Provost Ahmed Abdelal Receives Honorary Fellowship from Shenkar College

Every year, Shenkar College for Engineering, Design and Art grants an honorary fellowship to remarkable individuals. Each one, an exceptional talent in his or her field, who harness their great capabilities to the advancement of Shenkar. This year, the event took place on May 28th, on the rooftop of the renovated Pernick Building of Shenkar, in the city of Ramat Gan. The pleasant evening breeze and the impressive urban view, set the tone for a great evening. Among the awards winners was Provost Abdelal. The text read during the ceremony was as follows:

Prof. Ahmed Abdelal, Provost at University of Massachusetts Lowell, is responsible for establishing partnerships around the world. He has invested great efforts in building a fruitful cooperation with Shenkar. A cooperation that began with the International Graduate Studies in Plastics Engineering. Abdelal earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology and carried out post-doctoral research in the same field. He has served in major positions in other leading universities, and founded the Middle East Center for Peace, Culture, and Development.

With great appreciation to Prof. Abdelal’s academic activity and dedication and his contribution to Shenkar’s academic development, we are happy to award Prof. Ahmed Abdelal.

Provost Abdelal praised the trip: “International partnerships are one of the five top strategic goals for UMass Lowell. Our strategy goes beyond the traditional approaches that many universities focus on; namely, exchanges of faculty and students. Our goal is to identify specific approaches for collaboration in education and research, including dual graduate programs, cooperation in specific research projects, and support for economic development efforts both in Massachusetts and the region served by the educational partner. Importantly, we are keen to collaborate in efforts that enhance inter-cultural understanding and that contribute to enhancing peace and harmony. Our partner universities in Israel specialize in key areas that we want to collaborate in, with opportunities for both innovative learning and research. Examples include but are not limited to: the integration of arts and design with computer science and plastics engineering; technology-advanced communities of learning; economic development as a path to peace and security; technology to support clean energy and the environment; university-industry partnerships to accelerate biomedical advances. Collaborations with Ben-Gurion University, University of Haifa, and Shenkar College allow UMass Lowell to go beyond what it can do by itself and these partnerships create a new generation of leaders who have the international experience and perspective needed to succeed. I am proud of the very successful trip and look forward to the joint international classes, workshops, research and exchanges that will result from the trip to Israel. I want to thank all the faculty and staff involved in the trip for their energy and wisdom in building these partnerships.”
Director’s Note

Late this spring a delegation led by Provost Ahmed Abdelal went to Israel to strengthen our partnerships with University of Haifa, Shenkar College and Ben Gurion University. There were many highlights of this successful visit which are described in this newsletter including meetings with the Presidents of all of our partner schools, an Honorary Fellowship from Shenkar bestowed on our Provost, invitations to a Fulbright dinner at the home of the Ambassador from the United States to Israel, innovative presentations on interdisciplinary education and the connections between computer science and art and planning for future research, student and faculty exchange.

A particularly notable moment came during the re-signing of our partnership agreement with the University of Haifa. Its new President, Amos Shapira, a highly respected industrial leader, questioned how educational institutions could evaluate their success—in industry it was simply looking at the profit margins! Our Provost responded that, in fact, UMass Lowell had developed a thoughtful report card index and has since shared it with President Shapira. So exchanges can occur on many levels.

In this newsletter you can gain more details concerning how members of our delegation intend to realize hopes for productive partnership outcomes for next steps that can be mutually beneficial. They include co-teaching newly organized classes, working with corporate leaders to inspire and incubate new product development, planning for joint working seminars for academic leaders who are invested in democracy and peace and exploring issues of women and leadership.

While we enjoyed great hospitality and safety during our trip, this region of the world is in great crisis as this newsletter goes to press. The escalating violence is of serious concern for all of our friends and partners and all the people of the area. We have written notes extending our concern to President Carmi, Shapiro and Tamir to share with their respective communities. President Carmi replied with appreciation and expressed the thought that this round of violence is truly “useless.” In his article in our newsletter Center Associate Greg Aftandilian helps us understand the complexities which challenge the outbreak of democracy and sustainable peace in the region. May our work there combine knowledge with compassion for, as the Dalai Lama suggests, that leads to wisdom.

