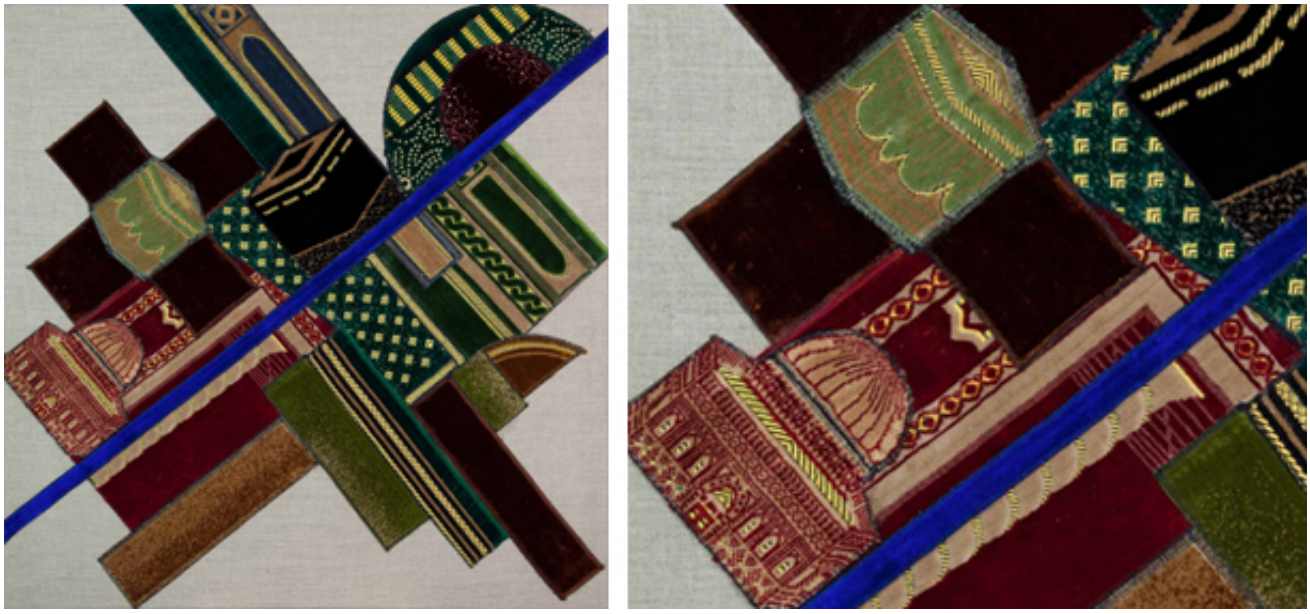
7. | Modern Therapy 01



2014-2015, collage with prayer rugs on canvas, 80 x 80 cm.
Exhibition view from Art Brussels, Keitelman Gallery, 2015, Brussels.
Courtesy of the artist.

Modern Therapy est une série continue d'œuvres en textile que mounir fatmi a entreprise en 2014. Elle consiste actuellement de trois œuvres, chacune construite de petits morceaux de tapis de prière, reconfigurés et cousus pour en faire des collages complexes et abstraits. fatmi utilise ces tissus d'une façon surprenante, en sélectionnant des petits bouts en couleur et dotés de motifs, parfois en brocart et avec texture. Y provient parfois l'image d'un minaret ou de la Kaaba : c'est le seul leitmotiv culturel qui en ressort, employé de façon à en faire des œuvres somptueuses et précieuses.

Modern Therapy s'inspire des mouvements modernistes comme le constructivisme, le cubisme et le suprématisme. Des artistes tels que Malevitch ou Kurt Schwitters, passionnés par l'idée de construire une vision, et qui furent autant engagés dans la politique que dans les enjeux esthétiques de leur travail, sont des sources perpétuelles d'autorité et d'attention pour fatmi. La « therapy » de l'œuvre, d'où le titre, se trouve dans le souvenir, la lecture ou dans l'acte de créer dans l'esprit moderniste un antidote à la vitesse et l'instantanéité que l'on trouve dans la culture contemporaine d'aujourd'hui.

Si l'imagerie des ces collages évoque une vision moderniste, la profondeur et la tridimensionnalité de chaque œuvre reconfirme que quant à la communication, l'abstraction reste un outil intemporel et puissant. Dans ces trois premières œuvres, des formes architectoniques donnent une impression de mouvement perpétuel, comme s'ils s'étendaient vers le haut et vers l'extérieur. Dans une de ces pièces, un rectangle bleu roi pénètre un rectangle bordeaux profond, donnant l'impression qu'avec l'impact, l'angle s'est replié

Modern Therapy is an ongoing series of textile-based works by mounir fatmi that began in 2014. There are currently three pieces, each constructed using cut up fragments of Muslim prayer rugs, which are then re-configured and sewn into intricate, abstract collages. fatmi uses this material in a surprising way, selecting small pieces of colors and patterns, some with brocade and texture. Occasionally an image of a minaret or the Kaaba appear in the design, the only cultural reference of the material used to create these very sumptuous, jewel-like pieces.

