

Art Paris Art Fair  
Paris, France  
Claude Lemand Gallery  
26-29 March 2015

# Kevork Mourad



**A**n Armenian born in Syria, Kevork Mourad draws highly from the dual influences of his heritage. A sense of history is embedded in his line. Inspired by the calligraphic concept of putting much thought into limited line, Mourad's works deal with a first layer of gesture laden with meaning—referencing Arabic calligraphy, Armenian motifs and miniatures. The second layer is the subject matter at hand, usually referencing political and social issues of the present. The artist sees his work as a mirror in time: reflecting a version of the present, refracting images of the past, revealing to the observer what he or she seeks within it, in a dance of meaning that spirals through time.

The dynamic movement in Mourad's compositions reflects his strong interest in the relationship between the visual arts and music. A significant part of his artistic practice involves the technique of spontaneous painting, in which he creates work during live performances with musicians. Mourad showcases this engagement with musicality through his dancing figures on canvas. With his technique of spontaneous painting, where he shares the stage with musicians – a collaboration in which art and music develop in counterpoint to each other – he has worked with many world class musicians.♦

Kevork Mourad  
**When the Snow Melts, 2011**  
Acrylic on canvas, triptych, 45 x 135 cm



*Left:* Kevork Mourad  
**Eros III, 2011**  
Acrylic on canvas  
121 x 121 cm



*Below:* Kevork Mourad,  
**Forbidden Fruit, 2010**  
152 x 140 cm

#### About the artist

Kevork Mourad was born in 1970 in Kamechli, a town in the upper reaches of Syria. He received his MFA from the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts in Armenia, and he now lives and works in New York. Mourad's most recent exhibits were group shows at White Box Gallery in New York City and at the World Bank in Washington, DC. His digital piece, *The Map of Future Movements*, toured as part of a group exhibition in Jerusalem and Ramallah, and was in the 2010 Liverpool Biennial. He has had solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Platform in Kuwait, 2014, Gallery Z in Providence, RI and at JK Gallery in Los Angeles. He has exhibited at Rafia Gallery in Damascus, Syria. His solo exhibition was also shown at the Courtyard Gallery in Dubai in 2010. Five of his pieces are in the permanent collection on the 70th floor of the Bourj Khalife in Dubai. He also participated in Art Moment 2014, in Budapest, Hungary, with an exhibition and live painting. He is a member, as a visual artist, of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. He has performed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Chelsea Museum of Art, The Bronx Museum of Art, the Rhode Island School of Design, the Chess Festival of Mexico City, The Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art in Yerevan, Le Festival du Monde Arabe in Montreal, the Stillwater Festival, the Nara Museum in Japan, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Rubin Museum of Art, Harvard University, Lincoln Center Atrium, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Central Park's Summerstage with the Silk Road Ensemble and Bobby McFerrin.

As a teaching artist with the Silk Road, he has worked with public school students throughout the five boroughs of New York, and has been called back many times as a favorite visiting artist. In 2010 and 2011, with actress/singer Anaïs Tekerian of Zulal, he co-produced and created two multi-media plays, *Tangled Yarn* and *Waterlogged*, which premiered at the New York International Fringe Festival and toured San Francisco and the Berkshires. His most recent performance, *Home Within*, created with Kinan Azmeh, has been touring Europe and North America for the past year.

- Claude Lemand