We welcome comments always from our readers.

Dr. Paula Rayman, Director

Research and Partnerships

UMass Lowell Delegation Visits Partner Universities in Israel; Expands Student, Faculty, Research Exchange

At the end of May, an interdisciplinary delegation led by Provost Ahmed Abdelal visited Israel to deepen partnerships, expand student, faculty and research exchange, and promote the university’s mission of educating for global citizenship. The delegation included Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Professor Paula Rayman, Director of the Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture, Dr. Julie Chen, Vice Provost for Research, Dr. Joseph Hartman, Dean of Engineering, Professor Steve McCarthy, Plastics Engineering, Professor Haim Levkowitz, Computer Science, Professor Gilbert Brown, Nuclear Engineering, Professor Ellen Wetmore, Art, and Mr. Seth Izen, Assistant Director of the Middle East Center.

The trip began in the north of Israel at University of Haifa. Provost Abdelal re-signed the partnership agreement with University of Haifa’s new President Amos Shapira, former CEO of El Al and CellCom. The original agreement, signed five years ago, led to collaboration in Peace and Conflict Studies which included both universities launching degree programs and exchanging faculty. The Schools of Education also embarked on a trilateral research project on equity and excellence in education. For the new agreement, Provost Ahmed Abdelal and President Amos Shapira discussed broadening the partnership to include the sciences, security studies, and art. This could include dual Ph.D. programs, co-taught courses in which a University of Massachusetts Lowell faculty and University of Haifa faculty member collaboratively create a course, and research exchange. The Provost and President also discussed ways to measure success in academia, with the Provost sharing the UMass Lowell Report Card which includes five pillars of excellence and 25 indicators of success. To further the partnership, Professor Paula Rayman will serve as a visiting scholar at University of Haifa in Fall 2014.

Mayor Yona Yahav of Haifa welcomed the delegation and discussed opportunities for partnership. Mayor Yahav is seeking to use entrepreneurship to help marginalized populations in his city expand their economic capacity and boost employment. UMass Lowell has the capacity to assist with its expertise in teaching and mentoring entrepreneurs. Faculty are looking into research grants to connect Haifa and Lowell in this area, such as securing a US Embassy Middle Eastern Partnerships Grant to work with a local NGO to promote entrepreneurship.

The delegation then traveled to the south of Israel to visit Ben-Gurion University. In meetings with President Rivka Carmi, the group discussed goals of extending connections in engineering and nuclear sciences as well as exploring interdisciplinary connections in
computer science and art. President Carmi, a noted pediatrician, also expressed enthusiasm for dual programs that would advance women in STEM fields. President Carmi and Rector Zvi Ha-Cohen advocated for dual Ph.D. programs in engineering as well as co-taught courses amongst faculty from both institutions. Just like UMass Lowell, Ben-Gurion seeks to foster innovative collaboration between industry and the academy. Both universities engage in medical device research which opens opportunities for partnership.

Provost Abdelal, Professor Rayman and Professor Yoram Meital, Director of the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy, discussed holding a joint conference to promote academic understanding of the topics of recognition and transitions to democracy. The high level conference will bring together leading academics and scholars who will present prepared working papers on the given topics and help craft a report based on the papers and discussion.

Returning to Tel Aviv, the delegation spent three days with Shenkar College during its Board of Governors events. First, UMass Lowell joined Shenkar College for an interactive seminar on Visual Communication and Technology (VisCoTech). Prof Amnon Dekel, Chair of Shenkar’s Design Department, explained that there needs to be a strong relationship between engineering and design because “today’s users want fun and magic” in their technology. He spoke about how Shenkar has fostered the interdisciplinary connection through joint courses, labs and a week dedicated towards bringing engineers and designers together in mini-courses that require them to collaborate on a project.

Professor Ellen Wetmore and Dean Joseph Hartman presented how UMass Lowell encourages students to connect design and engineering through programs such as Artbots in which students create technical art, such as a mechanical flower petal that opens in light. Professor Haim Levkowitz gave a presentation on how early adopters of technology tend to not need the product to be user friendly but for mass adoption, products must feature user-friendly design. To that end, design and engineering must interact. The very successful collaborative seminar with UMass Lowell and Shenkar will lead the way to incorporating more joint opportunities to combine design and engineering.