Modern Therapy takes its inspiration from early modernist movements like Constructivism, Cubism and Suprematism. For fatmi, artists like Malevitch or Kurt Schwitters, who were passionate about constructing a vision and who were engaged in political as well as aesthetic challenges in their work, are continued sources of reference and relevance in his work. The therapy found in the title, is in remembering, reading, or creating in the spirit of modernism, an antidote to the speed and immediacy found in contemporary culture today.

If the imagery of these collages evoke a Modernist vision as well, the depth and three-dimensionality of each piece reconfirms that abstraction remains a timeless and powerful tool of communication. In the first three works in this series, architectural forms feel set in motion as if they were expanding up and outwards. In one, a royal blue rectangle penetrates a deep burgundy rectangle which gives the impression that its corner has folded over the edge in impact. In another an electric blue diagonal line divides the canvas into an above ground city from its roots. In the lower left of another collage, there is a small fragment with long, thin lines

sur le bord. Dans une autre, une diagonale bleue électrique divise la toile en deux, pour faire une ville hors sol qui pousse de ses racines. Dans la partie gauche inférieure d'un autre collage, on voit une petite partie tracée avec des lignes longues et fines qui évoquent la forme d'une guitare, comme dans un des premiers collages cubistes de Picasso ou de Braque.

Par la transformation de ces tapis de prières simples et produits en masse que l'on trouve à Paris, destinés aux moments de prières tranquilles, en œuvres exposées partout dans le monde, Modern Therapy mêle plusieurs mondes, de cet effondrement du temps et des frontières tiré du mouvement moderniste, au domaine borné de la religion et de ses accoutrements, jusqu'à la culture contemporaine et son marché mondial.

Blaire Dessent, février 2016.

that calls to mind the placement of a guitar seen in an early cubist collage by Picasso or Braque.

Through the transformation of simple, mass produced prayer rugs found in Paris and meant for moments of quiet prayer, into an artwork exhibited around the world, Modern Therapy bridges multiple worlds at once; It suggests a collapsing of time and borders from Modernist history, the insular realm of religion and its accoutrements, and contemporary culture and the marketplace.

Blaire Dessent, Februrary 2016.

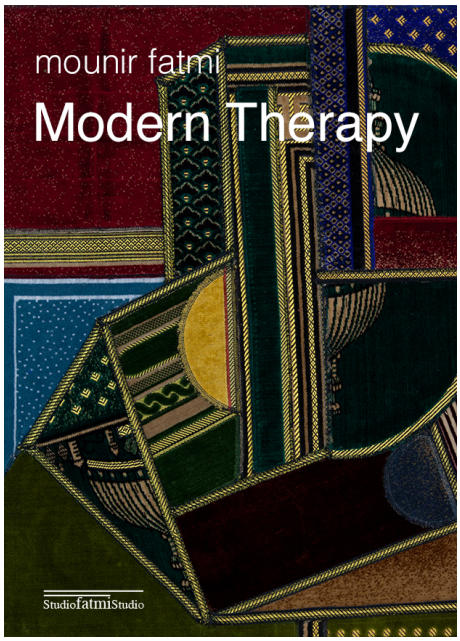
" Through the transformation of simple, mass produced prayer rugs found in Paris and meant for moments of quiet prayer, into an artwork exhibited around the world, Modern Therapy bridges multiple worlds at once. "

Blaire Dessent, February 2016

exhibitions:

2015

Art Brussels - Keitelman Gallery - Art fair



Modern Therapy

Modern Therapy takes its inspiration from early modernist movements like Constructivism, Cubism and Suprematism. For fatmi, artists like Malevitch or Kurt Schwitters, who were passionate about constructing a vision and who were engaged in political as well as aesthetic challenges in their work, are continued sources of reference and relevance in his work.



Modern Therapy

Fatmi uses this material in a surprising way, selecting small pieces of colors and patterns, some with brocade and texture. Occasionally an image of a minaret or the Kaaba appear in the design, the only cultural reference of the material used to create these very sumptuous, jewel-like pieces.





Modern Therapy

The therapy found in the title, is in remembering, reading, or creating in the spirit of modernism, an antidote to the speed and immediacy found in contemporary culture today. If the imagery of these collages evoke a Modernist vision as well, the depth and three-dimensionality of each piece reconfirms that abstraction remains a timeless and powerful tool of communication.

Modern Therapy

Through the transformation of simple, mass produced prayer rugs found in Paris and meant for moments of quiet prayer, into an artwork exhibited around the world, Modern Therapy bridges multiple worlds at once.



It suggests a collapsing of time and borders from Modernist history, the insular realm of religion and its accoutrements, and contemporary culture and the marketplace.