



## EYE ON ART

# KHALID EL-KHANI

## AT ORIENT GALLERY

Khalid El-Khani is a determinately exceptional Syrian artist who excels in the art of the different and the unfamiliar, uncommitted to prevalent social norms and traditions.

Born in Syria in 1975, El-Khani studied at the Suhail al Ahdab Center of Plastic Arts in Hama, and later at the College of Fine Arts in Damascus, from which he graduated in 1989. He continued his studies while working, completing a postgraduate degree in oil painting in the year 2000.

An independent artist who has presented solo exhibitions in Beirut, Dubai and Paris, El-Khani's work is among the collections of the National Museum in Syria, the Museum of the National Council of Arts and Culture in Kuwait, the National Museum of Jordan, Mayor Pecilia in Rome, the Jordanian embassy in Hamburg, the Syrian cultural center of Paris, the Museum of the Sheikh Faysal ben Kasem Al Thani in Doha and the National Museum of Tunisia.

The artist has a strong visual artistic perspective that finds roots in the history and civilization of the Levant. The female figure occupies a major position in his art, depicting the passions of the Levant woman, replete with romance and intelligence.

In prayer or dance, playing instruments, riding horses or

congregating, El-Khani's women are full of movement and spirit, look passionate and are an embodiment of infinite feelings and states of mind.

When viewing his paintings, one discovers a rich oriental tale told through rich color formations, sometimes of single color schemes and other times of dual color schemes. Such a treatment can only be the offspring of experience and artistic skill acquired from the womb of this heritage.

El-Khani seems to be driven by an inherent artistic force that pushes him to move on and continue on the same path for a long period. People often speak of his enormous ability for continuous work, especially through the long hours of night. One could see him working for many hours or having dozens of cups of coffee, only to surface after all this labor with a huge production, as huge as his talent, with paintings that reflect a rich, unique and strange personality.

El-Khani will be participating in the largest annual exhibition in the north of Europe, Nord Art 2001, from June to October 2011 in the cities of Buedelsdorf and Rendsburg in Germany, through five modern large-scale paintings.

Khaled El-Khani's paintings are available at Orient Gallery. ■