At an afternoon panel led by Shenkar President Yuli Tamir, former Minister of Education, panelists from universities around the world discussed how their universities utilize interdisciplinary education. This panel was part of the prestigious Israeli Higher Education Conference in Tel Aviv. Vice Provost Julie Chen explained how accreditation requirements often make it hard for students to take “interdisciplinary courses.” Provost Abdelal pointed out that UMass Lowell has found a way to address both accreditation requirements and the importance of interdisciplinary education by having students focus on learning through experience. UMass Lowell students are confronted with actual challenges to communities and societies through doing service learning projects. Solving real-world problems requires students to work in an interdisciplinary manner.

At the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Plastics Engineering at Shenkar College, the partnership between UMass Lowell and Shenkar College was highlighted; this collaboration has included a dual Masters and Doctorate program in Plastics Engineering. This exchange, initiated by David Pernick and led by Prof. Steve McCarthy, was hailed as a prime example of successful institutional collaboration. Provost Abdelal talked about the bond between the two institutions and the dual Masters and Doctorate program, emphasizing that “The students we encounter are evidence to the quality of Shenkar’s department. They are highly skilled and obtain significant achievements.”

Professor Paula Rayman, Director of the Middle East Center, was asked by Shenkar President Yuli Tamir to join a women’s economic development project in which Shenkar College design and engineering students work with Israeli and Palestinian women to improve and market their arts and crafts. The students meet artists and artisans, discuss the difficulties and problems they face and suggest sustainable solutions. The purpose of the project is to expose the students, who are
UMass Lowell Delegation Visits Partner Universities in Israel; Expands Student, Faculty, Research Exchange

coming from various backgrounds, to actual needs of various populations around the world while bridging different cultures and preserving fading traditions—by means of design education. During the trip, Professor Rayman met with the US Consulate in Jerusalem to explore support for the women’s project.

The US Ambassador to Israel, Daniel Shapiro, invited members of the delegation to two events. Professor Rayman attended a celebration of Fulbright Scholars; she was a Senior Fulbright fellow at University of Haifa in 2008, working on the project “Beyond Coexistence” between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Dean Joe Hartman and Prof. Gilbert Brown attended a reception in honor of Governor Deval Patrick, who traveled to Israel with a group of business leaders.

On the final day of the trip, a gala event was held at Shenkar College. UMass Lowell Provost Ahmed Abdelal was one of four selected to receive the 2014 Honorary Fellowship Award from Shenkar College. The Award is given to individuals who have made a significant impact in fields related to Shenkar’s academic scope. Provost Abdelal was honored for his commitment and leadership in building the strong partnership between UMass Lowell and Shenkar.

In August, Dr. Sam Kenig, Shenkar College Dean of Engineering and Dr. Hanna Dodiuk, Chair of Plastics Engineering will visit UMass Lowell. In September, Dr. Irit Keynan, the Head of Graduate Program in Education at College of Academic Studies, Or Yehuda will spend time on campus. She is an internationally renowned expert on collective narratives in conflict and the 2012 winner of the Shapiro Award for Best Book in Israeli Studies.

We are also very much looking forward to meeting with Bruce and Susan Pernick of the Pernick Foundation to explore future collaborations for the Middle East Center and University of Massachusetts Lowell. There will be many other substantive follow-up actions from this successful Israel delegation trip.

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Research and Partnerships

Following the trip to Israel, members of the delegation are working on a myriad of student, faculty and research exchange. They are being supported by the leadership of Provost Ahmed Abdelal and Vice Provost for Research Julie Chen.

Gilbert Brown

Dr. Brown is exploring opportunities to collaborate with the nuclear professors at Ben-Gurion University. “Ben-Gurion University’s research reactor, Israeli Research Reactor 1 (IRR1), is very similar to ours and that could be a good starting point. The reactor is located near Yavneh, about 6 miles from the Weitzman Institute in Rehovot. It is a 5 MW reactor of the “light water open swimming pool” type, just like ours… the main areas of application of IRR1 include research and training in nuclear engineering, neutron radiography and diffraction, activation analysis and changing colors of semi-precious and precious stones. We know something about all of these topics. Perhaps even more importantly, we have great expertise in computer modeling of our reactor and that may be the best starting point for collaboration. I am confident that there are some technical areas that we can work together on together, and I can even imagine student exchanges.”
Joseph Hartman

