



Essam Marouf, Untitled 3. 2014. 168x197cm

**GALLERY WARD DUBAI DESIGN DISTRICT
SELECTIONS FROM THE CONTEMPORARY EGYPTIAN ART SCENE**

Gallery Ward's brand new space in D3 opens with the third edition of this show originally developed for the gallery by artist and curator Ehab Ellaban in 2013. The exhibition features six leading contemporary artists from Egypt – Adel Tharwat, Ahmed Kassim, Armen Agop, Ayman Elsemary, Ayman Lotfy, and Essam Marouf. There's a lot of variety in style and media, but the gallery says they are all linked in identifying today's Egyptian aesthetic.

www.galleryward.com



Philip Mueller, Caferitter BFSB, 2015. Copyright the artist, image courtesy Carbon 12

**CARBON 12 ALSERKAL AVENUE, DUBAI
PHILIP MUELLER – DREAMS IN BLUE. THE YEAR PHILIP MUELLER DIDN'T WAKE UP
18 JANUARY – 6 MARCH 2016**

"My work is a constant trial of giving an imaginable coexistence to the extremes society creates," says long-term Carbon 12 artist Philip Mueller. This time it's the Black Flamingos, an imaginary gang with a hedonistic zeal to idolise themselves in portraits on surfboards (because you're not a real Black Flamingo until you have a portrait) ... yet they wear masks, and their pretensions are as unstable as the horses that so easily unseat their riders.

Mueller says the exhibition works as a dream-inspired road movie "about freedom, excess, deconstruction, swans and Michelangelo" (stylistically the bodies are based on his images). It's a dream world where motorcycle gangs meet dandies, but like most dreams it's a distorted view. There is something happening just outside the frame of this mashup of reality and imagination ...

Mueller does stories in paint; there's a lot going on in there. Carbon 12's last Mueller show two years ago had the glorious title *My Father was Many and I am Happy as a Sailor* and turned out to be a major success. This one shouldn't buck that trend.

carbon12dubai.com

Igor Shipilin, November – The Black Sea. 2013. 80x100cm

**N2N GALLERY NATION TOWERS, ABU DHABI
IGOR SHIPLIN
28 JANUARY – 2 MARCH**

Igor Shipilin paints the romance of his native country's landscape, "contemplative scenes of historical significance and nature" as the gallery puts it. He's embedded in the Crimean art scene, has been exhibiting actively since 1989, and says he's influenced by the late Crimean impressionist Feodor Zakharov – something of a poet in paint for the Ukrainian landscape. Expect an emotional show ...

www.n2n-gallery.com

