



Issam Tantawi (2007)
Mixed Media on Wood
200 x 160 cm

EYE ON ART

ISSAM TANTAWI AT THE ORIENT GALLERY

Issam Tantawi is an established Jordanian artist who dislikes strict mental abstraction that is devoid of emotions and visual stimulations and always likes to conquer a new area in each painting or group of paintings. He likes to feel surprised and delighted by a new work of art. In this particular one, he admits that it is unique and took him a long time to complete. He enjoyed traveling back to childhood innocence while applying the power of design and construction in his technique. This is obvious through the painting, which is characterized by a sense of innate knowledge with much control in visual performance. Noteworthy is the rough richness in color surface layers and the dramatic

background provoking the viewer to want to touch the piece. Its style takes one back to old childhood memories, as implied by the child-like symbols that have always been a primary inspiration for the artist. The doors of art schools have been opened onto each other in both structure and content in an exciting way, giving him a contemporary space of freedom previously not available to first generation artists. Simply put, this painting captures two sides brilliantly; it ties in the perfect harmony of wildly spectacular accumulations of tales stored in a child's eye and memory, while the coherent and rich compositions in oriental spirit reflect existential awareness. ■