

Hassan Sharif

8 April 2024 – 15 June 2024

Via Mottalciata 10/B, Torino

Galleria Franco Noero is pleased to present Hassan Sharif's solo exhibition, his first in Torino and also in an Italian Gallery, in collaboration with the artist's Estate and announcing its representation.

The exhibition pays homage to Sharif's enduring legacy and profound contributions to the art world, presenting a curated selection of his most outstanding works and offering a significant glimpse into the artist's transformative journey.

From his iconic *Objects* series, to the mesmerizing complexity of his *Semi-Systems*, Sharif's oeuvre reflects a profound engagement with form, time and social action. Embracing the beauty of imperfection, the artist's work transcends traditional boundaries, inviting viewers to reconsider their perceptions of art and its role in society.

A luminary in the realm of conceptual art, Sharif's journey began with his cartoons, published in the UAE press, ironically critiquing the rapid industrialization of the Emirates and sparking a dialogue on societal progress and cultural identity. Rejecting conventional artistic norms, and utilizing common materials in accumulative installations, alongside intricate reflections on social and philosophical themes, in clear opposition to the trend of calligraphic abstraction that was prevailing in the 1970s Middle East, Sharif embraced a distinctly contemporary vocabulary, drawing inspiration from Fluxus and British Constructionism, and blurring the lines between art and everyday life.

Hassan Sharif belonged to the generation of Emiratis who were in their twenties when the UEA found itself hit by the incredibly rapid economic and energy transformation imposed by the unfolding of oil commerce. On the occasion of his participation in the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017, Sharif created an incredible installation reflecting precisely on the theme of massification and associated with economic development. The artworks can then be found displayed on the shelves of a supermarket, ready to be consumed by viewers and uncontrollably accumulated.

The approach to repetition meets the artist's mathematical studies in the beautiful *Semi-Systems* series. In this group of works, Hassan Sharif puts into practice a meticulous study of creation through mistakes and expressing the concept of art as the result of errors. The graphic sign is broken down and repeated in a rhythmic, methodical and nearly obsessive manner. Along with the completed work, the drafts that preceded it are exhibited, showing the very heart of this constructive process.

In the *Objects* series, the artist expresses the concept of accumulation and repetition through weaving: materials from everyday life and common use are entwined together, knotted into a web of glue, metal, papier mâché and rope in a concrete visualization of surplus and excess.

Another important direction in which Hassan Sharif's exploration moves is painting, which is also concerned with interpolation, permutation and variation within systems shifted from sculptural terms to the defined by the canvas, moving from the third dimension to a two-dimensional space, but always reflecting and expressing with great coherence the concepts elaborated through other techniques.

Renowned for his fearless exploration of form and social critique, his work continues to inspire and provoke audiences worldwide. Through his pioneering efforts as an artist, educator, and cultural activist, Sharif left an indelible mark on the contemporary art landscape, shaping the discourse of art in the region and paved the way for future generations of artists, fostering a vibrant culture of artistic exchange and dialogue in the Middle East and beyond.

Hassan Sharif was born in Bandar Lengeh, Iran in 1951 and died in Dubai, UAE in 2016.

His work has been shown in solo exhibition in international public and private institutions, including: Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2023); MAMC Saint-Étienne, Saint-Étienne, France (2021); Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany (2020); Malmo Kunsthalle, Malmo, Sweden (2020); Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE (2017); Qasr Al Hosn, Cultural Quarter Hall, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2011), among others.

He has also taken part in many group exhibitions in Institutions such as: Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); Mamco - Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland (2018); Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane Crude, Australia (touring to Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE) (2018); Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE (2018); Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2015); MGLC - The International Centre of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2012), among others.

His work has been shown in biennials and international group exhibitions such as: 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2017); La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy (2017); 1st Yinchuan Biennale, Yinchuan, China (2016); 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2015); UAE National Pavilion, Venice, Italy (2009); 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia (2012); ARC Biennial, Brisbane, Australia (2009); Sharjah International Arts Biennial, Sharjah, UAE (2005, 2003, 2001, 1999; 1997; 1995); 7th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2000); 7th Cairo International Biennial, Cairo, Egypt (1998); 3rd Cairo International Biennial, Cairo, Egypt (1988).

11 Jumping No. 1, 1983

12.12 Insect, 2015

12.25 Lead, 2016

12.1									
12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.8			
12.9	12.10	12.11	12.12	12.13	12.14	12.15	12.16	12.17	12.18
12.19	12.20	12.21	12.22	12.23	12.24				