

## GUGGENHEIM PRESENTS CONTEMPORARY ART FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

*But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise*, a Presentation of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, Opens April 29 in New York and Travels to Istanbul in 2017

**EXHIBITION:** *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa*  
**VENUE:** Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York  
**LOCATION:** Tower 4, Thannhauser 4, Monitor 4 Galleries, and Tower 5  
**DATES:** April 29–October 5, 2016

(NEW YORK, NY–January 28, 2016)–From April 29 to October 5, 2016, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York will present *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise*, the third exhibition of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative. Organized by Sara Raza, Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Middle East and North Africa, the exhibition will feature work by a broad selection of artists that illuminates contemporary creative practice in the region and its diaspora. Following its presentation in New York, the exhibition will travel to the Pera Museum in Istanbul in 2017.

The assembled works investigate narratives of origin, ideologies of architecture, and the politics of migration throughout the Middle East and North Africa, as embodied by *But a storm is blowing from paradise*, a 2014 work by Rokni Haerizadeh that lends the exhibition its title. Sourced from news media, this series of works on paper examines the viral capacity of digital communications, articulated through the visual entanglement of politics and fable.

Installed on two levels of the Museum, the exhibition features a selection of works, many of them installations of large or variable scale, in a range of mediums and formats including painting, photography, sculpture, video, and work on paper. Abbas Akhavan's *Study for a Monument* (2013–15), which is comprised of intricate cast bronze flora specimens arranged on domestic cotton sheets and resembling a funerary display, occupies the floor by windows that overlook Central Park. Other works represent striking interventions into the museum's galleries. These include Kader Attia's *Untitled (Ghardaïa)* (2009), a reincarnation in couscous of the Algerian city from the ancient Mزاب region that inspired influential French architect Le Corbusier. Nadia Kaabi-Linke's monumental *Flying Carpets* (2011), a suspended stainless steel grid that casts a matrix of geometric shadows, is modeled after a

central bridge in Venice where undocumented migrant street vendors of mainly African, Arab, and South Asian origin sell counterfeit goods on rugs to tourists.

According to Raza, “The exhibition forms an intricate jigsaw puzzle, representing a fragmented and shifting geographical region. With a cross-circulation of current ideas drawn from science, mathematics, and philosophy as they were developed in the area, and references to geometry as a metaphor for both physical and conceptual space, the works explore how the past informs the present. This confluence of narratives thus ‘smuggles’ certain inconvenient truths about history and memory into the realm of the exhibition, articulating the value of artistic strategies within the broader context of contemporary culture in the Middle East and North Africa.”

As with all phases of the MAP initiative, *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise* features artworks that have been recently acquired for the Guggenheim’s permanent collection under the auspices of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Purchase Fund. Curatorial research for the exhibition was developed with an eye toward building on the Guggenheim’s distinguished history of internationalism, as well as providing new scholarship on visual culture from the Middle East and North Africa and its diaspora.

Artists represented in the exhibition include, with additional artists to be announced:

- Abbas Akhavan (b. 1977, Tehran, Iran; lives and works in Toronto, Canada)
- Kader Attia (b. 1970, Paris, France; lives and works in Berlin, Germany)
- Ergin Çavuşoğlu (b. 1968, Targovishte, Bulgaria; lives and works in London, UK)
- Mariam Ghani (b. 1978, New York, USA; lives and works in New York, USA)
- Rokni Haerizadeh (b. 1978, Tehran, Iran; lives and works in Dubai, UAE)
- Susan Hefuna (b. 1962, Cairo, Egypt; lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany)
- Iman Issa (b. 1979, Cairo, Egypt; lives and works in New York, USA)
- Nadia Kaabi-Linke (b. 1978, Tunis, Tunisia; lives and works in Berlin, Germany)
- Mohammed Kazem (b. 1969, Dubai, UAE; lives and works in Dubai, UAE)
- Ahmed Mater (b. 1979, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia; lives and works in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)
- Ala Younis (b. 1974, Kuwait; lives and works in Amman, Jordan)

## MAP Highlights

Developed with the financial services firm UBS in 2012 to increase exposure and access to contemporary art from the culturally dynamic regions of South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa, the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative builds upon and reflects the Guggenheim’s distinguished history of internationalism and UBS’s commitment to direct engagement with contemporary art and education.

The first MAP exhibition, *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*, was organized by June Yap and presented at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center and the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore following its New York debut in 2013. The second exhibition, *Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today (Bajo un mismo sol: Arte de América Latina hoy)*, is organized by Pablo León de la Barra and on view at Museo Jumex in Mexico City through February 7, 2016; it will be presented at the South London Gallery in June 2016.

To date, MAP's acquisitions program has brought more than 107 works by 85 artists and collectives into the Guggenheim's [permanent collection](#). More than 7,000 students, teachers, families, and art enthusiasts have participated in over 80 interactive education programs, developed jointly by the Guggenheim and its institutional partners across the world specifically for local audiences. In addition, MAP's website at [guggenheim.org/MAP](http://guggenheim.org/MAP) offers a wealth of content, including [videos](#) by artists and curators, [artist profiles](#), [blog posts](#) by international curators and critics, and [interactive learning tools](#).

### **About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation**

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. The Guggenheim network that began in the 1970s when the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, was joined by the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, has since expanded to include the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (opened 1997), and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (currently in development). Looking to the future, the Guggenheim Foundation continues to forge international collaborations that take contemporary art, architecture, and design beyond the walls of the museum, including with the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, and with The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. More information about the Foundation can be found at [guggenheim.org](http://guggenheim.org).

### **About Pera Museum**

Pera Museum was established by Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation in 2005. Located in the historic Tepebaşı quarter of the city; the museum's building, once the famous Bristol Hotel, has been transformed into an impressive new site of galleries housing both the Foundation's permanent collection along with a program of national and international temporary exhibitions. As a modern cultural center in a vibrant part of the city, the museum also aims to provide its visitors with a broad range of cultural events that include diverse, temporary exhibitions as well as educational, film, conference and music programs. [peramuseum.org](http://peramuseum.org)

### **About UBS and Contemporary Art**

UBS's long and substantial record of patronage in contemporary art actively enables clients and audiences to participate in the international conversation about art and the global art market through the firm's contemporary art platform. In addition to the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, UBS's extensive roster of contemporary art initiatives and programs currently includes: the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's largest and most important corporate collections of contemporary art and the firm's long-term support for the premier international Art Basel shows in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong, for which UBS serves as global Lead Partner. These activities are complemented by a number of regional partnerships with fine art institutions including the Fondation Beyeler in Switzerland, Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Milan, the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, the Louisiana Museum in Denmark, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. UBS also provides its clients with insight into the contemporary art world through the new and free iPad and iPhone app Planet Art, the UBS Art Competence Center, and the UBS Arts Forum. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit [ubs.com/art](http://ubs.com/art).

## **Additional Materials**

For the press release, visit [guggenheim.org/pressreleases](http://guggenheim.org/pressreleases).

For publicity images, visit [guggenheim.org/pressimages](http://guggenheim.org/pressimages)

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Translations of the media release in Arabic, Farsi, French, Hebrew, and Turkish will be available at [guggenheim.org/pressreleases](http://guggenheim.org/pressreleases).

#1424/MAP20

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