

# Canvas

ART AND CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD



## THE POWER 2012

THE MIDDLE EASTERN ART WORLD'S POWER PLAYERS

PLUS Inside Steve and Chiara Rosenblum's Paris space, the humour and sarcasm in Adel Abidin's work, Buthayna Ali's tackling of taboos, Mounira Al-Solh's installations and alter ego and Laleh Khorramian's dreamy, surreal pieces.

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## ROSE ISSA

BY OMAR MAZHAR

A pioneer in promoting Contemporary visual art from the Middle East, Rose Issa has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to change the (mostly Western) misrepresentations of people from this region by highlighting their important cultural output. As an independent curator, writer and publisher, she has been responsible for introducing many of the region's art and film luminaries to Western audiences. Young at heart and never one to shy away from giving her frank opinion (thus at times censored), she has encouraged a more honest debate. Through the books and articles she has authored and the many exhibitions she has curated, both in public institutions and at her project space in London, her contribution to the Middle Eastern art scene is, without a doubt, extraordinary and unparalleled. I believe that many authentic voices from the region – artists, filmmakers and students – are indebted to her for helping put them on the map.

**Omar Mazhar** is Co-Director of Rose Issa Projects, London.

