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EDGE OF ARABIA
PRIVATE VIEW &
PRESS CONFERENCE
05 JUNE 2009



FROM THE SERIES 'DISTORTED REALITY' BY FAISAL SAMRA

www.edgeofarabia.com

NEW WAVE OF SAUDI CONTEMPORARY ART COMES TO VENICE

05/06/09 - 02/08/09

PALAZZO CONTARINI DAL ZAFFO POLIGNAC

(Next to Accademia vaporetto stop)

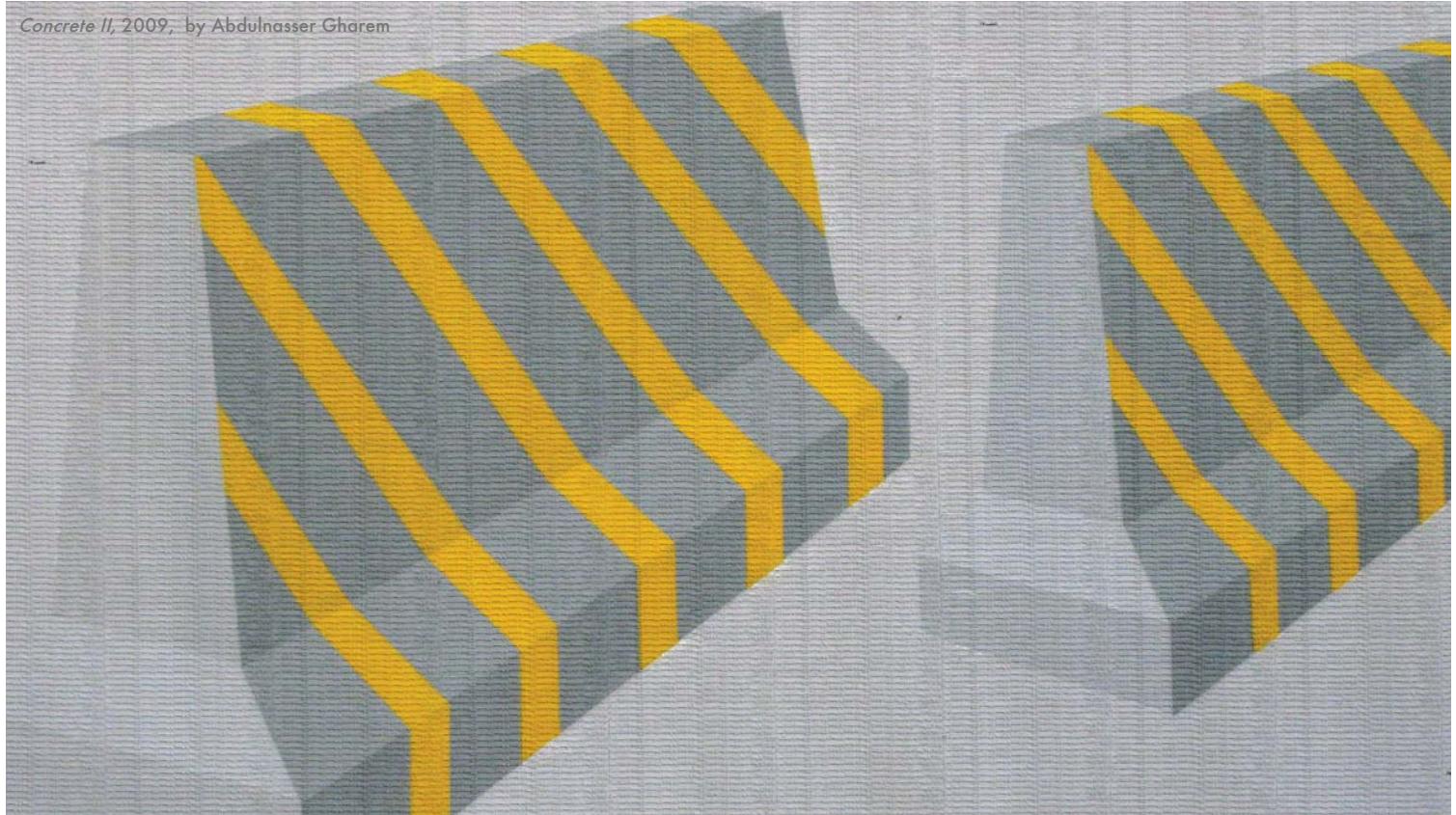


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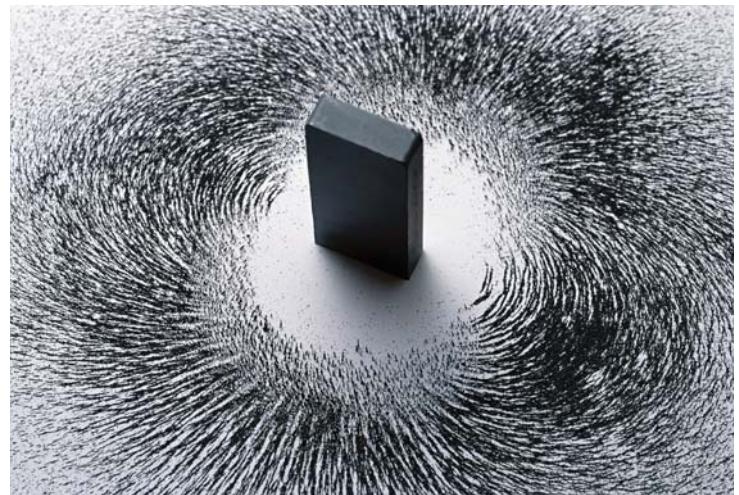


EDGE OF ARABIA
contemporary art from saudi arabia





FOR THE FIRST TIME SAUDI ARTISTS PRESENT THEIR WORK DURING THE VENICE BIENNALE. IN 2009 A NEW GENERATION OF SAUDI ARTISTS SHED LIGHT ON THE LARGELY UNKNOWN CONTEMPORARY ART CULTURE OF SAUDI ARABIA.



Magnetism (Installation), 2009, by Ahmed Mater Aseeri

Edge Of Arabia in Venice features the work of 10 Saudi contemporary artists, male and female. Their work explores the complex and diverse reality of 21st century life in Saudi Arabia, combining installation, performance and a variety of other media with a multi-disciplinary approach to artistic practice – one artist is a GP, another an army Major.

In its outlook and range the work is as much personal or domestic as it is geopolitical. This is not an exposition of international misconceptions concerning Saudi Arabia, but a series of reflections on local identity, the environment, individual (re)constructions of the past, and our 21st century engagement with the future. Edge of Arabia in Venice promises to provide a unique and unpredictable perspective on the hitherto little-known contemporary art culture of Saudi Arabia.



