

## THE LAST WORD

# JEFFAR KHALDI

Palestinian artist Jeffar Khaldi on the art mafia, Afghan war carpets, The Pink Panther and Velásquez.

**Five prerequisites for survival in the art world:** Money, patience, money, stamina and money.

**Looking back at my career in the art world, I wish I had:** Cared less.

**I wish people wouldn't be so:** Greedy.

**I was lost for words when:** I ran my first marathon.

**The art world's biggest crime is:** The art mafia.

**If there is one era I would go back to, it would be:** Prehistory.

**My biggest vanity is:** Myself.

**I will always say yes to:** A vacation.

**If I had to summarise in one word, I would say that art is:** Power.

**For inspiration, I go to:** My thoughts.

**I owe my success to:** God.

**The three things I look for in an artwork are:** Originality, quality and substance.

**My best art investment is:** My Afghan war carpets.

**The exhibition that left a big impact on me was:** *Pioneering Cubism* at the MoMA in 1989.

**My biggest vice:** Experimenting with anything.

**Bad art is:** Everywhere.

**The song I can listen to over and over again is:** Bauhaus's *Bela Lagosi's Dead*.

**I just don't understand:** The brain.

**If I weren't doing what I do, I would have been:** A magician.

**My favourite fictional character is:** The Pink Panther.

**The most overused art term is:** 'Interesting'.

**The artist I'd want my portrait created by:** Velásquez.

**I'd like people to remember my:** Big heart.

**Without art, the world would:** Not move forward.

**The actor who would play me in a movie about my life:** Hugh Jackman.

**The artwork I can stare at for hours:** *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* by Pablo Picasso.

**Creativity can be crushed by:** Arrogance.

**In the art world, it's never too late to:** Be too late. 



Image courtesy: the artist.