

Besher Koushaji

Besher Koushaji was born in Syria in 1984. The artist has a background in graphic design, which has significantly influenced his work. Growing up in Syria, he was surrounded and mesmerized by the practice of craftsmanship and the arabesque aesthetic. He began his artistic career by depicting buildings, using linear and geometric techniques to portray familiar houses and streets. However, after having left his home country, he began to study the ways in which memory can influence the depiction of these same subjects. Houses, figures and faces are now drawn from a personal and retrospective lens.

Besher accumulates layers that reflect the growing temporal and spatial distance between him and his home. “My memories are fading away, they are not as clear as before” he says, “it affects the painting as I try to reconstruct the image again”. Koushaji’s pieces are unsettling, painful meditations on loss and longing, a clear effort to bridge a distance that’s increasingly difficult to span. They are reflections of things lost or far away; not precise depictions of reachable world, but mirrors that show how it is separated from the artist by time, space and history.

In his upcoming exhibition at Art on 56th, this recent examination of time, place and memory will be showcased. The gallery will feature an array of paintings that characterize this inner battle between past and present, as well as the familiar with the conceptual.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 The workshop, Reflections, UAE, Dubai
- 2016 Wadi finan Art Gallery, Reflections, Amman, Jordan
- 2015 La Brsserie Le pois Penche, Reflections, Chez Swann, Montreal, Canada
- 2014 Dama Art, Home memories 2, Jeddah, KSA
- 2013 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Home memories, Amman Jordan

Collective Exhibitions

- 2017 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2016 Kalemata Sanat Galerisi Foundation for the future & platform for Middle East arts & turkey – Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2015 Wadi Finan Art Gallery, Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2015 Hochschule Anhalt of Kötchen, Germany
- 2015 Wadi Finan Art Gallery, Art 15 London, London, UK
- 2015 Jana Sanat Gallery, Ankara, Turkey
- 2015 Marmara Museum group exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2014 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Bahrain
- 2014 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Abu Dhabi
- 2014 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Dubai
- 2013 Wadi Finan Art gallery, Abu Dhabi
- 2012 Wadi Finan Art gallery, UAE
- 2012 Wadi Finan Art gallery, KSA
- 2009 Youth Exhibitions, Damascus, Syria
- 2008 Russian cultural center, Damascus, Syria
- 2007 Al Rawdha Showroom, Damascus, Syria
- 2007 Al Sayed Art gallery, Damascus Syria
- 2005 Art workshops with the French cultural institute, Damascus Syria