



## The Jameel Prize 2011

### Biographies of shortlisted artists and designers:

#### **NOOR ALI CHAGANI**

Noor Ali Chagani (b. 1982, Karachi, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan. He graduated in 2004 from the Sir Syed University of Information and Technology (SSEUT), Karachi with a BE in Computer Science. He completed a BFA at the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2008, specialising in Mughal, Persian and Indian miniature painting. Since graduating he has exhibited both nationally and internationally with group shows in London, France, Italy, Dubai, America, India and Pakistan, including *Mashq, An Endless Lust*, Green Cardamom, London (2010); *The Architecture of The Self*, Gandhara-Art, Karachi and Hong Kong (2010); Grey Noise Gallery, Art Dubai (2010); *Beyond the Page*, Pacific Asia Museum, California (2010); and *Resemble Reassemble*, The Devi Art Foundation, Delhi (2010). Since moving to Lahore in 2005 he has been working as an independent artist as well as continuing his IT career, currently working as a System Analyst/Web Programmer in the Pakistan Institute of Cost and Contracts. Chagani's sculptural works are inspired by the traditions of Mughal miniature painting but he moves beyond its boundaries to instil a personal and modern sense of daily life into his work. He uses tiny handmade bricks, laboriously repeated to form a miniature grid, to build his three dimensional designs. Chagani's use of bricks is a symbolic take on the contemporary world and the physical and emotional labour and toil that is expended in building, the need for security and protection, but reminding us also of partition and the walls we build between us.

#### **MONIR SHAHROUDY FARMANFARMAIAN**

Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian (b. 1923, Qazvin, Iran) lived in the USA for many years before returning to live and work in Tehran in 2000. Farmanfarmaian studied at the Fine Arts College at Tehran University (1944-46); Parsons School of Design, New York (1946-49) and Cornell University New York (1948-51). She worked for ten years as a commercial artist and designer in New York before returning to Iran in 1957, where she discovered the art of geometric mirror mosaics. She held major exhibitions in the 1970s in Paris and New York and then returned to New York in 1979, working on commissions, drawings, collages and models. Her most recent solo displays include *Recent Works*, Rose Issa Projects, London (2010) and *Geometry of Hope*, Leighton House Museum, London (2008). She has participated in many group shows, most recently *Diwan East West*, 53rd Venice Biennale (2009); *Die Macht dest Ornaments*, Belvedere Museum, Vienna (2008-9); *Monir Shahroudy*

*Farmanfarmaian*, Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2008); and *Reflets d'Orient*, ING Bank, Geneva (2007). Farmanfarmaian's work is in many public collections around the world including V&A, London; Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; Niyavaran Palace & Cultural Centre, Tehran; and Saadabad Museum, Tehran.

Farmanfarmaian is a multi-media artist whose work is deeply rooted in her native Iranian culture and tradition. Her distinctive style combines mirror mosaics, Islamic geometric patterns and reverse-glass painting, inspired by the architectural designs and intricate ornamentation that she encountered in Iran. Her motivation is to establish a non-verbal, visual mode of communication and to discover new form, colours and trends. In her constant quest for the new, she reinterprets ancient forms to create a more modernist aesthetic.

### **BITA GHEZELAYAGH**

Bita Ghezelayagh (b. 1966, Florence, Italy) moved to Tehran in 1968 and now lives and works between London and Tehran. Ghezelayagh left Iran in 1984 to study architecture at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette. Returning to Tehran in 1994, she worked in building restoration for the Association of Iranian Calligraphers and was the art director of three notable Iranian films, including *The Pear Tree* by Dariush Mehrjui. In 2003 she started working in the traditional Iranian craft of felt-making. Her solo exhibitions include *Felt Memories*, Rose Issa Projects, London (2009); *Namad: A Persian Journey in Felt*, The Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow; Quilt Museum, York; and Hawick Museum, Scotland (2009-10); and *The House of Artists*, Tehran (2008). Ghezelayagh's felt costumes combine talismanic symbols, silk screen printing and embroidery. She uses the tunics and capes as felt canvasses on which to express her memories of growing up in Iran. Her work is heavily influenced by post-revolutionary visual popular culture, particularly its symbols of resistance, protection and martyrdom.

