

GALERIE BRIGITTE SCHENK

Abdulnasser Gharem

The Saudi Arabian artist Abdulnasser Gharem is known for his highly political and highly sensitive works of art, which achieve the balancing act of creating an open platform in a restrictive society and intelligently and subversively push the limits of the possible. In a recently published interview in the *New York Times*, he says: “That is your role as an artist, to bring out the option that the politician can’t say and that the religious man can’t say,” – “You bring out the solutions that people can’t say.” The “Restored Behaviour” series that he calls Stamp Paintings are painted on a bed of thousands of individual rubber letter stamps. The stamp, synonymous with bureaucracy as the medium to legitimate individual identity or to formalize interactions, is reconfigured here to question, pointedly. In another interview Gharem says that he is “concerned with our understanding of and the relationship to the premise that we trust in ideas and structures that are presented as absolute, to safety and immovability, but also to bureaucracy and the authorisation of its process.” (*Universes in Universe / Nafas Art Magazine*, November 2016). Gharem’s works of art show very impressively that art, rather than any political action, is the effective medium for infiltration.

Abdulnasser Gharem has exhibited with “Gharem Studio” at various American institutions such as the Station Museum, Houston, The Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco. (2016). The first major solo exhibition took place at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA 2017. His works are in collections of the Los Angeles County Museum, LACMA, Los Angeles, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, The British Museum, London, The Saatchi Gallery, London, The Farjam Collection, Dubai, The Jameel Foundation, London, The Barjeel Art Foundation collection, Sharjah and The Sharjah Art Collection, Sharjah.