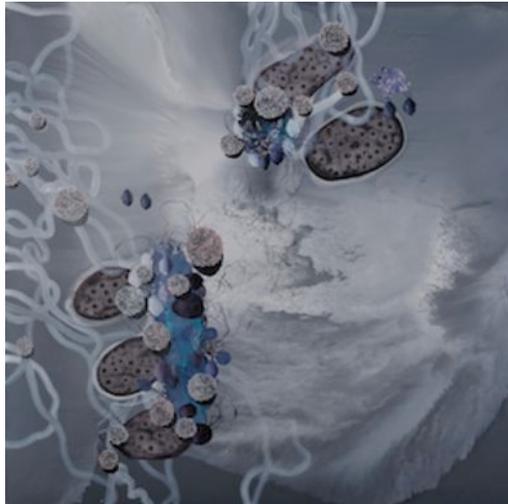


the mosaic rooms



 THE MOSAIC ROOMS
ARE AN A.M. QATTAN
FOUNDATION PROJECT



Les amas bleus, 2012



Inside 1, 2012

Press release

For immediate release 21 August 2012

Abderrahim Yamou: *Working From Life*

28 September – 16 November 2012

(Private view, 6.30-8.30pm, Thursday 27 September 2012)

The Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London, SW5 0SW

The Mosaic Rooms are proud to present the first public UK solo show by contemporary Moroccan artist Abderrahim Yamou, *Working From Life*, featuring new paintings from the *Inside* and *Gène Bleu* series. The exhibition is part of the 2012 NOUR Festival.

Abderrahim Yamou is based between Paris and Marrakech. His paintings are inspired by the organic processes of the natural world, by continuity and change, and by the tensions and instabilities between these two states. Beneath the surface of his exquisite paintings, produced in both large and small scale, there is also an underlying sense of disquiet.

'In my work the obvious formal reference to biology or to botany is the sign of a constant will to probe the living and to paint the energy necessary for the creation of life. The world of plants – an endless source of new forms – is a fertile metaphor of our human interactions and aspirations.'

Yamou's latest work suggests the analogy between the cellular and the cosmic - the germination of a seed or the birth of a star - creating a process he terms

'stellar germination'. The fluid yet refined backgrounds of these paintings act as backdrops to the interplay between different forces and energies – forming spaces similar to those revealed by both aerial views and microscopic inspection.

In these paintings Yamou appears to capture a frozen moment, yet he also manages to suggest *potential* forms and spaces, which grow, move, evolve and mutate. As he says: *'The form of vegetal inspiration is no longer painted for what it is but for what it can become, in its possible growth.'*

These works also offer an original interpretation of the use of organic forms in traditional Islamic art and design, with Yamou creating more purely abstract and stylized renderings of vegetal forms.

Abderrahim Yamou was born in Casablanca in 1959. He left Morocco to study biology in France, before changing to sociology with a focus on researching contemporary Moroccan art. He gave up his studies to become a self-taught artist, working in both painting and sculpture. He has exhibited widely in group and solo shows throughout Europe and North Africa.

On **20 October 2012**, Yamou will discuss his paintings with the internationally reputed Dr Wolfgang Stuppy from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, offering a unique insight into the relationship between art & botany in contemporary art practices, and revealing the inspirations behind *Working from Life*.

For further information contact:

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Tel: 020 7370 9990 press@mosaicrooms.org

Notes to Editors

- Abderrahim Yamou is available for interview via The Mosaic Rooms
- Images from the exhibition are available via The Mosaic Rooms
- Entry to the exhibition is free
- Copies of the exhibition catalogue will be available to buy from The Mosaic Rooms' bookshop.
- The Mosaic Rooms are open from 11am – 6pm Tuesday to Saturday. Special Sunday Opening on the 11th November, 12-5pm.
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent arts space in west London, deliver 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 Culture and Arts Programme of the A.M. Qattan Foundation.
- 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.
- The Nour Festival is coordinated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and reflects the Council's commitment to bring the very best international contemporary arts and culture to the borough. Nour – which means 'light' or 'illumination' in various Middle Eastern languages – sets out to explore contemporary culture from across the region and North Africa.
- A full programme of events will be released in late summer. For more information visit www.nourfestival.co.uk