

# Art on 56th

## **Nazir Ismail**

Born in Damascus in 1948, Nazir Ismail learned art through self teaching. Ismail has taken part in many exhibitions since 1966 in Syria, Beirut, Oman, Cairo, Qatar, Amman, Dubai, Sharja, Paris, London, Istanbul, Zurich and Geneva. His oeuvre has been featured in the Barjeel Art Foundation, the Sharjah Biennale, the Royal Museum of Amman, the Museum of Qatar, and has also been sold by reputable auction houses, including Christie's.

Additionally, he won the 3rd prize at the exhibition for Young Artists in Damascus in 1971, the Graphic Prize in Berlin in 1980, and the 3rd prize in the Sharjah Biennale in 1996. In addition to being part of private collections, some of his work adorns museums and ministries in Damascus.

Nazir passed away in 2016.

## **Curator Statement**

The retrospective exhibition “Fifty Three Years” celebrates the career and oeuvre of the late contemporary artist Nazir Ismail. In honor of the third anniversary of his passing, the gallery will showcase works that span the different states of his career. The exhibition will bring together unique paintings that pay tribute to the artist's continual exploration of human emotion.

His primary tool is color, and he uses it to express the mysteries of what lies beneath the surface. Lines become scars and remnants of feeling, while the palette experiments with the diverse facets of psychology. Bridging the gaps of time, Ismail blends the traditional with the modern, the figural with the abstract. His work has been recognized locally and internationally, and has been exhibited in unique venues. It is an honor to share with you the compilation of his creative body of work and his passion for the making of art in this retrospective.

**Noha W. Moharram**

# Art on 56th

Art on 56th Gallery is an independent contemporary visual art gallery in Beirut, Lebanon. It was founded by Noha Wadi Moharram in 2012, and is rooted in Gemmayzeh, the capital's booming artistic and cultural neighborhood.

In addition to presenting a roster of local artists to an international audience, the gallery's mission is to promote both established and emerging contemporary artists from the Middle East and beyond.

This results in a colorful exchange, highlighting the powerful meaning of images and creativity within a society.

The gallery exhibits artworks in a large variety of media, including painting, sculpture, work on paper, photography and video installation.

## **Opening Hours:**

Tuesday – Friday:	10.00 – 7.00 pm
Saturday:	10.00 – 6.00 pm
Sunday & Monday:	Closed