Dean Joe Hartman plans to explore interdisciplinary collaborations with Shenkar College that combine engineering and science with art. He says, “Shenkar has some truly innovative programs that blur the lines between engineering/science and art. I hope we can learn to do likewise here, bringing our North and South campuses closer together.” Partnerships with Ben Gurion University in engineering are also being developed. “I look forward to forging a relationship with Ben Gurion University. They have a fantastic engineering program and are interested in developing dual degree programs at the doctoral level. This is a great way to have faculty and graduate students interact in cutting-edge research...This trip has opened doors to starting new programs for our students and faculty. I look forward to developing them further.”

Seth Izen

Mr. Izen is working on a joint international workshop with Dr. Yoram Meital from Ben Gurion University. The workshop, to be held in Spring 2015, will focus on transitions in the Middle East or the topic recognition and its relationship to peacebuilding. He commented that “the power of joint international workshops, such as the one being proposed, is that the ideas discussed and written about in an outcome paper can influence the wider discourse in society and politics.” Mr. Izen is partnering with the Center for Dialogue and Conflict Management in Haifa—a joint partnership with the city of Haifa and three non-governmental organizations—to help the center successfully launch and to build opportunities for grants, research and student exchange. In addition, he will be doing research and projects with the Simon Peres Center for Peace’s division on Peace Education. In regards to these collaborations, he noted, “As Provost Abdelal mentioned, one of the goals of international partnerships is to enrich inter-cultural understanding and contribute to enhancing peace and harmony. These collaborations help fulfill this critical mission of our university.”

Haim Levkowitz

In addition to discussing opportunities to collaborate with University of Haifa on their research project on Learning in Networked Communities, Dr. Levkowitz plans to teach classes with partner universities: “I have had very promising discussions with the Chair of Computer Science at University of Haifa. He is really eager for me to come teach next year...I have had similar discussions regarding a course on big data with two statistics professors, also at Haifa. Within the next academic year, I anticipate teaching 1-2 courses with either Shenkar or University of Haifa (or both).” Dr. Levkowitz is also in discussions with Shenkar College to teach a “High-tech Ventures” course that could include an option for UMass Lowell students to take the course in Israel.

Paula Rayman

“This delegation trip to Israel was especially fulfilling in deepening relationships with the university of Haifa, Shenkar College, and Ben-Gurion University. It was also special to be invited to US Ambassador’s home and meet fellow Fulbright Scholars from Israel, Palestine, and the United States.” Dr. Rayman will be on the ground in Israel to work on follow-up activities: “During the fall of 2014, I am fortunate in having a Sabbatical project “Building Positive Peace and Gender Equity” that will take me both to Northern Ireland and back to Israel. As part of my work with women peace leaders and NGOs I am hoping to work with faculty from our university partnerships. For example, I am looking forward to engaging with Shenkar College’s women’s economic development project launched by President Yuli Tamir which creates bridges between Palestinian women’s embroidery activities and textile/art students from Shenkar. This collaboration is an excellent example of building economic development to move towards positive peace.”

Ellen Wetmore

Dr. Wetmore is collaborating with Dr. Amnon Dekel and Dr. Katya Oicherman from Shenkar College on a joint course in the area of, “Scarf Computing.” This is a pilot course that will integrate knowledge from Art, Textile Design, Software Engineering and Electronic Engineering. The course will focus in the area of “Scarf Computing”- the design, creation, development and testing of soft scarf and kerchief objects imbued with computation capabilities. Course goals include designing textile objects that can offer new ways of communication and styling. Possible technical challenges will include conducting electric signal in predictable ways and developing silicon “chips” that conform to computational logic structures; textile based battery options or solar power options, and their integration with HCI technology such as keyboards and soft screen graphic displays as well as the design of new human computer interaction models that use the kerchief structure and plasticity as a way of context capture and as an input and output device. Students will also develop usage scenarios and test them from both functional and experiential points of view. Attention will be given both to form and function: the comprehension of basic textile design and techniques, material design, the flow of computing signal, apprehension of the social situations which can provide context for the technological possibilities What is the place in everyday life for the soft technologies? How does the traditional textile object, such as scarves and kerchiefs function as a means of communication? What kind of change into those existing modes of communication can be brought by the integrated technology?
Democracy Fatigue and a Return to the Security Framework

