



CONTEMPORARY ART PLATFORM KUWAIT:
NON-PROFIT ART CENTER OPENS IN INDUSTRIAL
SHUWAIKH | 7pm. 28.09.11

Opening Exhibit Highlights Modern Arab Artwork from Kuwait Art Collectors
Face to Face: Portraits from the archives of Kuwait's art collectors

In homage to visages, the Contemporary Art Platform's first art exhibition *Face to Face* arrays faces from Kuwait's art collectors. Each portrait in this show is a representation of a Kuwait art collector and their perception of beauty and contemplation in the world.

The collectors and buyers are chosen by CAP for their zeal and dedication to art. The selected works reflect an exercise in self-confrontation—in choosing a portrait to represent their identity each collector comes face to face with the mask they have chosen to both hide and reveal themselves. Artists included hail from Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Belgium and Japan.

With this glance at Arab and contemporary artwork comes an opening look at the Contemporary Art Platform Kuwait, a new art space that will focus on current Middle East/North African art. Fine art, new media art and installation art will all be a part of the line-up at CAP, where the mission is to provide a progressive arts education to the GCC public and to further represent Kuwait on the global art stage.

At **8pm on September 28**, a panel of speakers will assemble in CAP to discuss the Middle Eastern art market. Art expert and curator Isabella Ellaheh Hughes, Jerusalem-born artist Steve Sabella, and Christie's Middle East Director Isabelle De Bruyere will come together to discuss art economics in the region and the ever-changing identity of Arab artists. A roundtable discussion with Kuwaiti artists will follow; facilitating the talk will be Omar Donia, the founder of *Contemporary Practices*, a semi-academic journal about Middle Eastern art.

In *Face to Face* the eclectic show of 100+ photographs, paintings and sculptures will highlight Kuwait's aesthetic values and the market trends of the art world. A separate gallery will showcase the works of the permanent collection that supports the Contemporary Art Platform.

Steve Sabella will give a follow-up discussion at **8pm on September 29** to discuss his life and work. The talk will include a screening of a 10-minute documentary film among other videos, and will deal with the idea of constructed identities, imagined cities and hyper-realities.

ABOUT CAP:

Contemporary Art Platform Kuwait's programming targets the interests of Kuwaiti youth, with forthcoming lectures such as *Art. 101: 600 years in 60 minutes*, open studio hours and art film screenings. Collaborations with curators and artists in Kuwait and abroad will assure mutual exchanges of local and international artwork.

CAP's exhibition program includes a roster of educational events, including artist residencies, speaker panels, open studio hours and art classes.

A 700-square-meter space, the Contemporary Art Platform is located conveniently in the Industrial Shuwaikh area of Kuwait. Its facilities include a number of movable exhibition walls, an arts library, cinema, conference room, and design corner. CAP Kuwait's growing art library of almost 1000 books will undoubtedly be a valuable resource to art and design students, and its ample conferencing facilities plus café will provide local creatives with a dependable hub.

For the year of 2011-2012, projected exhibitions include:

Face to Face: Portraits from the archives of Kuwait's art collectors

Mashreq vs. Maghreb: Arab Vision Abstracted
(in collaboration with Claude Lemand)

Contemporary Arab and Iranian Art incorporating Calligraphy, Graffiti & Text
(in collaboration with JAMM)

Young Picasso: Hamad Al Humaidhan
(in collaboration with Dar Funoon)

Additional exhibitions under development tackle issues of gender and propaganda in the Middle East. CAP Kuwait is a nonprofit venture, supported by an extensive private collection of modern and contemporary artwork.

Contact: Liane Al-Ghusain
Tel: 24925637
Fax: 24827993

PO Box 102 Safat, 13002, Kuwait
Contemporary Art Platform
Industrial Shuwaikh Block 2, St. 28 Life Center, Mezzanine

Email: info@capkuwait.com
Website: <http://capkuwait.com>

