



ON THE COVER:
“Caught In The Game”
Nicky Nodjoumi (2011)
(Courtesy Taymour
Grahne Gallery)



WELCOME TO HARPER'S BAZAAR ART ARABIA

Hello,
The ramifications of Istanbul's turbulent summer have yet to be fully-digested by the city's artists, but nevertheless, it seems as if the febrile art market waits for no-one, as we prepare to welcome in a new art fair – Art International Istanbul, the Istanbul Biennale (which is dividing opinion, even before it has begun – see our Last Word on page 136) and later in the year, the return of Contemporary Istanbul. The creative interpretations and reactions to dissent have been manifold and complex but it would appear that Istanbul still has holding capacity, when it comes to selling global art, as well as hosting a biennale that can we hope, can convincingly address the tensions and polarities of recent times.

Across the pond, to New York, where its now rather a good time to be an aficionado of Middle Eastern art. Fresh-faced collector Taymour Grahne opens his gallery in Manhattan's Tribeca this autumn (or 'fall', I should say) with an excellent new show of work by Nicky Nodjoumi, the Iranian painter who we feature on the cover of this issue. Nodjoumi is one of a rare breed, a mature painter still fizzing with conviction and principle and with a headful of ideas diffused through psychedelic-realist (is that a genre? Can I have that?) scenes. Yet his work has a lovely, gentle assertiveness to it - seeing Nicky's work is being reassured that you are dealing with a master.

Elsewhere in this issue, we highlight another hot ticket for New York this month, as Nazyzy Beglari explores the world of pre-Revolution Iran's art world on the occasion of New York's Asia Society opening a huge retrospective 'Iran Modern'. Featuring input from some of the key players of the time – and, we're rather honoured to say, HH Queen Farah Pahlavi herself, still a devoted patron of the arts. As with all our features this issue - from the ongoing 'Interventions' from Points of Departures' artists to the weird, wild worlds of Tala Madani, Yara El-Sherbini, Ala Ebtakar and Kader Attia - we hope you enjoy, and look forward to seeing you next time around!

Arsalan Mohammad, Editor in Chief



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