### **BABAK GOLKAR**

Babak Golkar (b. 1977, California, USA) lives and works in North Vancouver, Canada. After graduating in 1999 in Graphic Design from Shoreline College, Seattle he completed a BA in 2003 in Fine Arts at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Vancouver and then obtained an MFA in 2005 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Most recently Babak has had solo exhibitions at Sanatorium, Istanbul (2011) and C.S.A. Space, Vancouver (2011). He will hold solo exhibitions at The Third Line Gallery, Dubai later in 2011; and at Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver in 2012. His work was also included at The Third Line Gallery, Frieze Art Fair, London (2010); and Hilger Contemporary, Art Basel Miami (2009). Forthcoming group exhibitions include Hilger Contemporary, Vienna (2011) and *Tension*, Hezy Cohen Gallery, Tel Aviv (2011). Other recent group exhibitions include *I Am Not Half the Man I Used to Be*, Dar al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait (2010); *Time After Time*, Southern Exposure, Los Angeles (2010); *The Promise of Loss. A Contemporary Index of Iran*, Arario Gallery, New York (2010); and Galerie Hilger BrotKunsthalle, Vienna (2009).

Golkar's previous solo exhibitions include *Then, Now and Then*, Republic Gallery, Vancouver (2007); and *Dear Joseph: Happy 84th Birthday*, Lobby Gallery, Vancouver (2005). He was awarded the British Columbia Arts Council Production Grant (2009), the VADA Award (2006), the BC. Binning Drawing Scholarship (2004); and the Helen Pitt Award (2003). Golkar has taught at the Emily Carr Institute, the University of British Columbia and Vancouver Film School and curated exhibitions at the Lobby Gallery and the Concourse Gallery in Vancouver. Golkar works across a range of media including drawing, video, performance and site-specific installations. His Iranian heritage, and having lived between Canada and the Middle East since 1996, has influenced his work, which attempts to negotiate the space between cultures. More recently he has specifically developed an interest in connecting art and architecture to provide a conceptual space to examine socio-cultural issues.

### **AISHA KHALID**

Aisha Khalid (b. 1972, Faisalabad, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan. After graduating with a BA in Fine Arts in 1997 from the National College of Arts, Lahore, she completed a post graduate degree in 2002 from Rijksakademie, Amsterdam. Her work was included in the 2011 Sharjah Biennial, UAE and she exhibited her artists book *Name, Class, Subject* at Free Words, London; Rohtas Gallery, Lahore; Koel Gallery, Karachi; and Barefoot Gallery, Colombo (2010). Khalid has also shown in numerous international solo exhibitions including *Pattern to Follow*, Chowkandi Gallery, Karachi and Pao Galleries, Hong Kong Art Center (2010); *Conversations*, Pump House Gallery, London (2008); *Portraits & Vortexes*, Ghandara-Art, Hong Kong Art Center (2007) and Corvi-Mora Gallery, London (2007). Her work was shown in the 53rd Venice Biennial (2009); Hong Kong International Art Fair (2008, 2009) and the 2nd Asian Art Triennial in Fukuoka Museum, Japan (2002). Other group shows include *The Rising Tide*, Mohata Palace Museum, Karachi (2010); Ghandara-Art, Art Dubai, UAE, (2010); *The Power of Ornament*, Belvedere, Vienna (2009); *Living Traditions*, Queen's Palace, Bag-e-Babar, Kabul (2008); *Beyond the Page*, Asia House, London (2006); and *Re-Inventing Narratives*, Gallery Al-Fasih, Rabat, Morocco (2005). Khalid's work is in public collections around the world including V&A, London; Harris Museum, Preston, UK; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan; World Bank, Washington DC; and Queensland Cultural Center, Brisbane. In 2010 she was awarded the Birgit Skiöld Memorial Trust Award of Excellence at the London Art Book Fair. Khalid's work responds to the highly skilled tradition of Mughal miniature painting, revitalising the medium with contemporary issues, ideas and subject matter. Her practice is diverse, ranging from exquisite small-scale paintings on paper to newer media such as video.

