

# URBAN POP

## TAHER JAOUI

Creating captivating and labor-intensive work with the idea of continuing the legacy of the abstract expressionism movement from the '50s and '60s, Taher Jaoui's paintings are rich assemblages of layered forms, vibrant colors, expressive gestures and mathematical signs and formulas. Applied on canvas through a dynamic interaction, a physical back and forth dialogue in which perspective and orientation continuously change until all the elements are balanced properly, these opulent creations are the artist's personal way of expressing himself.

Through a series of spontaneous movements, directly inspired by the way canvas responds to layers of paint and gestures applied to it, Jaoui compares his work to a dance routine with a familiar partner. And while impulsive and unconstrained in its core, familiarity with materials is essential for the creative process that strongly depends on the ability to respond quickly and foresee the way the elements will work together. Layering pastels, oils, and acrylics, the artist accents the richness of his work by constructing a raw texture that directly captures the physical energy put into each piece. Serving as a channel to convey his thoughts, emotions, and visions, the artistic practice is Jaoui's source of confidence and peace, while the finished work becomes a documentation of the process of achieving those feelings.

Without any formal art education, his artistic practice is influenced by African primitive art, graffiti, glitch art and the COBRA movement as well as the philosophy and attitude of post-war abstract expressionism. Varying from simple forms and patterns, over-familiar shapes that are reminiscent of abstracted skulls, all the way to chalkboard-like scribble sections, the canvas surface becomes the workspace through which the artist exercises his means of expression.

The concept of building something from a variety of singular elements is a direct result of computer science and engineering studies, parts of which are coming to life through abstract mathematical signs and formulas sometimes incorporated into Jaoui's entrancing compositions. These elements, along with the spatial vision of the surface, once again makes a strong connection with early abstract expressionism concepts which considered ideas of quantum mechanics in their conceptualization.

Regularly working on a large scale, the works, which are exclusively built in an automatic or subconscious manner, actually demand careful planning and utilization of space and materials. Balancing between his thoughts and feelings while creating, Jaoui's work carries that sense of a rebellious, anarchic, highly idiosyncratic and,

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some might say, nihilistic feel, yet still constructs an endless base for viewer-dependent interpretation and experience.

## **Education**

2007 Paris–Sorbonne University

## **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2023 Contemporary by U; Taipei, Taiwan

2022 freeze.art; Shanghai, China  
Galerie Saltiel; Paris, France  
LT Gallery; Beirut, Lebanon  
Maune Contemporary; Atlanta, Georgia  
Corridor Contemporary; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Jason shin Gallery; Seoul, South Korea

2021 Space 776 + Uncommon Beauty Gallery, New York

2020 Srisasanti Syndicate; Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
81 Leonard Gallery + Uncommon Beauty Gallery, New York  
Galerie Kremers; Berlin, Germany

2019 Graham Modern and Contemporary Gallery; Johannesburg, South Africa  
Jinsan Gallery; Seoul, South Korea

2018 Ghaya Gallery; Tunis, Tunisia

## **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2023 *Wood you be Happy*, Firetti Contemporary; Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*Crossing*, Lorin Gallery; Los Angeles, California

2022 *More than Color*, freeze.art; Shanghai, China  
*Doodling the space*, Granada Gallery; Madrid, Spain

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## **Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)**

- 2021 *Blue. Red. Deep. Square.* Corridor Contemporary; Tel Aviv, Israel  
Love Always Wins, Maune Contemporary; Atlanta, Georgia
- 2020 Dual show with Mikhailo Dayak, Mandarin Maison; Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2019 Dual show with George Morton Clark, Opera Gallery; Hong Kong, China  
*An Atlantic Bridge BERLIN-USA*, Galerie Kremers; Berlin, Germany  
*Impossible Until it is Done*, Opera Gallery; Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*Dystopia*, Banzy Gallery; Beirut, Lebanon  
*Works on Paper III*, Galerie Kremers; Berlin, Germany
- 2018 Oliver Cole Gallery; Miami, Florida  
Opera Gallery; Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2017 Aquabit Gallery; Berlin, Germany  
CoGalleries; Berlin, Germany  
Enter Art Foundation; Berlin, Germany

## **Collections**

Dubai Collection  
Salomon Collection  
Huemer Collection  
Vader Collection  
Krieger Collection  
Enter Art Foundation Berlin