



Rashid Al Khalifa, 1968
Zallaq, Kingdom of Bahrain
Courtesy of Rashid Al Khalifa

Right:
Rashid Al Khalifa, 2016
Riffa Majlis, Riffa,
Kingdom of Bahrain
Photo by Manfred Erber

In this phase, Rashid began to consider and equate, to an even greater extent, the susceptibility, mechanics and geometric processes involved in certain aspects of the designs and architecture he visualized in Bahrain's ever-changing landscapes. He quickly began to incorporate these findings into his practice. The incandescent, smooth lacquer surfaces seen in much of his 2010–2011 work demonstrates his affinity for symmetry and balance in form and purpose. By late 2011, Rashid took this further by experimenting with chrome which allowed him to paint over, manipulate and warp reflections of his environment. This body of work was showcased in solo exhibitions the following year at the Bahrain Financial Harbour, Manama (2012), Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon (2012) and Abu Dhabi Art, UAE (2012).

In May 2015 the artist officially participated in the 56th Venice Biennale, in both the *Nomi/Names* joint exhibition and a collateral event, *The Eye of the Thunderstorm: Effervescent Practices from the Arab World*, commissioned by the Contemporary Practices Journal. This was followed with his participation in an Arab delegation of artists to Brazil for the TRIO Biennial dedicated to three-dimensional art. Around this time Rashid's convex surfaces took on textured layers of aluminium, which he manipulated or excised to reveal layering underneath. In doing so, he abandoned the painterly style of previous years to allow for a pristine and symmetrical facade. These structural features, as well as his move towards Minimalism, directed his new focus on elemental forms of design and their receptiveness to light and consequent shadows. In 2018, the artist presented a solo show at Ayyam Gallery in Dubai, UAE, entitled *Hybrids*, which showcased this transition with a selection of works created between 2015–2017. In the same year, this fresh and innovative approach defined his *Parametrics* series of large-scale installations that premiered, to international acclaim, in a major solo exhibition entitled *Penumbra: Textured Shadow, Coloured Light* at the Saatchi Gallery in London.

Rashid Al Khalifa's latest work continues to explore the myriad dynamics of light and colours that are characteristic to Bahrain's geographical and cultural diversity. His current interests lie in the interaction of these properties to further inform his bold interpretations of his cultural heritage. Through splendidly commanding structures, comprising meticulous forms and complex designs, Rashid's art practice stands as a contemporary tribute to traditional Middle Eastern design and architecture.

