

EYE ON ART

AL-MAWAQIF: A PROFOUND VISION



@ Orient Gallery

Jamal Abdul Rahim is one of the most accomplished and highly regarded contemporary artists of Bahrain. He is an artist of profound creativity, displaying a mastery of many forms of art with a particular passion for sculpture. It is indeed difficult to explain what Jamal Abdul Rahim means to art. He is an oil painter, a print maker and a sculptor.

Abdul Rahim has earned global recognition for his work, exhibiting extensively in Europe and the Middle East. This award-winning artist builds his art from the influence of rich Arab civilization, its mythology, religion and language.

In his exhibition at Orient Gallery in May 2010,

Abdul-Rahim creates with his artwork a dialogue through his art book *Al-Mawaqif*, which is inspired by Al-Niffari, often considered an early Sufi. *Al-Mawaqif* itself is a fascinating collection of visionary poems. The standings referred to in the book have a rather subtle meaning in that each poem or chapter refers to a unique way in which Al-Niffari is made to stand by God.

Abdul Rahim's art book includes 10 graphic artworks printed by the artist, in addition to ten Arabic calligraphy texts taken from the *Al-Mawaqif* and reproduced in Arabic font by the Bahraini calligrapher Abdel Ellah Al-Arab. ■