As the capital city of Qatar, Doha has undergone many transformations from its early beginnings during the pearl fishing era, through to the discovery of oil and then gas, to become the emerging global hub that we know today. As a result of this rapid and accelerated development, questions and issues related to cultural identity, the built environment and urban landscape are highly contested and debated. Qatar Mirror engages with these complex issues in which the physical built environment is continually changing and dramatically affecting the sense of cultural identity.

Qatar Mirror aims to stimulate local and national dialogue regarding the importance of the preservation of traditions embodied in the urban landscape and social fabric, alongside the desire for modernization and economic growth. Artists Ben Barbour and Michael Perrone investigate Qatar’s built environment and cultural heritage. They re-examine conventional drawing and painting techniques in documenting the evolution of the city, and reflect on preserved locations, places in transition, and imagined futures.

The visual language of Perrone’s artworks call to mind the Precisionist style, which first emerged in the United States after World War I, and was a celebration of the industrialization and modernization of the new American cityscape. Barbour’s artworks are concerned with issues of everyday life, and the social and cultural memories of the changing urban landscape in the zones that are scheduled for re-development. Qatar Mirror brings together these divergent viewpoints with an aim to stimulate debate on issues surrounding identity, community and modernization in Qatar.

Alkindi Al Jawabra
Student Center Art Gallery
Hamad bin Khalifa University

The HBKU Student Center Art Gallery is proud to present the exhibition: Qatar Mirror
2 November 2014 – 1 January 2015
MICHAEL PERRONE

Drive-by Doha, Acrylic on aluminum, 91 x 121 cm, 2014
Study for Stacked Block Sculpture I, Colored pencil on paper, 42 x 30 cm, 2014
Study for Stacked Block Sculpture II, Colored pencil on paper, 42 x 30 cm, 2014

Stacked Blocks I & II, White marble, 29 x 26 x 45 cm, 2014
Stacked Block Off-Cut, White marble, 32 x 56 x 7 cm, 2014
BEN BARBOUR

**Block Sculpture**, Marble, 28 x 36 x 25 cm, 2014

**Steps**, Marble, 38 x 48 x 19 cm, 2014

MICHAEL PERRONE

**Zig Zag**, Acrylic on aluminum, 109 x 121 cm, 2014
BEN BARBOUR
Ras Laffan, Dry Docks, Marker pen, colored pencil on paper, 46 x 60 cm, 2013

MICHAEL PERRONE
Ras Laffan, Laser-etched paper, 45 x 61 cm, 2014
MICHAEL PERRONE

Construction Wall I, Oil on canvas, 228 x 132 cm, 2014

Construction Wall II, Oil on canvas, 228 x 132 cm, 2014
Stacked Flattened Boxes, Jaidah Tower, Archival digital print, 70 x 70 cm, 2014
Stacked Boxes, Asmakh, Archival digital print, 70 x 70 cm, 2014

Abandoned Mattress and Bedframe, Archival digital print, 70 x 70 cm, 2014
MICHAEL PERRONE

Fake Venice, Doha, Acrylic on aluminum, 60 x 60 cm, 2014

BEN BARBOUR

Michael & Mariah’s Flat, The Pearl, Marker pen, colored pencil, erasing fluid on paper, 30 x 30 cm, 2014
BEN BARBOUR

Ansari House Interior, Marker pen, colored pencil, erasing fluid on paper, 60 x 60 cm, 2014

Empty Building Drawn from the Roof of the Msheireb Arts Center, Marker pen, colored pencil, erasing fluid on paper, 45 x 60 cm, 2014

MICHAEL PERRONE

Fuwairit Interior, Acrylic on aluminium, 60 x 60 cm, 2014
BEN BARBOUR  


Ben Barbour is the curator at the Msheireb Arts Centre (MAC) in Doha, Qatar, and a practicing artist. He recently travelled on a Q-Flex LNG tanker from Ras Laffan, Qatar, to the South Hook LNG terminal in Milford Haven, Wales, documenting the trip through a series of drawings as part of the QatarUK 2013 Year of Culture. Ben also facilitated the QatarUK 2013 Artists’ Exchange and Residency, bringing recent Slade graduates to Doha to work alongside emerging Qatari artists.

Ben has a BA Hons Degree in Fine Arts, First Class, The Slade School of Fine Art, London (’98), a Secondary PGCE in Art & Design, Institute of Education, London (’06), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Drawing, the Prince’s Drawing School, London (’07). He was awarded the Mary Ritschgitz prize by the Slade committee (’98), and given the Richard Ford Travel Award (’07).

MICHAEL PERRONE

b. 1966, Jersey City, NJ, USA

Michael Perrone is an American painter originally from Jersey City, New Jersey. In 1989, he graduated from Muhlenberg College with a degree in Russian Studies and Political Science. He went on to study art and art education at The School of The Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, and in 2004 received an MFA in Painting from The University of Pennsylvania.

From 2004 - 2010, Perrone was an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City. In 2005, he was included in The Des Moines Art Center’s Iowa Artists Exhibition. In 2006 Perrone mounted his first solo show: Home and Away, at Michael Steinberg Fine Art in New York. Perrone’s work has appeared in: The New Yorker, Elle Decor, D at home, and Time Out New York. The Last Picture Show, exhibited in 2008, was Perrone’s second solo exhibition at Michael Steinberg Fine Art.

Perrone comes to Doha from Richmond, Virginia, where he was an Assistant Professor in the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University.
SPECIAL THANKS

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