

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE FROM THE ARAB WORLD  
VISUAL ART / LITERATURE / FILM / MUSIC / FOOD



**Press Release**  
**30 July 2013**

**Lawand: Equinox, From Beirut to London**  
**4 October - 29 November 2013**  
**Private View: Thursday 3 October, 6.30-8.30pm**  
**Exhibition Open: Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm**  
**The Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0S**



Untitled, Lawand



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The Mosaic Rooms is pleased to host Equinox, From Beirut to London, the first UK solo exhibition by Syrian Kurdish artist Lawand. The exhibition features new paintings and drawings by the artist recently made during a prolonged stay in Beirut, Lebanon, as well as an exciting new publication produced in collaboration with award-winning poet Pascale Petit produced especially for the exhibition.

Born in Aleppo (Syria) in 1984, Lawand came to France with his family when he was ten. Now internationally recognised as a painter and sculptor with a deep interest in poetry, he has exhibited widely throughout Europe, showing works recently in France, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland, as well as in Syria (2007) and Egypt (2006). He has also created art books with renowned poets including the great Syrian poet Adonis, winner of the 2012 Goethe Prize and a number of French and Italian poets.

Lawand's work is "engaged but non-political" as he himself states, and the themes he covers are universal rather than rooted to a single cause - though he does of course reflect on the suffering of the people of Syria. Both his paintings and drawings are dominated by elongated effigies with faceless heads hanging or hiding in their hands, indistinct from the formless backgrounds they float in, appearing motionless and displaced, or indeed without place, often solitary or with a child. Yet the artist describes his work as essentially "optimistic" and life-affirming, stating:

"I am not a painter of loneliness, even though my paintings are so little populated. I see in each and every one of my characters the entire human race. My characters often seem to be moving slowly and sluggishly but they are headed towards the endless path of light... so that my paintings express a desire to live!" (Lawand, 2013).

In addition to the exhibition The Mosaic Rooms will be hosting two related events: *Poetry from Art: Writing the Body*, a poetry workshop led by Pascale Petit where participants will be given exercises to develop poetic responses to contemporary art using the current exhibition as inspiration, and *Art & Poetry* an artist's talk with Lawand and Pascale Petit.

Part of the Nour Festival of Arts.

### Further Images



Lawand, Turin, 2012 @ Oliver Rovere

### Notes to Editors

- Available for interview: The artist Lawand and the poet Pascale Petit.
- Pascale Petit was born in Paris and lives in London. She has published five poetry collections. Her latest, *What the Water Gave Me: Poems after Frida Kahlo*, was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot Prize, the Wales Book of the Year, and was a book of the year in the Observer. She was Poetry Editor of Poetry London from 1989 to 2005 and tutors poetry courses at Tate Modern. Her poems have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and published widely in international journals. Find out more at [www.pascalepetit.co.uk](http://www.pascalepetit.co.uk)
- Entry to the exhibition is free. The Mosaic Rooms are open from 11am-6pm Tuesday to Saturday.
- For further information about the related events visit [www.mosaicrooms.org/talks-events](http://www.mosaicrooms.org/talks-events). For further information about the Nour Festival of Arts visit [www.nourfestival.co.uk](http://www.nourfestival.co.uk)
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent arts space in west London, delivers a high quality, contemporary and progressive cultural programme from the Arab world and internationally. They are managed by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to the support of culture and education in Palestine and the Arab world. The Foundation's London office, headed by one of its trustees, Omar Al-Qattan, is responsible for the Mosaic Rooms' programme. The Rooms are part of the Foundation's Culture and Arts Programme..
- The Mosaic Rooms is situated on the corner of the Cromwell Road and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London, a short walk from Earl's Court Underground Station and Exhibition Centre.
- For further information about The Mosaic Rooms and the A.M. Qattan Foundation visit [www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org)

**For further details, images and to arrange interviews contact Rosa Attwood at [press@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:press@mosaicrooms.org) or on + 44 207 370 9990.**