

# Safwan Dahoul: Almost a Dream.

In [Events and Exhibitions](#) / January 30, 2014

**Almost a Dream**, an exhibition of new works by acclaimed Syrian painter **Safwan Dahoul** will be held at **Ayyam Gallery Dubai (DIFC)** from 5 February to 13 March.

While incorporating Dahoul's signature monochromatic, minimalistic style, the paintings in **Almost a Dream** import a new, more direct engagement with reality on the ground as they relate to recent catastrophic events in the artist's native country of Syria.

Having been invested in hulum, the dream, for the past 25 years, Dahoul has begun to distance himself from the realm of the dream and examine whether it is actually dreams which inspire his paintings or something else entirely. This in-between realm of dreaming and not dreaming is evident in several of his bold works.



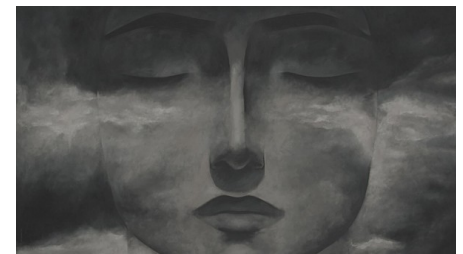
| Safwan Dahoul, *Dream 69*, 2013, 150x150 cm (detail)

Opening Reception /

# 5<sup>th</sup>

of Feb - 19.00 - 21.00

Duration: Feb. 05 - Mar. 13, 2014



Gallery Address /

Ayyam Gallery Dubai (DIFC)  
Gate Village Building 3, DIFC, Dubai

Mail: [difc@ayyamgallery.com](mailto:difc@ayyamgallery.com)  
Phone: +971 4 4392393

Keywords /

*Ayyam Gallery Dubai, background, being, death, dream, figure, matter, Middle East, minimalistic, monochromatic, Safwan Dahoul, solitude, space*

Related Stories /

Safwan Dahoul's evocative canvases, all of which share the title *Dream*, examine some of the most intimate moments of the human experience: slumber, companionship, solitude and death. The soulful, dreamy human figures that populate his work are 'substance matter' for the artist, a tool through which he depicts and preserves his own biography. Dominated by black, white and muted tones, Dahoul's canvases explore the relationship between the figure and its background, between the human being and space. His minimalist use of colour references his surroundings and is a response to the absence of colour now seen on the streets of Syria and the rest of the Middle East.

Transformer: Aspects of Travesty /

Micol Assaël solo exhibition at HangarBicocca /

Rashid Rana at Lisson Gallery /



| Safwan Dahoul, *Dream 74*, 2013, 180x200 cm (detail)

Born in 1961 in Hama, Syria, Safwan Dahoul lives and works in Dubai. Dahoul attended the *Subeil Al Ahdab Center of Plastic Arts and the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus*. In 1987, he received a scholarship to study abroad from the Ministry of Higher Education and relocated to Belgium, achieving his Doctorate from the Higher Institute of Plastic Arts in Mons in 1997. His work is held in numerous private and public collections including the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; The Samawi Collection, Dubai; The Farjam Collection, Dubai; and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait.

Like 0 Tweet 0

## Calendar:

May. 05 - Oct. 08, 2017

**Rosa Barba: From Source to Poem to Rhythm to**

Apr. 02 - Aug. 06, 2017

**Anselm Kiefer - For Louis-Ferdinand Céline:**

Mar. 31 - Jun. 04, 2017

**Norimichi Hirakawa: knowns, unknowns, and**