

## EFA + Middle East

Samira Abbassy, Keren Benbenisty, Wafaa Bilal, Noa Charuvi, Mahmoud Hamadani, Amir Hariri, Dana Levy, Armita Raafat, Shai Zurim

June 9 – July 9, 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 9, 6 - 8pm



Wafaa Bilal, *THE THINGS I COULD TELL...*, 2015

Shirin Gallery NY is pleased to present *EFA + Middle East*, which features works by nine Middle Eastern artists from the Studio Program at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts. Curated by Bill Carroll, Program Director of the EFA Studio Program, the exhibition surveys some recent works created by Middle Eastern artists based in New York.

**The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)** is a 501(c)(3) public charity, dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. Founded with the purchase of a pre-war skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan in 1998, the **EFA Studio Program** provides emerging and established artists with subsidized studio spaces. In line with the EFA Studio Program's mission to promote international artistic exchange and dialogue, the program includes artists hailing from countries all over the world who maintain practices in NYC. In partnership with Shirin Gallery NY, this exhibition takes a closer look at those EFA member artists with ties to Middle Eastern countries.

**Bill Carroll**, Director of the EFA Studio Program, is the curator of the exhibition. He has been involved in the New York art world for over thirty years: as Director of the Charles Cowles Gallery and the Elizabeth Harris Gallery in NYC, and has worked for the Dia Art Foundation, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Nancy Graves Foundation. Mr. Carroll has curated numerous exhibitions, teaches an MFA course at Pratt Institute, and exhibits his own paintings at the Elizabeth Harris Gallery in Chelsea.

**Shirin Gallery NY** is a contemporary art gallery and platform for curatorial and educational activities that seek to foster international cultural exchange. Originally established in Tehran in 2005, the gallery opened a New York space in 2013 in Chelsea's gallery district. The New York space furthers Shirin Gallery's commitment to exhibiting works that push the boundaries of contemporary art, as well as international perceptions of the Middle East.