

JEFFAR KHALDI

Palestinian artist Jeffar Khaldi on the art mafia, Afghan war carpets, The Pink Panther and Velásquez.

Five prerequisites for survival in the art world: Money, patience, money, stamina and money.

Looking back at my career in the art world, I wish I had: Cared less.

I wish people wouldn't be so: Greedy.

Was lost for words when: I ran my first marathon.

The art world's biggest crime is: The art mafia.

If there is one era I would go back to, it would be: Prehistory.

My biggest vanity is: Myself.

Will always say yes to: A vacation.

If I had to summarise in one word, I would say that art is: Power.

For inspiration, I go to: My thoughts.

I owe my success to: God.

The three things I look for in an artwork are: Originality, quality and substance.

My best art investment is: My Afghan war carpets.

The exhibition that left a big impact on me was: *Pioneering Cubism* at the MoMA in 1989.

My biggest vice: Experimenting with anything.

Bad art is: Everywhere.

The song I can listen to over and over again is: Bauhaus's *Bela Lagosi's Dead*.

I just don't understand: The brain.

If I weren't doing what I do, I would have been: A magician.

My favourite fictional character is: The Pink Panther.

The most overused art term is: 'Interesting'.

The artist I'd want my portrait created by: Velásquez.

I'd like people to remember my: Big heart.

Without art, the world would: Not move forward.

The actor who would play me in a movie about my life: Hugh Jackman.

The artwork I can stare at for hours: *Les Femmes d'Alger* by Pablo Picasso.

Creativity can be crushed by: Arrogance.

In the art world, it's never too late to: Be too late. ☐



Photo courtesy: The artist