

## Hassan Meer

One of the most prominent Omani artists whose work has found a home in Hussain's collection is Hassan Meer, whose contemporary work includes abstract paintings, installations, videos and photographs and digital art. A gifted artist from the time he was a teenager, Meer won prizes in local art competitions and later went on to study Fine Art at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, USA, where he got a both a BFA and an MFA. Meer's work is contemplative, introspective and reflective of the social changes around him. He ponders history, faith, and identity in his videos and photographs, where he often uses himself as a model. Meer's paintings, meanwhile, are naive and childlike in the most purposeful and intellectual way. The broad strokes and rough figures belie his ability to paint a perfectly realistic portrait, too.

Meer's work has been shown in galleries across the USA, Europe, Japan, and throughout the Middle East. He was voted one of the top six artists from Asia in 2013 in the Sovereign Art Foundation's annual Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Three of his photographs and one of his videos were included in an exhibition by L'Institut du Monde Arab called Contemporary Art: 25 Years of Arab Creativity, which brought together some of the finest modern Arab artists. His work has even been sold at auction houses including Christie's. Meer is more than an artist; he also believes that as an artist who has achieved success it's his responsibility to encourage the next generation of Omani artists. With financing from the Al Serkal family in Dubai, he opened Stal Gallery, an exhibition space and studio in Muscat which has workshops to help young artists. Hussain, naturally, is an ardent supporter of Stal Gallery, too, and a fan of Meer's work.

*"I have six of Hassan Meer's pieces, in my office and my home. He's grown so much as an artist. I have more of his work than other Omanis, since the time he started his work in cubism,"* he says of Meer's work.