



XVA GALLERY

**“Rite of Passage”**

**WALID SITI**

Vernissage March 15<sup>th</sup> 10am - 9pm

March 15<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood

00971 4 353 5383

**About the Exhibition:**

In this upcoming exhibition at the XVA Gallery, Walid Siti, a Kurdish Iraqi artist, who has been integral in placing Iraq on the global contemporary art stage, explores the theme of transformation through the story of King Gilgamesh.

The Epic of Gilgamesh, the oldest known literary text, tells the dramatic tale of man's journey tinted with arrogance, trauma, and the quest for immortality.

Siti's latest body of work comprised of drawings, paintings and installation, interprets these timeless ancient writings; applying them to present day preoccupations. As we wander through an ever uncertain and insecure world, Siti's oeuvres offer a unique perspective on the basic premises of life.

**About the Artist:**

Walid Siti was born in Duhok, Kurdistan Iraq, in 1954. After graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1976, from 1977- 1982 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia, where he received an MA in printmaking. He resides presently in the UK where he continues to exhibit internationally, in The United Arab Emirates, Europe, Russia, Taiwan, and the USA.

**About the XVA Gallery:**

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs, such as Art London, SH Contemporary and Art Basel Hong Kong in order to further expose Middle Eastern contemporary art.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. In 2011 XVA Gallery moved to DIFC and returned to Al Fahidi Neighborhood in November 2013.

**XVA Gallery Contact**

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