

Hassan Massoudy Solo at Sundaram Tagore, New York

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A view of the exhibition "Words, Breath, Gesture" by Hassan Massoudy at Sundaram Tagore, New York
(Courtesy: Sundaram Tagore Gallery)

Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, is hosting the solo exhibition of works by Hassan Massoudy. Titled "Words, Breath, Gesture," it is on view through March 25.

Paris-based Iraqi artist Massoudy (b.1944, Najaf, Iraq) has been described as the "greatest living calligrapher" by French writer Michel Tournier. The artist grew up in Iraq, surrounded by Arabic calligraphy inscribed on the walls of libraries, mosques and religious schools. The experience reflects in his works that encompass oversized letters in rich colors combining traditional Arabic scripts with contemporary subject matters.

Massoudy moved to France in 1969, where his artistic practice was initiated through his education in figurative paintings, which has now totally been replaced by his colorful calligraphic compositions based on texts from Eastern and Western poets, authors, and philosophers. Once he finds his inspiration from these literatures, he emphasizes on a single word from their texts and paints an enlarged image of it at the center of his compositions that later gets incorporated into works which he writes using a 'qalam' — a traditional writing instrument made from a dried reed. The exhibition brings together more than 25 of these works on paper along with notable paintings on canvas.

The exhibition is on view through March 25 at the Chelsea location of Sundaram Tagore Gallery, 547 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA. For details, visit <http://www.sundaramtagore.com/>