



XVA DIFC PRESENTS 'HIDDEN LOVE' – A SOLO EXHIBITION BY HALIM AL KARIM

2 March 2011, Dubai, UAE – XVA Gallery today announces the date of its first solo exhibition, *Hidden Love* by Halim Al Karim.

One of XVA's most successful artists, Halim Al Karim draws on his Iraqi roots to tackle the issue of 'hidden love' in what will be an exhibition showcasing his newest body of work.

Renowned for his portrayals of war and conflict, Halim AlKarim reveals his newest photographic project, *Hidden Love*. Abstracting and diffusing his subjects in this series of portraits, the artist invites us to meditate on the clear referent of the eyes and the blurred periphery. Females' faces are psychologically suspended between the tranquility of their innocent beauty and the cathartic experience of war. Colorfully masked in electromagnetic auras that hover on their skin, the bold figures' mouths are taped, connoting secrets or stifled freedoms. "Through *Hidden Love*, I resist to be a part of the reality of violence and deception in politics." *Halim AlKarim*

The exhibition will follow on from the successful opening show, *Between the Lines*, which marked the opening of the XVA's new space within the DIFC, one of Dubai's most vibrant contemporary art hubs. The new gallery acts as extension to XVA's café, hotel and gallery in the historical Al Bastakiya district.

Set to open on 2 March, *Hidden Love* is Halim's first show in XVA's new DIFC premises and will be celebrated with an evening reception, starting at 6pm. Running until 10 April, the exhibition will be marked with events such as an evening with the artist on the 14 March as part of DIFC's launch of Art Dubai 2011.

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Notes to Editor:

Born in Najaf, Iraq in 1963, Halim AlKarim has held many solo exhibitions in Dubai, Paris, Holland, USA, Jordan and Lebanon. Recent group exhibitions include Saatchi Collection's *Unveiled: Contemporary Art from the Middle East* (2009) *Peripheral Vision* at the Barjeel Collection in Sharjah (2010), *Nujoom: Constellations in Arab Art* at the Farjam Collection in Dubai (2010-2011).

The artist was nominated for the 2010 Sovereign Art Prize and was awarded the jury prize in the International Cairo Biennale in Egypt. He is one of the six artists featured in the forthcoming Iraqi Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale – the first Iraqi Pavilion in 36 years. His work is in the collections of major museums including the Arab Museum of Contemporary Art in Doha, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Saatchi Collection in London, Darat Al Funun in Amman, and L'Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. He lives in Dubai and Colorado, US.



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