From the series *I am* by Manal Al Dowayan

NOTES TO EDITORS

Edge of Arabia Artists: Faisal Samra (Bahrain), Ahmed Mater Aseeri (Abha), Shadia & Raja Alem (Jeddah/Paris), Ayman Yossri Daydban (Jeddah), Manal Al Dowayan (Dhahran), Abdulkassar Gharem (Khamis Mushait), and Maha Malluh (Riyadh)

Curators: Stephen Stapleton (London), Dr Ahmed Mater Aseeri (Abha) & Abdulkassar Gharem (Khamis Mushait)

Sponsors: Abdul Latif Jameel Company Ltd. (Jeddah), Jadwa Investment (Riyadh), The Park Gallery (London), Canvas Magazine (Dubai), What's Up Jeddah (Media Partner) Al Turki Art & Design, Sole Water

Partners: Saudi Arabian Ministry of Culture & Information (Riyadh), City of Venice (Venice), Athr Gallery (Jeddah), Arab British Center (London), Lightbox Communications (Venice), JA Clark Charitable Trust (UK)

We are extremely proud to support these Saudi contemporary artists to exhibit in Venice for the first time. The presence of Edge of Arabia during the 53rd Venice Biennale will create a powerful platform for promoting Saudi artists on an international stage. Fadi Jameel, Abdul Latif Jameel Company Ltd.

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The exhibition is being organised by the award-winning Offscreen Education Programme

For further details of the project please visit:
www.edgeofarabia.com