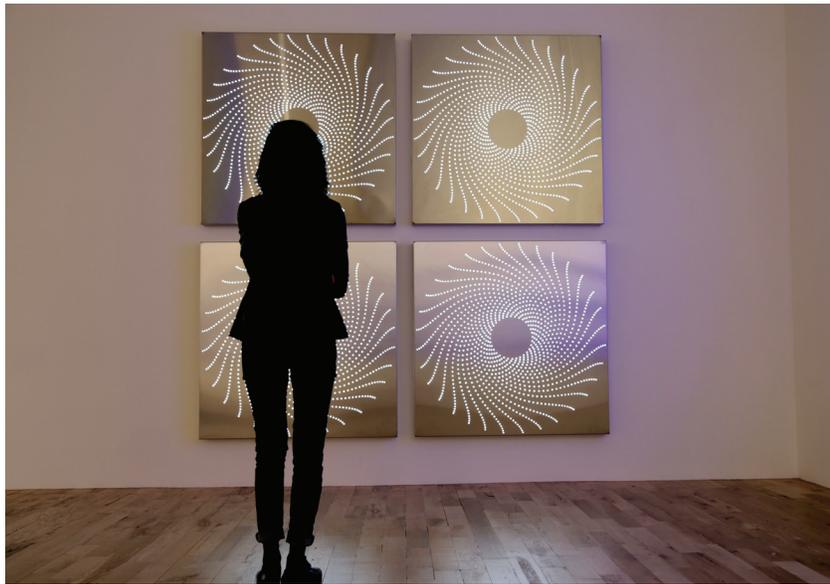


**The Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) Presents:
FOUND IN TRANSLATION: THE ART OF STEVEN NAIFEH**



Installation view: Steven Naifeh, *Uzbek XIII*, 2014. Photo by E.Lee Smith.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, March 3, 2014—The abstract art of the West and the geometric art of the Middle East unite harmoniously in the work of artist Steven Naifeh, whose tessellating paintings and sculptures explore an understanding of the spiritual origin and the purpose of beauty.

Found in Translation: The Art of Steven Naifeh, presented in collaboration with Leila Heller Gallery, is on view at the Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) Mana Contemporary from March 7 to August 1, 2014. The 17 large-scale works in the exhibition delight in their precise mathematical alignments of color, shape, and line. An opening reception will be held Saturday, May 10 from 1-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and transportation from Manhattan will be provided.

The son of American diplomats, Naifeh spent his childhood surrounded by the rich motifs and geometric patterns of diverse societies across the Middle East, including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, and the U.A.E. This unique upbringing, combined with deep scholarly knowledge and appreciation for the history of Western abstraction, has resulted in an extraordinary body of work that distills mathematical formulas to achieve decorative splendor. The first solo show by an American artist at MECA, Naifeh's exhibition synergizes the traditions of East and West, resulting in a rich body of work that is both timeless and contemporary, distant and familiar.

The show is complemented by an exhibit at Leila Heller Gallery from March 27-April 26, 2014.

ABOUT STEVEN NAIFEH:

Born in Iran in 1952 to American diplomats, Steven Naifeh lives and works in Aiken, South Carolina. He was the first artist ever to have a solo exhibition in Abu Dhabi, which was held in 1975 at the Embassy of the United States. His work has been exhibited at the Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC; the Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ; and the Consulate of the United States, Kaduna, Nigeria.

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY:

Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination with locations in Jersey City and Chicago. Studios, exhibition spaces, art services, and programming provide an unparalleled environment for creating and experiencing art. By exposing and exploring the artistic process, Mana Contemporary offers an exciting way to discover and learn about art while artists are enabled to experiment and collaborate across all disciplines, forms, and media.

For more information about Mana Contemporary, please visit www.manacontemporary.com.