



Letters of Love

Wissam Shawkat

U.S. Debut Exhibition

New York - 2011

Letters of Love 

*“Explanation by words make many things clear,  
but love unexplained is clearer.”*

**Jalaluddin Rumi (d. 1273)**

Wissam Shawkat is unique in the way he uses the Arabic letters in his calligraphy. He gained international prominence as a calligrapher during his work in Dubai, U.A.E. His contribution, both as calligrapher, and as a jury member to many calligraphic exhibitions, is notable.

In recent years, a number of calligraphers have been undertaking an introspective enquiry into the concepts of this fine art. Wissam shawkat, who is a master of the classical Arabic scripts, began to question the direction and purpose of calligraphy in the modern world. Observing his recent works shows his ability to re-examine, and stimulate contemporary calligraphy with new and innovative forms that retain all the classical qualities of the the Arabic scripts.

It is particularly notable that Mr. Shawkat is able to make his modernist compositions in such a way that the classic calligraphic construction both hidden and dominant. Thus he has invented something totally new, yet not totally unfamiliar. His control of the calligraphic media is breath taking and exceptional.

In his recent works we can clearly detect classical scripts such as Thulth, Kufic and Diwani, yet in his new forms and compositions he pushes ahead with his quest for achieving a stimulating transformation of the calligraphy of the Arabic letters. For this and other qualities such as the use of color, the horizontal and vertical expansions of calligraphic forms, circular and other compositions, Wissam Shawkat is considered an important avant-gard calligrapher in the contemporary Middle East.

In this exhibition, "Letters of Love", he illustrates that today, the choices of shapes, forms and compositions are almost limitless. When this expertise in classical calligraphy is harnessed together with these new forms and shapes, Wissam Shawkat believes that hey can become a powerful force for calligraphy and an innovative expression of the time.

**Nabil F. Safwat**



Born in Iraq and residing in Dubai, Wissam Shawkat is among the world's youngest and most talented Arabic calligraphers. Trained as a civil engineer at Basra University in Iraq, Shawkat's engineering background allows him to excel at draftsmanship and design. His unique style borrows from the exquisite craftsmanship of traditional practitioners and the vibrancy of contemporary Arab culture.

A calligrapher and designer of logotypes with over 20 years experience, Shawkat's calligraphic works have been showcased in private and public collections throughout the world. In addition to serving on a number of international art juries, Shawkat is the winner of numerous international competitions and exhibitions. His work has appeared in many books and publications featuring the art of calligraphy and logos. Wissam's work resonates with a wide range of audiences and testifies to the fact that calligraphy knows no boundaries.



