



Art | Basel
Miami Beach | Dec | 3–6 | 2015

Hassan Sharif, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, 2014, mixed media
108.27h x 181.1w x 17.72d in, (275h x 460w x 45d cm)

Art Basel Miami Beach | Galleries Sector | Booth K3

Alexander Gray Associates presents recent and historical work by **Hassan Sharif** (b.1951), focusing on weaving as method and metaphor. Recognized as a pioneer of conceptual art and experimental practice in the United Arab Emirates, over the past four decades Sharif has transgressed traditional frameworks for art making by extending his practice to performance, installation, drawing, painting, and assemblage that integrates ordinary objects as the primary medium.

After familiarizing himself with the ideas of Dada and Fluxus art during his studies in the early 1980s at Byam Shaw School of Art in London, Sharif created performance-based works engaging repetition, landscape and the body, motifs that would continue throughout his practice. Sharif began weaving common objects he encountered in his native Sharjah and Dubai—such as ropes, cloth, newspapers, cardboard, rugs, plates, and spoons—to create artworks. By cutting, bending, grouping, and braiding these cultural artifacts, the artists sheds their functionality to enhance their aesthetic and political significance. As art historian Paulina Kolczynska explained, “Like a cultural anthropologist, Sharif created an interesting synthesis of the visual landscape, as seen through the prism of an influx of objects amid a quickly changing lifestyle.”

Rooted in conceptual performance, Sharif’s rhythmic act of weaving echoes the unconscious functions of the human body, such as eating, breathing, and walking, by associating them with domestic objects. For his recent large-scale wall-sculpture *Ladies and Gentlemen* (2014), Sharif assembled mass-produced and inexpensive female and male shoes, into a tapestry object that emphasizes seriality and the dislocation of functional objects. Through this act he transforms and synthesizes these seemingly impersonal articles in order to question authorship, labor, commercialism, social doctrine, gender and migration.

Also presented are Sharif’s “Objects,” such as *Plugs No. 1* (2014), a group of assorted plugs bagged in mesh packets, which speak to the increasing modernization and industrialization occurring in U.A.E. Sharif began conceptualizing his “Objects” in the 1980s, buying ordinary articles in local markets that are manipulated into sculptures infused with humor and randomness, rendering the defining characteristics of mass-produced utilitarian materials as political and socioeconomic commentaries on present-day society. As the artist expressed, “I inject my works with a realism that exposes this socio-political economic monster, allowing people a chance to recognize the danger of over indulgence in this form of negative consumption.”

Public Sector | Film Sector

The Gallery’s participation in Art Basel Miami Beach’s Public Sector features **Melvin Edwards’** *Ukpo. Edo* (1993/1996), a large stainless steel sculpture that references the artist’s travels to Nigeria and showcases as principal motif a large welded chain that embodies both the history of slavery and oppression, while also symbolizing the links between people and cultures. For the Film Sector the Gallery will present *Morfás* (1981) by **Regina Silveira**, an experimental video exploring perspective studies, formal manipulation, and topographical mapping.

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Hassan Sharif's work has been recently shown at the U.A.E. national pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, Italy (2015); Sharjah Biennial, U.A.E. (2015); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (2014), and is included in the collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; the Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, U.A.E.; the Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; the Sittard Center, The Netherlands; and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, U.A.E, and New York. **Melvin Edwards** has been widely exhibited and is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; and the Dallas Museum of Art, TX; among others. In 2015, The Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, TX organized a second retrospective, *Melvin Edwards: Five Decades*, currently on view at the Zimmerli Museum of Art, Rutgers University, NJ, and will travel to the

Columbus Museum of Art, OH in 2016. His work has recently been included in exhibitions *All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale, Italy (2015); Brooklyn Museum, NY (2014); and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2013). **Regina Silveira** has exhibited throughout Europe and the Americas, including solo exhibitions at Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico (2014); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2012); Museo de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia (2008); Museo de Arte del Banco de la República, Bogotá, Colombia (2007); Palacio de Cristal, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain (2005); Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil (2004). Her work is represented in public collections internationally, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, CA; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan; Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil; Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil; among others.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery in New York. Through exhibitions, research, and artist representation, the Gallery spotlights artistic movements and artists who emerged in the mid- to late-Twentieth Century. Influential in cultural, social, and political spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines. Alexander Gray Associates is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America. Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM.