



Alexander Gray Associates

Art Basel Miami Beach 2015 | Galleries Sector | Booth K3



Hassan Sharif, *Weaving No. 2*, 2014, mixed media, 10.24h x 17.32w x 23.23d in (26h x 44w x 59d cm)



Hassan Sharif, *Spoons No. 5*, 2014, mixed media
17.32 x 72.44 x 21.26 in (44h x 184w x 54d cm)

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Hassan Sharif

Alexander Gray Associates presents recent and historical work by Hassan Sharif (b.1955) focusing on weaving as method and metaphor. Recognized as a pioneer of conceptual art and experimental practice in the United Arab Emirates, over the past four decades Sharif has transgressed traditional frameworks for art making by extending his practice to performance, installation, drawing, painting, and assemblage that integrates ordinary objects as the primary medium.

After familiarizing himself with the ideas of Dada and Fluxus art during his studies in the early 1980s at Byam Shaw School of Art in London, Sharif created performance-based works engaging repetition, landscape and the body, motifs that would continue throughout his practice. Sharif began weaving common objects he encountered in his native Sharjah and Dubai—such as ropes, cloth, newspapers, cardboard, rugs, plates, and spoons—to create artworks. By cutting, bending, grouping, and braiding these cultural artifacts, the artists sheds their functionality to enhance their aesthetic and political significance. As art historian Paulina Kolczynska explained, “Like a cultural anthropologist, Sharif created an interesting synthesis of the visual landscape, as seen through the prism of an influx of objects amid a quickly changing lifestyle.”

Rooted in conceptual performance, Sharif’s rhythmic act of weaving echoes the unconscious functions of the human body, such as eating, breathing, and walking, by associating them with domestic objects. For his recent large-scale wall-sculpture *Ladies and Gentlemen* (2014), Sharif assembled mass-produced and inexpensive female and male shoes into a tapestry object that emphasizes seriality and the dislocation of functional objects. Through this act he transforms and synthesizes these seemingly impersonal articles in order to question authorship, labor, commercialism, social doctrine, gender and migration.

Also presented are Sharif’s “Objects,” such as *Plugs No. 1* (2014), a group of assorted plugs bagged in mesh packets, which speak to the increasing modernization and industrialization occurring in U.A.E. Sharif began conceptualizing his “Objects” in the 1980s, buying ordinary articles in local markets that are manipulated into sculptures infused with humor and randomness, rendering the defining characteristics of mass-produced utilitarian materials as political and socioeconomic commentaries on present-day society. As the artist expressed, “I inject my works with a realism that exposes this socio-political economic monster, allowing people a chance to recognize the danger of over indulgence in this form of negative consumption.”

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery in New York. Through exhibitions, research, and artist representation, the Gallery spotlights artistic movements and artists who emerged in the mid- to late-Twentieth Century. Influential in cultural, social, and political spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines. Alexander Gray Associates is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm.



Hassan Sharif, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, 2014, mixed media, 108.27h x 181.1w x 17.72d in (275h x 460w x 45d cm)

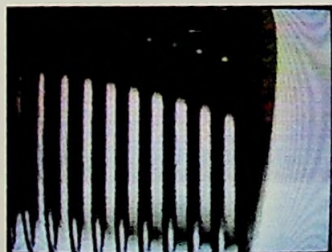
Hassan Sharif is a founding member of the Emirates Fine Art Society and of the Art Atelier in the Youth Theater and Arts, Dubai, U.A.E. In 2007, he was one of four artists to establish The Flying House, an institution based in Dubai to promote contemporary Emirati artists. The first Emirati to have his work shown in the Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Qatar, Sharif was also selected to be the debut artist to represent the U.A.E. during its first national pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2009. In 2011, Sharif was the subject of a retrospective exhibition, *Hassan Sharif: Experiments & Objects 1979-2011*, curated by Catherine David and Mohammed Kazem and presented by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage/Platform for Visual Arts. His work has been shown in recent exhibitions at the Sharjah Biennial (2015); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (2014); Fundação Casa França-Brasil, Rio de Janeiro (2014); and the International Centre of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2012); among others. Sharif's artwork is included in the collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; the Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, U.A.E.; the Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; the Sittard Center, The Netherlands; and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. and New York. Sharif's work is currently on view in the U.A.E. national pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale.



Melvin Edwards with *Column of Memory*, near Diamniado, Senegal, 2005

Melvin Edwards | Public Sector

Alexander Gray Associates presents Melvin Edwards' *Ukpo. Edo* (1993/1996), as part of Art Basel Miami Beach's Public Sector, curated by Nicholas Baume. The principal motive in the three part sculpture is the incorporation of welded steel chains, an object that the artist has explored over the past five decades. Edwards' interest in chains stems primarily from aesthetic concerns that interconnect its historical and symbolic meanings. For the artist, the links of chains carry a twofold connotation pointing to the history of slavery and oppression, while also symbolizing the interrelation between people and cultures. His work reflects his engagement with the history of race, labor, violence, as well as with themes of African Diaspora.



Regina Silveira, *Morfás*, 1981/2006
Single channel video

Regina Silveira | Film Sector

Alexander Gray Associates presents Regina Silveira's video *Morfás* (1981), as part of the Film Sector at Art Basel Miami Beach 2015. "Morfás" showcases common objects such as an umbrella, a comb, kitchen utensils, and a long-barreled rifle, a theme that she continued through later work, including her emblematic photograms "Enigmas" (1981). Renowned for her parodic explorations of space through geometric constructs, Silveira has investigated the representation of reality, and the meaning of visual imagery. Her artistic vocabulary includes various methods of perspectival projection, including skiagraphia (the study of shadows).

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Cover: Hassan Sharif, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, detail, 2014, mixed media
108.27h x 181.1w x 17.72d in (275h x 460w x 45d cm)
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