

## NEWSLETTER

21 January 2013

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If you have questions or would like additional information, Please contact us:

Athina Boardman  
Commercial Director  
+65 8404 4620  
[athina.boardman@sanagallery.com](mailto:athina.boardman@sanagallery.com)

Ophélie Guillerot  
Gallery Manager  
+65 9716 2294  
[ophelie.guillerot@sanagallery.com](mailto:ophelie.guillerot@sanagallery.com)

Assaad Razouk  
Founder  
+65 8328 4162  
[assaad.razouk@sanagallery.com](mailto:assaad.razouk@sanagallery.com)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear friends,

We wish you all a Happy New Year.



At Sana Gallery, 2013 begins with our exhibition, "Ordinary Lives: Women of the Middle East," featuring a poignant selection of works by artist Rania Matar.

Later in 2013, we will be exhibiting, among others, the distinguished Lebanese painter Raouf Rifai and the award-winning Palestinian Kuwaiti photographer Laura Boushnak.

We will also exhibit other outstanding talents from Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait and elsewhere.

## MEDIA REVIEWS

We are delighted with the strength of the media reviews our exhibitions and artists have received, and dedicate this newsletter to summarizing these.



## RANIA MATAR

Rania Matar's photography was highlighted by [Bloomberg](#) (14 December 2012), where Frederik Balfour commented that "[her] images are powerful because of their intimate nature, and because they challenge stereotypes about Middle Eastern women and modesty".

[Le Monde](#) (18 January 2013) commented that "to highlight the transformation [of a child-woman into a woman], Rania Matar has accepted to be the invisible mirror of these girls, suspending all judgment, with the empathy and tenderness of a mother sometimes weeping through."

In addition, she was extensively reviewed in Singapore's flagship daily newspaper, the Straits Times ([11 December 2012](#) and [21 December 2012](#)), where Arts Editor Akshita Nanda commented "being born in Lebanon to a Palestinian father and a Lebanese mother allows her insider access to ordinary women living in extraordinary circumstances, perhaps the aftermath of Lebanon's 15 year civil war or the disputed territories of the West Bank".

Read her interview by Joobin Bekhrad in [Artchb](#) (14 January 2013), and her interview by [Kurier](#) (15 January 2013), Austria's daily newspaper.

On television, [MBC TV](#), the Arab World's first TV network, carried a segment showing her work (14 December 2012), as did China TV ([CCTV](#), 17 December 2012).

While Rania Matar's exhibition is on-going at Sana Gallery until the end of January 2013, the press coverage continues unabated, the photography specialized newspaper [Le journal de la photographie](#) (19 January 2013) commented that "For some, even though they are not smiling, one can see their sense of selfhood and the almost sensual pleasure in being photographed and in engaging the camera, while others are almost defiant in the way only teens know how to, and others still are more separate from the camera, show more angst and are more self-conscious" and the

Singapore daily newspaper [TODAY](#) (16 January 2013) highlighted her show as one of its art picks, as did the [Straits Time](#) the 21 December 2012.

For a full list of reviews and articles covering Rania Matar's exhibition at Sana Gallery and her works shown in Singapore, please see below.

- [ARTINFO International](#) (1 November 2012)
- [ARTINFO Deutschland](#) (5 November 2012)
- [Art Actuel](#) (4 December 2012)
- [The Middle East Institute, Washington](#) (4 December 2012)
- [National Critics Choice](#) (6 December 2012)
- [Insiderei](#) (7 Decembre 2012)
- [The Middle East Institute, Singapore](#) (10 December 2012)
- [The Straits Times](#) (11 December 2012)
- [Feature Shoot](#) (12 December 2012)
- [Bloomberg](#) (14 December 2012)
- [MBC TV](#) (14 December 2012)
- [CCTV](#) (17 December 2012)
- [Straits Time](#) (21 December 2012)
- [Canvas Magazine](#) (1 January 2013)
- [Photo Eye Magazine](#) (11 January 2013)
- [Artchb](#) (14 January 2013)
- [Kurier](#) (15 January 2013)
- [Zeitjung.com](#) (15 January 2013)
- [TODAY](#) (16 January 2013)
- [Le Monde](#) (18 January 2013)
- [Le journal de la photographie](#) (19 January 2013)

## THAER MAAROUF AND SEMAAN KHAWAM

Thaer Maarouf's and Semaan Khawam's exhibition at Sana Gallery ("Kisses of an Enemy"), was held from 25 October to 30 November 2012.

Their art was extensively covered in local (Asian) and international media. For example, China's [CCTV](#) (17 December 2012) presented their work to an Asia-wide audience, while Sonia Kolesnikov-Jessop commented in [ARTINFO](#) (1 November 2012), the premier global online destination for art and culture, that "Maarouf highlights human rights issues in the Middle East, in particular the conditions of displaced populations" while "Khawam speaks to the power of art to challenge sectarianism and limits on freedom of expression in the Middle East."

[AMA](#), Art Media Agency, the leading news agency specialized in the art market, commented on 8 November 2012 that Sana Gallery's exhibition "offers a powerful ensemble of pieces, underlining the impact of Middle east cultural policies on individuals and societies."

Pan-Arab [Al-Hayat](#) newspaper carried a review on 2 November 2012 while Beirut's [Al-Mustaqbal](#) newspaper preceded it with coverage on 18 October 2012.

Beirut's [Daily Star](#) (5 January 2013), [L'Orient Le Jour](#) (20 January 2013), [Sky News Arabia](#) (4 January 2013) and many other media covered Thaer Maarouf's subsequent exhibition, "Veto" which carried his momentum as well as elements of the same body of work from Singapore back to Beirut.

### FULL PRESS COVERAGE LIST

- [AMA](#) (12 October 2012)
- [Artchb](#) (17 October 2012)
- [Al-Mustaqbal](#) (18 October 2012)
- [Daily Star](#) (20 October 2012)
- [Oasis magazine](#) (23 October 2012)
- [ARTINFO International](#) (1 November 2012)
- [Al-Hayat](#) (2 November 2012)
- [ARTINFO Deutschland](#) (5 November 2012)
- [L'orient le jour](#) (8 November 2012)
- [AMA](#) (8 November 2012)
- [The Middle East Institute, Washington](#) (4 December 2012)
- [Insiderei](#) (7 Decembre 2012)
- [MBC TV](#) (14 December 2012)
- [Lebanon Files](#) (28 December 2012)
- [Canvas Magazine](#) (1 January 2013)
- [El Nashra](#) (4 January 2013)
- [Sky News Arabia](#) (4 January 2013)
- [The Daily Star](#) (5 January 2013)
- [Future TV](#) (9 January 2013) (55'13")
- [L'orient le jour](#) (10 January 2013)
- [As-Safir Newspaper](#) (12 January 2013)
- [Annahar](#) (15 January 2013)
- [Alifwa](#) (15 January 2013)
- [Al-Hayat](#) (17 January 2013)
- [Al-Shorfa](#) (17 January 2013)
- [Russia Today TV-Arabic](#) (19 January 2013)
- [Al-Binaa](#) (20 January 2013)
- [Al-Mustaqbal](#) (21 January 2013)