



IMAGE: RACHID KORAICHI, *UNTITLED* (DETAIL), 1981

# THE FUTURE OF TRADITIONS

WRITING PICTURES: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

12 JANUARY – 25 MARCH 2023 | CURATED BY ROSE ISSA & BOB ANNIBALE



Rachid Koraichi, *Untitled mixed media on paper, 110 x 220cm, 1981.*

### THE FUTURE OF TRADITIONS, WRITING PICTURES: ART FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

A major new exhibition, *The Future of Traditions, Writing Pictures: Contemporary Art from the Middle East*, is currently on view at The Brunei Gallery, SOAS, until 25 March.

The exhibition is collaboratively produced and guest curated by Rose Issa and Bob Annibale. It explores three generations of artists, from Iran and the Arab world, from the early pioneers of a vernacular 'Lettrism' movement to those incorporating the written word in their works today. These artists, from different background and styles, take inspiration from their own culture and combine those influences with international aesthetics and concepts. The result is the creation of an alternative and original approach to modernism and contemporary art.

While partly based on the book 'Signs of Our Times: From Calligraphy to Calligraffiti', the exhibition adds more artists from the younger generation – artists whose concerns, whether conceptual, socio-political, or simply aesthetic, have found their own modes of expression, thus contributing to world art. From the 37 artists represented, only a very few are calligraphers. The variety of their vocabularies of art, whether

painting or sculpting the words, offers a fresh perspective on the creativity that the region has inspired.

A selection of rare, illustrated books and manuscripts from the Special Collections SOAS Library and artists books alongside selected pieces from SOAS's wider Collections are also included in this exhibition connecting the old with the new.

A catalogue 'The Future of Traditions, Writing Pictures: Contemporary Art from the Middle East' has been produced and is available from the SOAS Bookshop in the Brunei Gallery.

[www.roseissaprojects.com](http://www.roseissaprojects.com)



Farhad Ahrarnia, *Bury My Heart.*

Images: Rose Issa Projects

### ARSENAL STADIUM TOURS AND MUSEUM

This year, whether you're a fan of the Gunners or just a sports fan looking to visit the home of one of the Premier League's greatest teams then a tour of the Emirates Stadium is not to be missed. Close to central London – less than 15 minutes on the tube from Leicester Square and Covent Garden – this award-winning self-guided tour of Arsenal's home takes you behind the scenes to see areas not normally visible to the public.



From the Directors' Box to the Manager's Dugout at pitchside and the Press Conference Room, guests will get a real glimpse of what happens on matchday. Don't miss the newly-refurbished Home Dressing Room, recently revamped to inspire and motivate the team, reflecting both the modern culture and the heritage of this iconic club.

Visitors will be given a state-of-the-art multimedia guide with commentary from an Arsenal Legend, or in one of ten languages including BSL. As well as listening to facts about the Stadium, you can also view exclusive player interviews and match footage, and the innovative 'Shirt Cam' feature means you can see player highlights just by pointing your guide at their shirt! If you want to try something a bit more exclusive, you can book a Legend Tour led by a former Arsenal player sharing behind the scenes secrets of what it's really like to play for London's most storied club.

To book tickets visit the website at [arsenal.com/tours](http://arsenal.com/tours)