## **HAYV KAHRAMAN**

Hayv Kahraman (b. 1981, Baghdad, Iraq) lives and works in San Francisco, USA. She graduated in web design from the University of Umeå, Sweden in 2006 and in graphic design from the Accademia di Arte e Design di Firenze, Italy in 2005. Recent group shows include *I don't need your money honey, all I need is love*, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2011); *The Silk Road*, Tri postal, Lille, France (2010); *Women painters from five continents*, Osart Gallery, Milan, Italy (2010); *Unveiled: New Art from the Middle East*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2009); *Local Produce*, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona (2008); *Life Drawing*, The Third Line Gallery, Dubai (2007); and *Demons*, Phoenix Theatre, Phoenix, USA (2006). Kahraman's solo exhibitions include *Pins and Needles*, The Third Line Gallery, Dubai (2010); *Waraq*, Frey Norris Gallery, San Francisco (2010) and *Seven Gates*, Green Cardamom Gallery, London (2010). In 2009 she exhibited at the Sharjah Biennial, UAE and at Volta New York Art Fair. Kahraman's work is in public collections around the world including The Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; Saatchi Gallery, London and MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar. Kahraman's practice spans painting, drawing and sculpture, harmonising references from Japanese and Islamic art and the Italian Renaissance. As an Iraqi living in the USA, the fusion of these two cultures is intrinsic to her work, in which she explores gender based issues and the dynamics found in diasporic cultures of the Middle East and war.

## **RACHID KORAÏCHI**

Rachid Koraïchi (b. 1947, Ain Beida, Algeria) lives and works between Tunisia and France. He studied at the Institute of Fine Arts in Algeria before moving to Paris in 1971, where he continued his studies at a variety of institutions including the National School of Decorative Arts. He has exhibited in many international group exhibitions including *Isla (Islam)*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2010); *The Future of Tradition - The Tradition of Future*, Haus der Kunst, Munich (2010); *Short Century* (Munich, Berlin, Chicago and New York, 2001-02); the 47th and 49th Venice Biennale (1997 and 2001); and *Word into Art*, British Museum, London (2006). His work is included in major public collections worldwide including the British Museum, London; the National Museum for African Art, Washington DC and the Museum of Islamic Arts, Doha. Although his aesthetics are deeply rooted in his multicultural Algerian heritage, Rachid Koraïchi is a truly cosmopolitan artist with a global outlook. The starting point for his work is calligraphy but his practice extends to ceramics, textiles and metalwork. Beginning with the intricate beauties of the Arabic calligraphic scripts, his work is composed of symbols, glyphs and ciphers drawn from a wide variety of languages and cultures. His work integrates these layered systems of signs into an organised and beautiful description of the world that surrounds us.

## **HAZEM EL MESTIKAWY**

Hazem El Mestikawy (b. 1965, Cairo, Egypt) lives and works in between Cairo and Vienna. He graduated with a BA in Art and Education, Sculpture and Design, from Menya University, Egypt in 1986. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions around the world including the *3rd Kokaido Art Show*, Morioka, Japan (2010); *New Formalism*, Bidoun Magazine Project, Art Dubai (2010); *Tapetenwechsel*, Vienna (2010); *Gathering 2009*, Cairo-Atelier, Cairo (2009); *Undercurrent changes*, Gallery Art Sawa, Dubai (2009); *From Athens to Marseille to Cairo*, Palais Des Arts, Marseille (2008); *The Last Book*, National Library of Argentina, Buenos Aires (2008); *Black Sheep*, Gallery Kunsttreppe, Switzerland (2007); and *What's Happening Now?*, The Palace of Art, Cairo (2007). His recent solo exhibitions include *About Spaces*, Espace Karim Francis, Cairo (2010) and *Alif-Beh*, Galerie Atrium ed Arte, Vienna (2009). He was awarded the Grand Prize of the 13th Asia Art Biennale, Bangladesh in 2008 and the Grand Prize of Installation, 11th Salon for Youth, Cairo in 1999. El Mestikawy creates intricate, geometric sculptural installations that are influenced by ancient Egyptian, Islamic and contemporary art and architecture. He uses recycled cardboard and paper and glue from which he creates works that are both strong and light, massive and fragile; contradictions often inherent in the meaning of his work.

## **HADIEH SHAFIE**

Hadieh Shafie (b. 1969, Tehran, Iran) lives and works in the United States. She graduated from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York in 1999 with a MFA in Painting. Hadieh then accepted a fellowship at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) where she received a second MFA in Imaging and Digital Arts in 2004, focusing on video installation and performance art. Shafie has exhibited internationally and in the US. Her most recent solo exhibitions include *Some Kind of Love*; Jean Efron Art Consultants, Washington DC (2010); *Paper Pattern Color Culture*, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia (2009); *Exodus*, The Carriage House, Baltimore (2008); and *The Little Black Fishes*, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore (2004). Group exhibitions include *Ritual: Form, Script and Gesture*, Amy Morton Fine Art, Washington DC (2010); *More of the best is yet to come*, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia (2010); *Baker Artist Awards*, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore (2009); and Saatchi Gallery, Al Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai (2009). She has been the recipient of several grants including the Franz & Virginia Bader Fund (2011); Individual Artist Grant, Maryland State Arts Council (2010 and 2008); Mary Sawyers Baker Award, from the William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund (2009) and the RTKL Grant in Visual Arts (2003). Although Shafie works in a variety of media, a constant element of her work is the significance of process, repetition and time, all rooted in the influence of Islamic art and craft. She creates works which are rich in layers of meaning and which prompt the viewer towards contemplation and reflection. The true complexity of her work can be seen in her paper scroll works made up of thousands of handwritten or printed Farsi (Persian) words, which are then tightly rolled into concentric circles.

## SOODY SHARIFI

Soody Sharifi (b. 1955, Tehran, Iran) lives and works in Houston, Texas. Sharifi graduated with a BSc in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston in 1982. She completed a MFA in Studio Photography from the University of Houston in 2004 and has since exhibited nationally and internationally. Her solo exhibitions include *Of Miniature Serenades and Maxiature Moments*, LTMH Gallery, New York (2011); *Assumption of Others*, Gallery F15, Oslo, Norway (2010); *Garden of Persian Delight*, Anya Tish Gallery, Houston, Texas (2007); and *Maxiature*, Photographic Center Valokuvia Peri, Kuopio, Finland (2006). Sharifi's group exhibitions include Baku Biennale, Russia (2009); *Emancipated*, Haggerty Gallery Dallas, Texas (2009); *Puberty*, Haugar Art Museum, Tonsburg, Norway (2008); *Continuity and Change: Islamic Tradition in Contemporary Art*, Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York (2008); *Best of Texas Biennial*, San Antonio (2007); *Perspectives 152: 4 Artists 4 Stories*, Contemporary Museum of Art, Houston, Texas (2006); and *REALITÄTEN II: Gesellschaftswerte*, Fotogalerie Wien, Vienna, Austria (2005). Sharifi has been the recipient of grants from Artadia, The Fund for Art and Dialogue, New York in 2006 and the Cultural Art Council of Houston in 2005. She was an artist in residence at the Stiftung Kunstledorf Schoppingen, Germany and adjunct teaching professor at the University of Houston in 2010. As a photographer, Sharifi's work deals primarily with the paradoxes and contradictions inherent in living between two cultures, exploring the notion of identity and what it means to participate in two cultures from both an outsider's and an insider's perspective.