

**ARABIC CALLI-GRAFFITI AND MECHANICAL ARTISTS, ASHEKMAN PRESENT
“ARAB GOLDEN AGE V.2.0” CELEBRATING ARAB CULTURE, SCIENTISTS AND
INNOVATION**

*Limited edition mechanical art pieces and installations will be on display from 12th December
2017 to 10th March 2018 at MB&F M.A.D.Gallery*

Dubai, UAE – 11th December, 2017: MB&F M.A.D.Gallery is proud to present Middle Eastern artists Omar Kabbani & Mohamed Kabbani, the Arabic calli-graffiti and mechanical art duo behind “Ashekman” at their first solo exhibition in the Middle East, entitled “Arab Golden Age V.2.0”. The period between the 8th and 13th century was the “golden age” of Arab civilization with Arab inventors, scientists and philosophers paving the way for new discoveries that led to the evolution of human civilization and “Arab Golden Age V.2.0” pays tribute to this pivotal period in Arab history. This will be Ashekman’s debut exhibition at MB&F M.A.D Gallery, before being showcased in Geneva and Taipei, and has been custom-curated for the mechanical and kinetic art platform that is synonymous with the MB&F M.A.D Gallery.

Showcasing five unique limited edition art pieces and installations that have been custom-created to underscore the valuable contributions of Arab culture and inventions, each piece has been crafted with a metal body and paired with Arabic calligraphy to highlight Arabic culture within a modern context. Considered amongst the early adopters of Arabic calligraphy in street art, Omar Kabbani and Mohamed Kabbani are twins that share a common goal of reviving Arabic culture using urban context. The exhibition will run from 12th December 2017 to 10th March 2018 and showcase the following pieces:

“Protect” combines "Khamsa", the hand of Fatima and hand of Miriam, which dates back to Mesopotamia, with a bionic robot eye, symbolizing a very powerful message, "preserve your past to protect your future".

“Rise” depicts the flying carpet in its true mechanical form. It pays tribute to Abbas ibn Firnas, an inventor, physician, chemist, engineer, musician, and Arabic-language poet who is renowned for his successful attempt at human flight in the 8th century in Andalusia.

Inspired by Ismail al-Jazari, the most outstanding mechanical engineer and father of robotics who lived in the 10th century. “Proceed” showcases mechanical gears carved with the saying "Time is gold" in calligraphy, emphasizes that time is valuable and any culture that respects time will flourish.

“Plan” is a literal metaphor of an old Arab proverb, "Time is like a sword, if you don't cut it, it will end up cutting you" and accents the blades of a chainsaw with Arabic calligraphy citing the famous saying.

“Lead” is the fifth and last mechanical artwork is the head of the influential Grendizer made from various mechanical parts, suggesting that no leader can survive without the support of his people – hence only the head is visualized.

“I stumbled upon Ashekman purely by chance two years ago – I was in Bur Dubai and came across an incredible Grendizer calli-graffiti that left me transfixed. Growing up I was fascinated by Grendizer, a Japanese anime television series and comic character and to see it here in Dubai was a great surprise and I wanted to meet the talent behind it. Thus started my fascination with the Ashekman collection. Not only are they incredibly talented but the philosophy driving them is rare and we are extremely proud to offer them a platform for their first ever mechanical art preview,” says Maximilian Büsser, Founder and Creator of the MB&F M.A.D.Gallery.

The Dubai M.A.D.Gallery is located at Alserkal Avenue, Street 8 in Al Quoz 1, Dubai and is open to the public from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm daily, Saturday to Thursday.

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About Ashekman:

Started in Beirut city in 2004, by identical twin brothers Omar & Mohamed Kabbani, ASHEKMAN is an Arabic street art crew specialized in Arabic graffiti and calligraffiti (and were) inspired by the Lebanese civil war graffiti, which first emerged during the 80s and 90s. They mixed their Graphic design degree with an Arabic context, which resulted in a Lebanese street art crew. The twins also studied Arabic calligraphy under master calligrapher, Ali Assi. Considered among the early adopters of Arabic calligraphy in street art, the twins’ main objective is to revive the Arabic culture using a urban context. Ashekman is now based in Dubai operating between both Dubai and Beirut. Their studio is located in Dubai Design District (d3).

About M.A.D.Gallery:

The MB&F M.A.D.Gallery is a captivating universe of kinetic art where Horological Machines and Mechanical Art Devices reign supreme. The first M.A.D.Gallery opened in 2011 in Geneva on Rue Verdaine, a stone’s throw from MB&F’s offices and atelier in the heart of the city’s old town. A second location opened in 2014 in Taipei then a third in Dubai in 2016. Inside the galleries, you have the pleasure of discovering carefully-curated pieces – or, as we like to call them, Mechanical Art Devices – from around the world, each one making your heart beat that little bit faster. You exhale, only then to find the complete range of MB&F Horological Machines and Legacy Machines.

About MB&F:

Based around one very simple and fundamental ideal: to assemble dedicated collectives of talented horological artisans, artists and professionals – all friends – to design and craft each year a radical and original horological masterpiece. By nurturing teams of talented individuals, harnessing their passion and creativity and crediting each individual's essential role, MB&F uses their synergy to become much greater than the sum of its parts. MB&F is above all a human adventure... a human adventure with just one goal: to create incredible horological machines. 12 years of hyper-creativity; 14 remarkable calibres forming the base of the critically acclaimed Horological Machines and Legacy Machines for which MB&F has become renowned.

About Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons:

Curators of time since 1950, Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons is the Middle East's most trusted destination for luxury watches and jewellery. Recognised today as a pioneer among the leading retailers in the region, the family owned-and-run company represents more than 60 luxury timepiece brands across 65 locations in the UAE.

An advocate of horology in the region's retail landscape, Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons continues to create sustainable platforms for watchmaking and servicing, supporting watch enthusiasts and collectors in the region to increase their passion and understanding of the art of timekeeping.

Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons prides itself in offering unparalleled customer service across pre and post-sale dimensions. Led by the passion and credibility of the second, third and fourth generations of Seddiqi family members, the organisation delivers a dynamic commitment to preserving and enhancing the preservation, creation and innovation of watchmaking for decades to come.

www.seddiqi.com

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