By Gregory Aftandilian

The great hope of the so-called Arab Spring been overtaken by the harsh reality of ethnic and religious divides. Egypt is beset by sharp polarization between Islamists and secularists and has opted for strongman rule in the face of ongoing internal security threats. Libya lurches from crisis to crisis and is currently being contested by a medley of militias. Syria is bogged down in a bloody civil war that shows no sign of abating, nor is it a winner obvious at this stage, while Iraq is headed toward a break up along sectarian and ethnic lines in the wake of the rapid advance of the terrorist group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which now occupies most of Iraq’s Sunni heartland and is threatening Baghdad. The only semi-success story is Tunisia, where the Arab Spring started in December 2010, but this is only because its main Islamist party, En-Nahda, agreed to relinquish power in order to avoid what happened to its ideological cousin in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, because of mounting secular opposition to En-Nahda’s rule.

Given the myriad of problems in the Middle East, U.S. efforts at democracy promotion have been put on the backburner, and strategic concerns have come to predominate again. There is little appetite in either Congress or the executive branch for a return to a grand democracy agenda. At most, U.S. policymakers will criticize some egregious actions by new strongmen and old authoritarian regimes, but are unlikely to rock the boat in such states given the ongoing turmoil in neighboring countries.

The Arab Spring was supposed to usher in a new political order in the Middle East based on some type of representative democracy. It has failed for the most part because political parties, with the exception of Islamist ones, have been weak and divided, political institutions lack independent standing, and long-repressed social conflicts (such as the struggle between Islamists and secularists) have come to the fore, not to mention tribal, sectarian and ethnic struggles that have been unleashed with the undoing of authoritarian regimes. Some blame can also be laid at the foot of the United States and the EU for not doing enough financially to aid the transition states. There was no equivalent of a “Marshall Plan” for the Middle East, but perhaps that was unrealistic given the budgetary crises in both the U.S. and the EU.

If the Arab Spring, post-three years, has taught us anything is that democracy cannot blossom until conflicts can be managed by political compromise. For the most part, politics in the region have been a zero-sum game because such struggles have been so intense and the losers of political contests see themselves as the new victims. Hence, the struggles against authoritarianism have produced factions that have acted in an authoritarian manner against their opponents.

Take the situation in Iraq. The U.S.-led invasion not only overthrew the authoritarian regime of Saddam Hussein but turned the social power structure upside down. The long repressed Arab Shia of Iraq became the new rulers and they were determined not to play second fiddle to the previously dominant Arab Sunnis, while the Kurds consolidated their autonomous mini-state in northern Iraq. The recent and rapid advance of the terrorist group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the Sunni areas of Iraq could not have been achieved without at least the tacit support of the Sunni tribal leaders who respected the rule of Prime Minister Maliki and his Shia-dominated government. The dismal showing of the new, multi-sectarian Iraqi army, particularly in the city of Mosul where officers and soldiers fled by the thousands against a numerically inferior ISIL force, has now compelled the Maliki government to rely on Shia militias and units of the Iraqi army that are exclusively Shia to protect Baghdad and Shia-populated southern Iraq.

The United States, because it fears the ramifications of a victory for ISIL, which already controls a large swath of territory in eastern Syria and western and central Iraq, has now sent about 300 military advisers to Iraq and has left open the possibility of air strikes against ISIL forces. In the process, it is trying to compel Maliki to engage in “political inclusivity” – that is, bringing more Sunnis into the government — but this emphasis on inclusivity has been tried many times before, with no success. Maliki, despite refashioning himself as an Iraqi nationalist, is the same person who worked for the secretive Shia Dawa party for most of his career (much of it in exile in Syria and Iran before returning to Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003). He may continue to give lip service to inclusivity but will not be any more serious this time around. Meanwhile, the Kurds used the recent chaos to take control of the Kirkuk, sometimes called the Kurds’ Jerusalem, a city of mixed Kurdish-Arab population whose future was supposed to have been settled by referendum in 2007 but was put off many times. In one fell swoop, the Kurds have now incorporated Kirkuk into their mini-state. Having oil resources, a strong security force (the capable pesh merga), and now their territorial demands met, the Kurds have no real desire to re-enter Iraqi politics in a meaningful way and want no part of the internecine struggle between Arab Sunnis and Arab Shia.
U.S. policymakers are trying to put Iraq back together again—Secretary Kerry implored the various factions to work toward Iraqi unity—but that ship has already sailed. At most, the U.S. can help prevent ISIL from taking Baghdad and the Shia south, but ejecting ISIL from the Sunni heartland is a much more difficult task, and getting the Kurds to buy into a new Iraqi government will be equally problematic. Ironically, the United States finds itself in common cause with Iran at this stage because the Iranians see ISIL, because of its anti-Shia agenda, as a threat as well.

