

## Rachid Koraïchi – winner of the Jameel Prize 2011



Birds of paradise Monir  
Farmanfarmaian

Algerian born Rachid Koraïchi has won the £25,000 Jameel Prize for a selection of embroidered cloth banners from a series entitled *Les Maitres invisibles* (The Invisible Masters), 2008. Martin Roth, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum presented Hasan Jameel and Ed Vaizey MP, presented Rachid Koraïchi with the prize at a ceremony at the V&A in September.

The Jameel Prize is an international award for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic tradition. Its aim is to explore the relationship between Islamic traditions of art, craft and design and contemporary work as part of a wider debate about Islamic culture and its role today.

The Judges felt that Rachid's work matches the aims of the Jameel Prize through its qualities of design and reliance on traditional craft. They particularly admired how he has made his great spiritual and

intellectual lineage accessible to all through the graphic language he has created out of his artistic heritage.

Koraichi uses Arabic calligraphy, and symbols and ciphers from a range of other languages and cultures to explore the lives and legacies of the 14 great mystics of Islam. The work aims to show that the world of Islam, in contrast to contemporary perceptions of crisis and violence, has another side entirely, evident in the tolerant and sophisticated writings of great



Bridge Hazen El Mestikawy



22500 Pages,  
Hadieh Shafie



The invisible masters  
Rachid Koraichi

Muslim thinkers and poets such as Rumi and ElArabi. These 'masters', whose fame has spread even to the West, left an imprint on successive generations and their message is just as relevant today as when first written down.

Professor Martin Roth, chair of the judging panel and Director of the V&A, said "Rachid's work stood out because his banners have a universal appeal. They work in the white space of a contemporary art

gallery, but they also hold their own in historical settings – from Parisian palaces to simple Sufi shrines."

The winner was decided by a panel of judges chaired by Professor Martin Roth, Director of the V&A. The judges were: Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Director, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar; Navid Akhtar, Executive Director, Gazelle Media; Afruz Amighi, artist; and Dina Bakhoun,

Conservation Programme Manager, The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Egypt.

show the sophistication and tolerance of Islamic ideology and how relevant it is today.

Rachid Koraïchi's winning entry features embroidered cloth banners from a series entitled 'Les Maitres invisibles' (The Invisible Masters, 2008). The series is a long-term project dealing with the lives and legacies of the fourteen great mystics of Islam. Koraïchi cites great Muslim thinkers and poets like Rumi and El Arabi to

He has consistently attempted to reconcile Islamic tradition and mysticism with the aim to revive and re-invent his countries' artistic legacy. Koraïchi puts huge value upon the craftsmen he works with as the keepers and messengers of the 'know how'. His work is a tribute to his ancestors' spirituality, craftsmanship and journey through

Felt  
Memories  
III Bita  
Ghezelayagh



Fashion week Soody Sharifi

history and his work draws on numerology and signs.

The youngest artist in the shortlist, Noor Ali Chagani, who graduated from the National College of Arts, Lahore was born and currently lives in Pakistan.

Chagani was shortlisted for his two works 'Lifeline' (2010) and 'Infinity' (2009), sculptural works made from miniature terracotta bricks. Chagani translates his



Migrant 8 Hayv Kahraman

training in the principles of Mughal miniature painting into sculpture by using miniature hand made bricks to imitate large building blocks. Both works refer to the fundamental desires of man to provide a house for shelter.

Other shortlisted artists were: Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Bitá Ghezelayagh, Babak Golkar, Aisha Khalid, Hayv Kahraman, Hazem El Mestikawy, Hadieh

Shafie's and Soody Sharifi's

Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian is one of Iran's most celebrated artists with a career spanning more than five decades. 'Birds of Paradise' (2008), is a work that demonstrates her distinctive style of adapting and combining Iranian traditions of mirror mosaic and reverse glass painting techniques with a modern aesthetic.

Bitá Ghezelayagh works in the traditional Iranian craft of felt-making. Her work consisted of

three pieces from her 'Felt Memories' series (20089-).

Babak Golkar's piece entitled 'Negotiating the Space for Possible Coexistencies No.5' (2011) is an example of Golkar's multi-disciplinary work, examining socio-cultural issues experienced from living in both the Middle East and Canada.

Aisha Khalid's two entries are 'Kashmiri Shawl' and 'Name, Class, Subject' (2009). 'Kashmiri Shawl' is a cashmere cloth pierced



Life Line Noor Ali Chagani



Name, class subject, Aisha Khalid

with 300,000 gold-plated pins which create a traditional paisley pattern. For Khalid, the sharp pins symbolise the agony of the people in occupied Kashmir.

Hayv Kahraman's two paintings are from her 'Waraq' series (Playing Cards), 'Migrant 1' and 'Migrant 8' (2010), and her new work 'Asad Babil' (2011) inspired by her experience of living in Baghdad, Europe and the USA.

Hazem El Mestikawy exhibited a sculptural installation made from recycled cardboard and newspaper entitled 'Bridge' (2009).

Hadieh Shafie's two new works,

'22500' (2011) and '26000' (2011) are a continuation of her signature paper scroll works. In Hadieh Shafie's work, the notion of meditative process, repetition and time as found in Islamic art, craft and architecture is a constant element.

Soody Sharifi's entry featured two prints - 'Frolicking Women' (2007) and 'Fashion Week' (2010). Sharifi creates digital collages using enlarged scans of original Persian miniatures in which inserts her own photographic images, creating what she calls 'Maxiatures'. Sharifi's digital collages explore tension between public and private spaces.