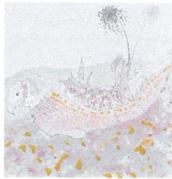


**LISSON
GALLERY
WAEEL
SHAWKY:
DICTUMS**

As one of the most powerful and urgent voices to emerge from the Middle East

in the last decade, Wael Shawky explores systems of belief in his new work *Dictums: Manqia I*. Reinterpreting faith, myth and history through the lens of the modern media, Shawky combines the astute observation of his subject matter with a keen sense of institutional critique. This exhibition includes new drawings, as well as wall-based vitrines displaying metal plaques, which have been produced in Karachi. It tackles notions of national, religious and artistic identity through film, performance and storytelling.

Lisson Gallery, Milan. lissongallery.com
Tel +39 0289050608. Until 7 January.



**SOPHIA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY
AZADEH RAZAGHDOOST: RECIPE FOR A POEM**

Presenting 15 recent paintings by Iranian artist, Azadeh Razaghdoost, for her first solo exhibition in the UK, *Recipe for a Poem* evokes poetic associations with love, passion and blood in order to explore contrasting existential states and impulses. Razaghdoost's practice refers to 19th-century European poems of the Romantic Age whilst combining coloured pigments onto a white canvas in an artistic gesture reminiscent of Action Painting and Abstract Expressionism. Spattered in a whirlwind of emotions and colour radiates, the artist employs an unrestrained eroticism culminating in glowing hearts and feminine attributes to portray tender, at times existential dualities. By interrogating the essential tensions underpinning existence and exploring the emotive properties of colour, Razaghdoost creates a poetic and idiosyncratic visual language that challenges life's most fundamental impulses.

Sophia Contemporary Gallery, London. sophiacontemporary.com. Until 10 February.



**LEWIS CUBITT SQUARE
'RANA BEGUM: NO. 700 REFLECTORS'**

As part of the public art programme at Kings Cross, London, Rana Begum presents a 50 metre long outdoor piece featuring 30,000 reflectors which create a continuous surface of shifting colour and form. Taking up the entire length of the square, the Bangladeshi-British artist Rana Begum is the first artist to exhibit their work in a series of commissions that are part of The King's Cross Project—a three-year programme of art commissions for the buildings and public spaces at King's Cross. Hovering between op-art and minimalism, Begum's work features intricate geometric patterns, inspired by the traditional forms found in Islamic art and architecture. Above all her work comes out of her interest in the complexity, transience, and chance encounters of the city—the environment where half the world's population now lives.

Lewis Cubitt Square, London. kingscross.co.uk. Ongoing.