

HOSTLER BURROWS



TAHER ASAD-BAKHTIARI (b. 1982)
Tribal Weave, 2015
gabbeh with kilim
95" x 59.5"

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Taher Asad-Bakhtiari

b. 1982

Taher Asad-Bakhtiari is a self-taught artist whose practice revolves around objects, textiles, and experiences, among others. Born in 1982, Asad-Bakhtiari studied in Canada and Switzerland, currently residing in Dubai and New York. His bodies of work explore his heritage, including the kilim weavings of the Bakhtiari tribe as well as oil barrels referencing his status as a part of the generation of "oil babies." Asad-Bakhtiari's "The Tribal Weave Project" is his attempt to revive and reinvent a disappearing cultural craft, while "Recovered Barrels" takes a ubiquitous sight throughout the Middle East, repurposing them yet retaining their multipurpose nature.

About his "Recovered Barrels," Asad-Bakhtiari explains, "Cleaned and all spruced up, the finished products are a cross between recycled art, environmental art, and upcycle. Each one is unique in style and color and continue to be multi-functional. Rescued from a fate of total destruction, the barrels tell a story of diversion, barter, overcoming resistance, metamorphosis, and recovery. As such, they stand as a testament to Iran's modern and torturous history: from riches to dust, from shiny new to battered and barely surviving, from frivolity to austerity and then slow re-conversion.... [they] stand as a subtle reminder that in a city of extremes, it is the simple things that tell the biggest stories."

Regarding his "Tribal Weaves," Asad-Bakhtiari states, "My tenuous yet deep-rooted connection with the Bakhtiari tribe motivates me to support this dying craft, and I draw inspiration from their unique artistic legacy... Kilims were true raw expressions of a tribe's outlook on beauty. With the demise of tribal life, that type of art has died. What has not is the technique, and I believe the survival of this craft goes through reinvention." For his kilim and the gabbeh pieces, Asad-Bakhtiari takes the fundamentals of the historical technique, stripping them down to reveal the lace-like texture of the underlying warp, as well as enhancing the traditional geometric shapes, emphasizing the design but also the uniqueness of the medium.

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TAHER ASAD-BAKHTIARI

B. 1982, Tehran

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 TEFAF New York Spring, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
Nomad St. Moritz, Carwan Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 2018 Nomad St. Moritz, Carwan Gallery, Samedan, Switzerland
Design Miami / Basel, Hostler Burrows, Basel, Switzerland
- 2017 Beirut Design Fair, Carwan Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
Nomad Monaco – Villa La Vigie, Carwan Gallery, Monaco
- 2016 The Pond House, Carwan Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon (Solo Exhibition)
One of a Kind: First Year Anniversary, Architectural Digest, Dubai, UAE
Design Days Dubai, WASL, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Design Days Dubai, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 Villa Paradiso, Carwan Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
Wallpaper* Middle East Revealed in Association with Dubai Design District,
London, UK
Reinvention: Dastan Outside the Basement, Tehran, Iran (Solo Exhibition)
Design Days Dubai, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 L'Ebeniste, Carwan Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
The Mosaic Rooms, London Design Festival, A.M. Qattan Foundation, London,
UK
Alaan Artspace, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Miart, The International Fair of Modern and Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018 "New Creatives: Taher Asad-Bakhtiari," Architectural Digest, October, pg. 104
Kwun, Aileen. "Textile Message," Surface, July / August, Issue 148, pg. 78-79
- 2017 Habib, Rania. "A Tribal Heart," Architectural Digest Middle East, pg. 78-81
- 2016 "AD + Vestiaire Collective, le meilleur de la décoration," Architectural Digest
France, October 14, pg. 22
Butterfield, Charlotte. "AD Tastemakers: Prince of Persia," Architectural Digest
Middle East, Spring, pg. 55-61 and 75
"Pond Memories," Cover: Carpets and Textiles for Modern Interiors, Autumn,
pg. 100-103
"Tisser la Laine et L'eau," L'Officiel Hommes, June, Numéro 66, pg. 212-214
Akel, Joseph. "Getting Knotty," Four Two Nine, Issue 07, pg. 162-163
"All For One," Architectural Digest Middle East, March / April, pg. 111
"Radar Trends: Modern Bedouin," Architectural Digest Middle East, pg. 49
"Boy Wonder," Harper's Bazaar Interiors, Spring, pgs. 64-69