

# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Leila Heller Gallery at Abu Dhabi Art | Booth A13

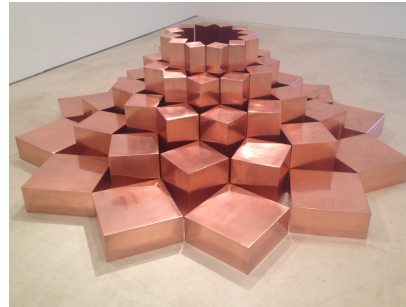
November 5 –8, 2014



**MARCOS GRIGORIAN**

*Wedding Bouquet*, 1965

Ceramic coins, nuts, comb, shells, found  
painting in soil and straw, wood frame  
24 x 42.5 in / 61 x 108 cm



**STEVEN NAIFIEH**

*Saida XXXVI: Copper*, 2014

Copper-plated steel  
96 x 96 x 31 in /  
243.8 x 243.8 x 78.7 cm

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce its participation in the sixth edition of Abu Dhabi Art, UAE, **November 5 – 8, 2014**, at the Saadiyat Cultural District, **booth A13**. Highlighting formal experimentation by modern and contemporary artists, the booth features a trans-regional grouping of artists who work against the flatness of the canvas to create dynamic art that pushes aesthetic boundaries.

Leila Heller is particularly proud to present a focused grouping of the work of **Steven Nafieh**, who in 1975 became the first western artist to hold an exhibition in Abu Dhabi. Nafieh's dramatic sculptures, wall sculptures and paintings reflect an appreciation for Islamic design, cultivated during his childhood years living in the Arab world. Nafieh's stunning art works combine the playfulness of Op Art with a complex understanding of Islamic geometric patterns. Nafieh will be in attendance at this year's Abu Dhabi Art.

**Marcos Grigorian's** experimentation with form began in the 1950s, when as an art student in Italy he interacted with Italian contemporaries like Castellani and Burri. Working with humble materials, he sought to create modernist art with a local inflection. His masterpiece, *Wedding Bouquet* (1965) shown above, is a collage of distinctly Iranian elements presented in a clearly modernist frame. Referencing his iconic earthworks, the piece also incorporates Persian antique tiles, Qajar paintings, and pistachios.

Avant-garde artist **Yayoi Kusama's** formal signature is repetition. Her *Narcissus Garden* comprises 500 stainless steel balls, highly reflective mirrored spheres that she calls a "kinetic carpet." Meant to be displayed outdoors, the work was previously exhibited in 2004 in New York's Central Park. **Rachel Lee Hovnanian** also plays on the double meaning of the narcissus to explore themes of obsession and intimacy; her work, *White Narcissus Panel*, is made of hundreds of intricately handmade porcelain flowers.

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Also on view will be **Ghada Amer's** *Belles and the White Kiss* (2006), an emblematic work of the artist's renown embroidered canvases. Working with threads to create semi-abstract paintings in line with the notion of 'action painting', the artist explores the gendered dynamics of contemporary society. The artist **Ran Hwang** also references the traditionally female medium of sewing in her dimensional assembled paintings made from shell, buttons, and pins. Working with poured and mirrored glass, **Rob Wynne** explains that he is "always trying to break the rules and embrace the imperfection in glass making" with his playful and beautiful wall sculptures. Meanwhile, **Paola Pivi** uses pearls to create translucent variations on the modernist square.

Cutting across local artistic paradigms, the artists showcased in Leila Heller Gallery's booth make brilliant use of non-conventional materials to redefine conventional painting and sculpture.

## **About Abu Dhabi Art 2014:**

The sixth edition of Abu Dhabi Art presents a selection of innovative and renowned galleries from around the world along with an interactive public program that celebrates the cultural diversity of the UAE and the region. The world's leading modern and contemporary art galleries will be back to Abu Dhabi from November 5-8 and be part of an evolving platform of diverse programs that introduces the public to Abu Dhabi's cultural landscape.

Taking place at Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi Art is organized by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi), and offers a multi-disciplinary experience combining an art fair with a diverse public program, which includes art, talks and sensational events. As Abu Dhabi Art prepares to welcome the artists, cultural leaders, scholars and collectors from around the world, the fair is establishing itself as a leading event on the international arts calendar.

**Leila Heller Gallery** promotes a cutting-edge program of international contemporary emerging and mid-career artists. The gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting international contemporary artists; the gallery is also active in the American, European and Middle Eastern secondary art markets.

In 2010, after nearly 30 years operating on the Upper East Side, Leila Heller Gallery moved to West 25th Street in the heart of Chelsea's gallery district. In 2014, Leila Heller Gallery expanded to a second location in New York City at 43 West 57th Street, a six-floor gallery space totaling 18,000 square feet, which is amongst the largest in New York. The new gallery complements the West 25th Street location in Chelsea, which remains dedicated to fostering the careers of emerging and mid-career artists, as well as curated shows. At Leila Heller Gallery 57th Street, an expanded program of artists is presented in a deeper art historical context via curated exhibitions mounted alongside concurrent exhibition of well-established Modern and Contemporary artists

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