

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

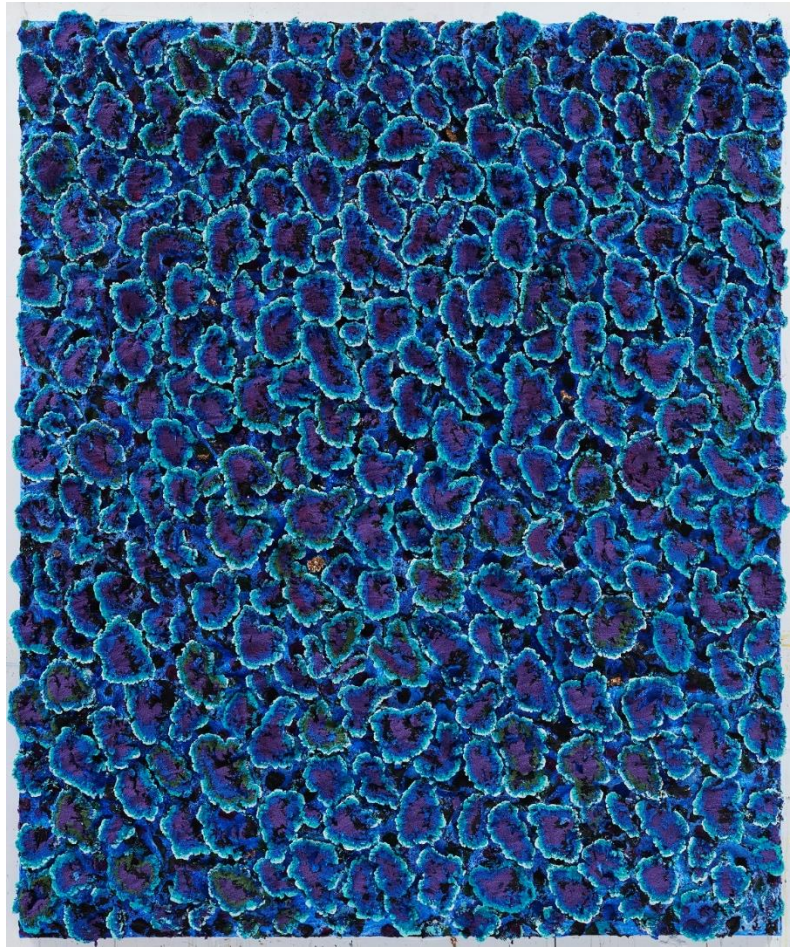


Fig 1. Nabil Nahas, *Untitled*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 182.9 x 152.4 cm; (72 1/8 x 60 in.)

NABIL NAHAS

18 January – 17 March 2018

PRIVATE VIEW: WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY, 6-8PM

Ben Brown Fine Arts is honoured to present the second solo exhibition of Nabil Nahas at our Hong Kong gallery. The exhibition will feature recent works from the artist's ongoing series of biomorphic, marine-inspired imagery created through textural layers of resplendent colour.

The Lebanese-born artist, who divides his time between New York and Beirut, has always been fascinated by the rhythms, forms and phenomena of the natural world. From his paintings of cedar and palm trees inspired by his childhood homes in Beirut and Cairo to his abstractions of concentric circles and biomorphic fractals to his starfish works, Nahas imparts his reverence for nature and the environments that have profoundly influenced him throughout his life.

In the early 1990s, Nahas was struck by a starfish-strewn beach on Long Island, New York, and he began casting the starfish, as well as shells and other found elements from the seashore, in silicone, creating molds that were then filled with acrylic. His experimental castings proliferated

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and became a repository for his relief paintings of layer upon layer of organic shapes covered in luminescent, hyperreal colours. Nahas often mixes pumice powder into his paint, further enhancing the materiality of his work, giving the impression of pure ground pigment or coral reefs.



Fig 2. Nabil Nahas, *Untitled*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 83.8 x 71.1 cm; (33 x 28 in.)

Untitled (fig. 1), rendered in rich shades of ultramarine and turquoise, appears as a vibrating ecosystem of encrusted forms protruding and multiplying from the canvas, their intricate and repetitive patterning referencing Islamic architecture. While some works tend toward the monochromatic, others, such as *Untitled* (fig. 2), are created in bold arrangements of dazzling colours and incorporate gold, suggestive of Byzantine art.

About Nabil Nahas

Born in Lebanon in 1949, Nahas grew up in Beirut and Cairo. He attended university in the United States, earning an MFA from Yale University in 1973. Encounters with contemporary painters at Yale influenced Nahas to move to New York after graduation. His work is included in such prominent collections as Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; and Tate Modern, London. In 2013 Nahas was awarded the National Order of the Cedar, for services to Lebanese culture, an honour rarely bestowed to visual artists.

The artist will be at the opening and is available for interviews.

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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