On Egypt, Kerry’s June 2014 trip to Cairo, where he announced that held-up U.S. assistance would soon be released, underscored the predominance of security issues in the bilateral relationship. Although Kerry pressed Egyptian authorities to uphold “freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association,” and signaled that the United States would continue to speak out against human rights’ violations, the emphasis of the meetings seemed to suggest that the United States was no longer going to pursue punitive measures (such as suspending aid) on Egypt because Egypt was too important strategically to upset.

With much of the Middle East in turmoil and with a realization that the road to democracy is fraught with potholes and zero-sum politics, Washington has returned to a strategic-focused policy toward the region. The euphoria of 2011, when democracy seemed on the march against authoritarianism, has faded considerably. Washington will continue to press various regimes on political freedoms and inclusivity, but these issues will only be of secondary importance as security issues overwhelm all other concerns.

Gregory Aftandilian is an Associate of the Middle East Center here at UMass-Lowell, an adjunct faculty member at Boston University, and a Senior Fellow for the Middle East at the Center for National Policy in Washington, D.C. He worked as a Middle East analyst and a foreign policy advisor for the U.S. Government for over 21 years in such capacities as professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, foreign policy fellow for the late Senator Edward Kennedy, and Middle East analyst at the Departments of State and Defense. He has several publications on Middle East affairs, and has been interviewed by numerous media outlets, including Time Magazine, on U.S. policy toward the region. He holds a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College, an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago, and an M.S. in International Relations from the London School of Economics.
**Upcoming Events**

**Visiting Scholar: Dr. Irit Keynan**

The Middle East Center is proud to welcome Dr. Irit Keynan, Head of the Civil Responsibility Research Institute and Senior Lecturer at the Center for Academic Studies, Or Yehuda, Israel. She is an expert on war trauma and its impact on society, collective memory and peace education, and civic responsibility and the role of higher education. During her presentations at UMass Lowell, Dr. Keynan will discuss education for global citizenship, the dilemmas of national identity and culture in times of globalization, and how it influences human rights. She will also focus on the aspects of the responsibility of higher education to educate towards diversity. Dr. Keynan will present at the Graduate School of Education in addition to speaking with students and faculty at other campus presentations.

**Joint International Conference**

The Middle East Center at UMass Lowell is partnering with the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy for a joint international workshop on areas of recognition and transitions in the Middle East. This workshop will bring together top academics and intellectuals from the Middle East and United States to present papers on the topic and produce a summary report. The workshop is planned for Spring 2015 and will be held in Lowell.

**Art Gallery:**

**Lalla Essaydi: Beyond the Veil**

Tentative Dates of Exhibit: February 25 – March 20

Reception and Talk: Thursday, February 26

Professor Ellen Wetmore is organizing an art gallery of works by Lalla Essaydi. Lalla A. Essaydi grew up in Morocco and now lives in USA where she received her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/TUFTS University in May 2003. In much of her work, she returns to her Moroccan girlhood, looking back on it as an adult woman caught somewhere between past and present, and as an artist, exploring the language in which to “speak” from this uncertain space. Her paintings often appropriate Orientalist imagery from the Western painting tradition, thereby inviting viewers to reconsider the Orientalist mythology. “In my art, I wish to present myself through multiple lenses—as artist, as Moroccan, as traditionalist, as Liberal, as Muslim. In short, I invite viewers to resist stereotypes.”