*The Love Garden*

55 X 95 cm

Soot ink and acrylic colors on paper

2010

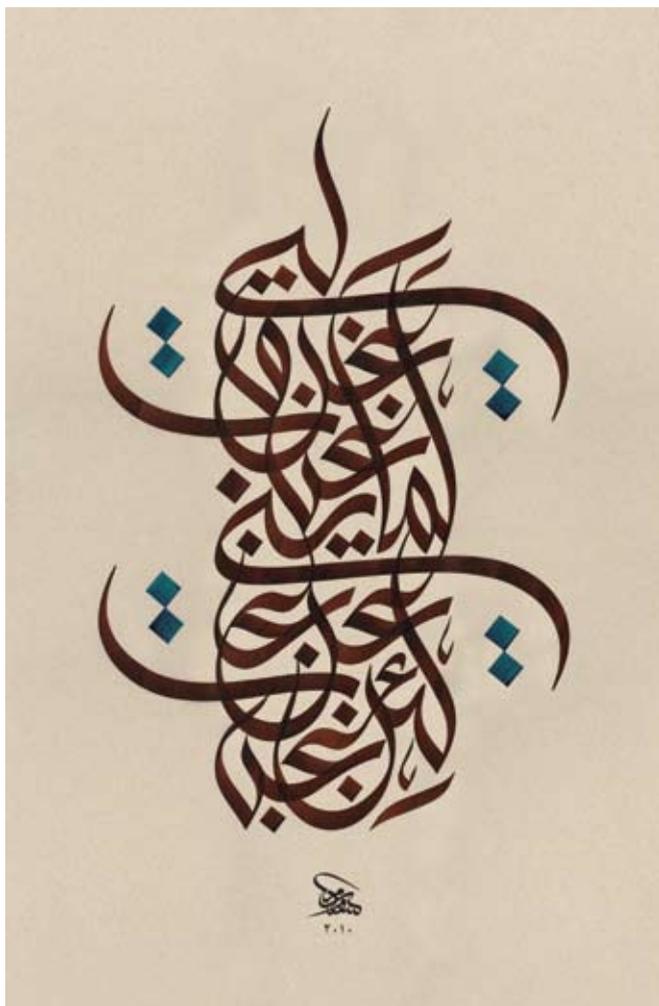


*A Love-Planting Land  
is a Homeland*

94.5 X 67.5 cm

Ink on paper

2010



*Should you be out of my sight,  
never to my heart - Abu -l-Atahiya*  
92 X 60 cm  
Ink and acrylic colors on paper  
2010



*Rethym of Love*  
64 X 97 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on paper  
2011



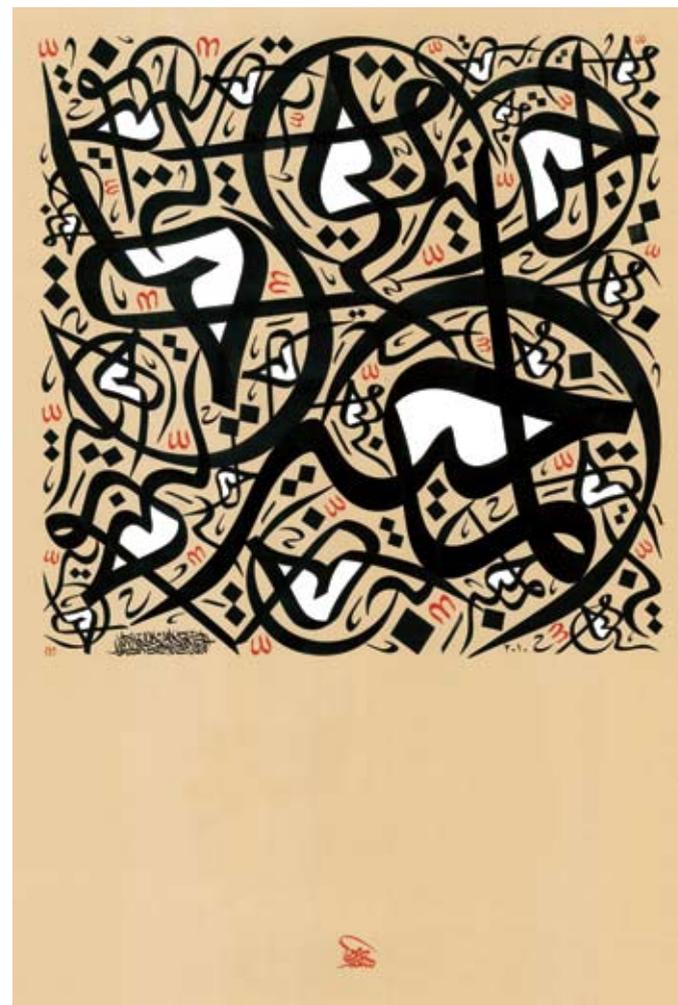
*Anger overcome with Love - Buddha*  
70 X 62 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on paper  
2010



*A Loving Heart Can Handle the World - Bethoven*  
73.5 X 62.5 cm  
Ink and acrylic colors on Handmade paper  
2010



*World of Love*  
96 X 67 cm  
Ink and acrylic colors on  
Handmade paper  
2011



*Love & Freedom*  
*Love is the only freedom in  
the world - Khalil Gibran*  
95 X 63 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors  
on Handmade paper  
2010



