

OCTOGONE
HOTELS
MOROCCO



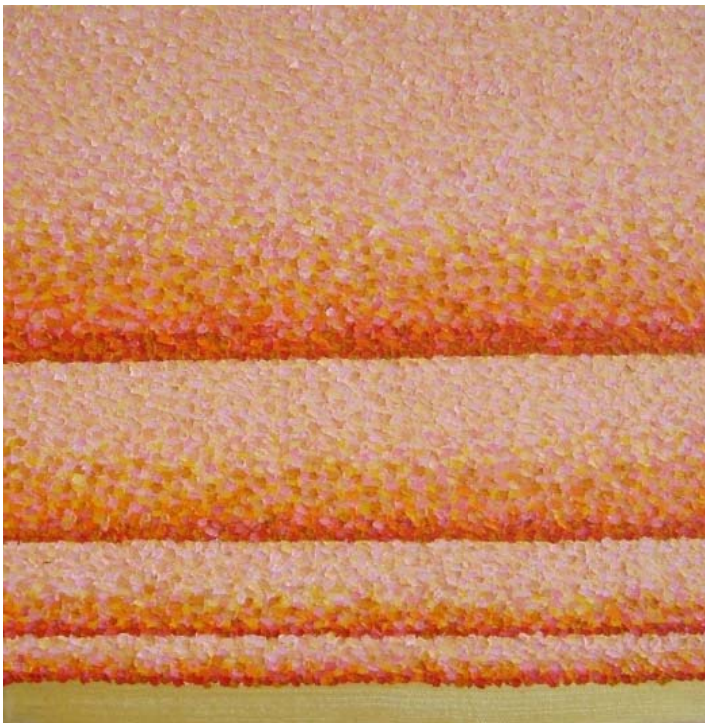
TERRE
RESORT & SPA
MARRAKECH

PRESS INFORMATION

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**ASCENSION EXHIBITION
MAY 4, 2009
TERRE RESORT & SPA ~ MARRAKECH**

Octogone hotels is pleased to welcome international artists Fareen Butt and Salima Raoui at Terre Resort and Spa for their first duo exhibition from May 4, 2009 thru June 30, 2009. Opening coctail reception in the presence of both artists at Milagros May 9, 2009 between 5 and 9 pm.



Fareen Butt
"Akasa"
Oil on Canvas
10 x 10 inches



Salima Luna Ghazzal Raoui
"Places of the Heart"
Acrylic
120cm x 40cm

The common thread of Raoui and Butt's work is the pursuit to capture the essence of spiritual and meditative states through each of the individual paintings. The works are heavily influenced by Sufi writings, and explore the potential of the spiritual state embodied in the artist as a metaphor for a creator. The works are very layered and meticulously created with a lot of concentration and attention to detail. Though the artists share a very vital and strong common thread with respect to color, form, and creative motivations, their individual aspirations can still be further explored.

Salima Raoui is an artist born in June 1961 in Meknes, Morocco. She has exhibited extensively and lived in Europe, Morocco, The West Indies, Turkey, Washington DC and New York City. Having schooled in Brussels, she is well versed in French Literature, Philosophy, Art History and Interior Design in Brussels, Belgium.

Raoui's works have certainly evolved over the years, moving from the sphere of the mantra to a more spontaneous celebration of the creative process. Her colors are bold, and her lines are solid. Texture becomes a landscape for figures that can sometimes be interpreted as symbol other times as a part of the gestalt expressionism embodied in the strokes and evidence of generated efforts on the canvas. Salima works to bring the subconscious to the conscious, and divine creation through the human process. The works are unplanned, and are created on the spot, and through a period of time that is dedicated to spontaneity and the genesis of her self as an artist/creator. As Raoui describes it: "In Your Light I learn how to love, In Your beauty how to make poems, you dance inside my chest, where no one sees you, but sometimes I do, and that sight becomes this art" (Rumi). If I should translate in words what I express in painting, those would be the very words I would choose. For they truly, deeply sum up the joy and enlightenment of creativity and spirituality. But most importantly it is about love and ability to accept Gods' energy and generosity. I have opened my heart and been taken to an amazingly enlightening journey.

Salima Raoui studied Interior Design and Art History in Brussels, Belgium and Fashion Business at the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. Raoui's paintings have been shown in many groups and solo shows all over New York and Morocco and are part of several international corporate collections. She has been reviewed in various publications including New York Times, Sotheby's Domain Magazine and has been exclusively featured on Moroccan T.V.- Journal Televisé 2M.

Salima's work is mentioned in "Sacred Calligraphy in Contemporary Art" by contributing chapter author Ayse Turgut in the edited volume **Word of God, Art of Man: The Qur'an and its Creative Expressions** (Oxford University Press)."

<http://www.salimaraoui.com/>
<http://www.salimaraoui.unblog.fr>

Fareen Butt is a Canadian born artist who currently lives in New York, and is a PhD candidate at Goldsmith College for the Arts 2012. She has lived and exhibited in New York, California, Cameroon, Germany, England, Pakistan, and India. Her current scholarly endeavors include further understanding the Vedas, and the writings of Surawardi, a sufi philosopher.

Butt's works are heavily embedded with tradition, across the spectrum from literal technique to

philosophical inspiration. The works are described as abstract, Nihonga pointilist. Nihonga describes the technique of material creation and usage of artists from the Buddhist, Hindu, Tao, and Shinto traditions from India to Japan from 800 AD onwards. Pigments are derived from precious and semiprecious stones and metals, and applied with great care onto the surface in specially prepared adhesive binders. Pointillism is a traditional Western art technique employed by the master Seurat, however, the color and light theories of which have been explored by Klimt, Monet, and the many Impressionist and Expressionists that create Modern Western Art as we know it today. In her works, Butt aims to create light and vibration intensity through usage of infinite colors. These works can be seen as a visual parallel to Surawardi's writings on Light, and the Vedic perspectives on creation.

<http://www.fareenbuttart.com>

The artists will be present at Terre Resort throughout the exhibition, and will be available for interviewing and discussion throughout the duration.

ABOUT TERRE RESORT & SPA

Octogone TERRE (Earth) Resort & Spa is a secluded luxury five-star getaway located at the doors of the famous palm grove "Palmeraie" just 7 kilometers outside of Marrakech and on the road to Casablanca.

Everything at TERRE -- from the architecture to the cuisine -- is an innovative blend of old and new enabling guests to step into the past and be immersed in true Moroccan style while being pampered with all imaginable present-day luxuries.

The 52-room luxury suite property is set on almost 12 acres of land in its own small village. Facilities include three restaurants, a full-service spa, an infinity pool, tennis courts, a fitness center, golf putting area, and access to a nearby world-class golf courses.

For reservations, call: +212 524334060 or (800) 915-4012.

For additional information visit: www.terre.com

ABOUT OCTOGONE HOTELS

Octogone Hotels was founded in 2001 by Mr. Christian Rivadalla with a vision to create a different luxury experience using the Moorish style of Hospitality and life. Octogone's new-trademarked "Budget Luxury" concept can be seen throughout all three of its brands. Whether Milagros Restaurants, Sultry Spas or Octogone Hotels you will soon learn a new way to enjoy your leisure time.

For additional information visit: www.octogonehotels.com or call or (480) 503-8022.

April 2009