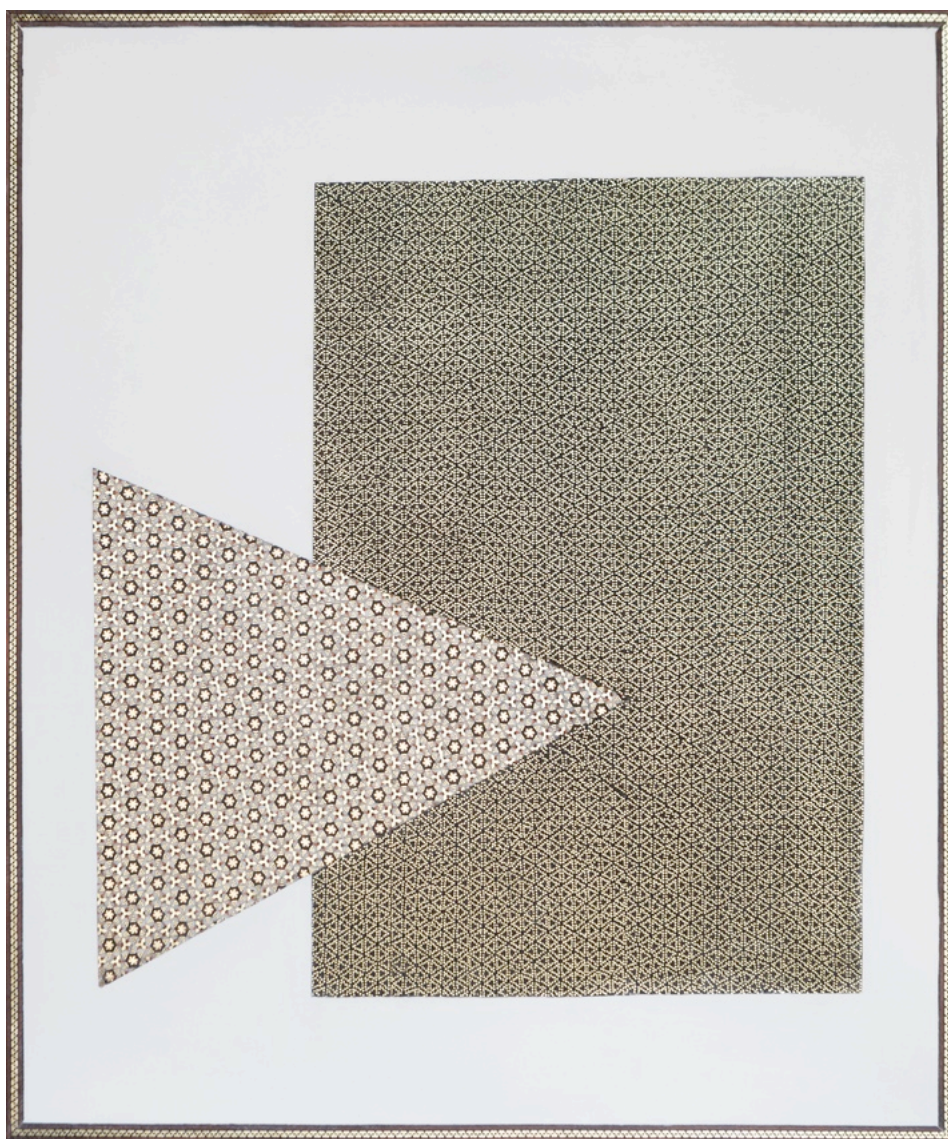


Al Serkal Avenue, unit 21, Al Quoz
PO Box 123901 Dubai, UAE
T +971 (0)4 346 9906
F +971 (0)4 346 9902
www.lawrieshabibi.com

shabibi@lawrie



Farhad Ahrarnia

At One O'clock in the Morning, 2015-16

Khatam (Persian micro-mosaic)

50 x 42 cm

19 3/4 x 16 1/2 in

(FA046)

Photo: Copyright The Artist
Courtesy of Lawrie Shabibi

Price: \$ 10,000.00

Exhibitions

Art Basel Hong Kong (2016)

Description/Commentary

Ahrarnia's Khatam-based series stems from the inherently constructivist and geometrically structured properties of the medium. Khatam is an Iranian micro-mosaic used decoratively to embellish domestic objects. It was originally imported from China 700 years ago during period of Mongol rule, but improved upon by Persian craftsmen. Individual strings of long thin filaments made from organic materials such as ivory, camel bone, wood, copper, silver and brass are methodically grouped together, then cut at the cross section to reveal strips of complex geometric compositions. As in his previous pictorial series, Ahrarnia references such qualities of the Russian Avant-Garde who greatly influenced the art and architecture of mid 20th century Iran, a cultural extension of the 19th century "Great Game". Ahrarnia's interest in exploring the Khatam marquetry as a mark-making medium combines an aesthetic tradition and applies it to seminal 20th century Modernist works. Ahrarnia considers the Khatam a mathematically generated self-referential process, in line with 20th century Modernist notions. Applying traditional materials and craftsmanship he uses Modernist and Constructivist paintings as a blueprint from which to lay out his Khatam mosaics, emphasizing the engagement of the modern with the traditional, the decorative with the scientific, and embedding this entanglement of various cultural sensibilities into one radiant surface. This khatam work is based on the sparse compositions of Malevich.