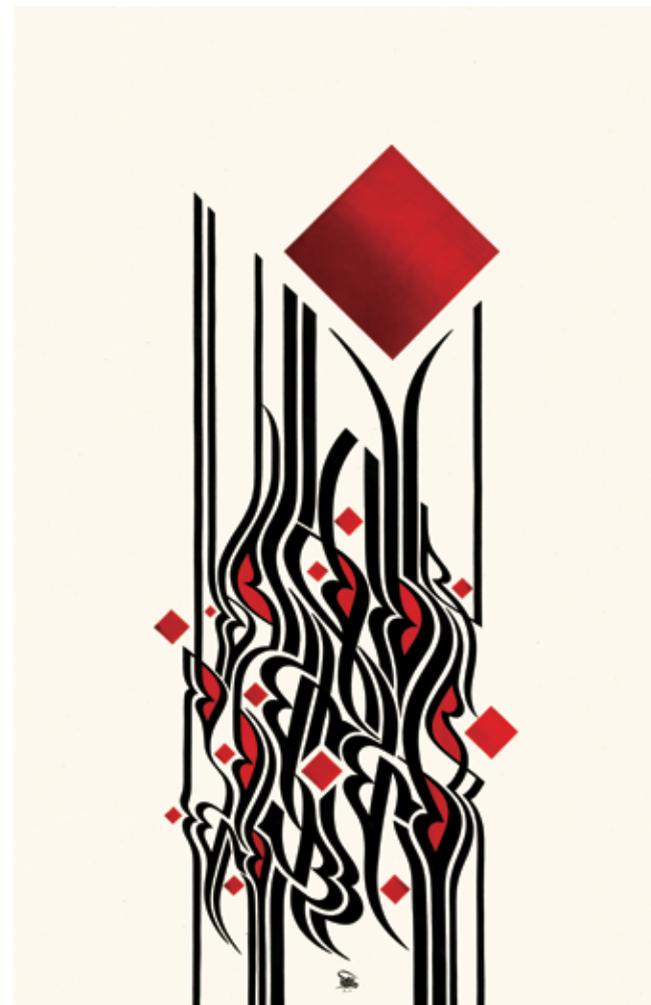
*Love 1*  
67 X 97 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on Handmade paper  
2011



*Love 2*  
48 X 94 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on paper  
2011



*Love 3*  
95 X 66 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on  
Handmade paper  
2011



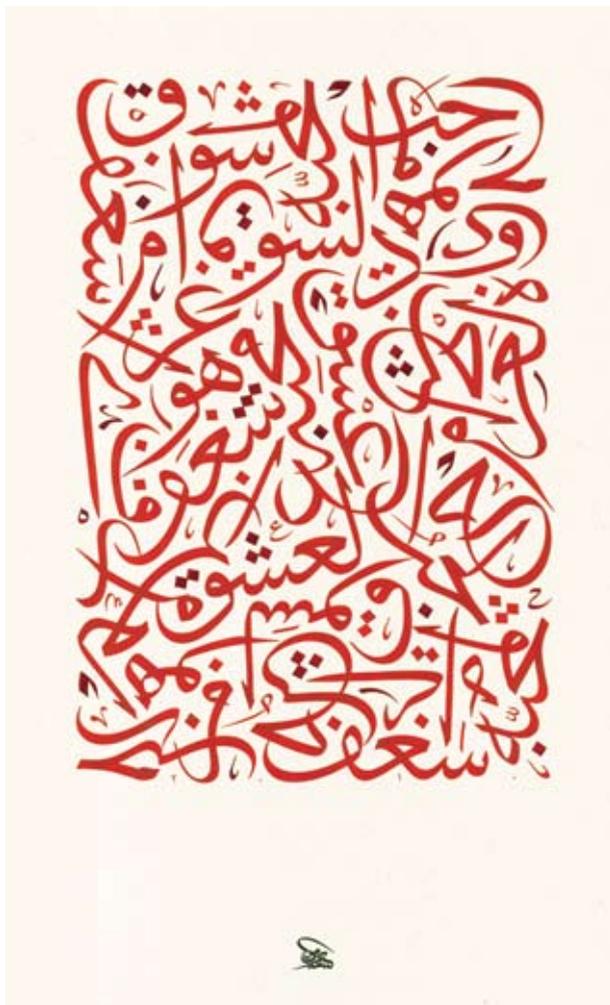
*Love 4*  
94 X 60 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on  
Handmade paper  
2011



*Love 5*  
95.5 X 53 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on  
Handmade paper  
2010



*Love, Scent of Life1*  
66 X 95.5 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic colors on  
Handmade paper  
2011



*The Love Carpet*  
95 X 55 cm  
Ink and acrylic colors  
on Handmade paper  
2010



*Love, Scent of Life2*  
100 X 38 cm  
Soot ink and acrylic  
colors on paper  
2011



*Love Flower*

90 X 60 cm

Soot ink and acrylic  
colors on marbled  
paper

2011

  
reed space

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