

ARTIST BIOS

Attn. Suzanne Zahr

Nov 17th, 2023

غاليري زاوية
ZAWYEH GALLERY

HOSNI RADWAN

Hosni Radwan was born in Baghdad in 1955. He studied fine arts at the University of Baghdad, specializing in graphics. He held a number of solo exhibitions in Iraq, Lebanon, Cyprus, Japan, and Palestine. Radwan took part in international biennales, including those of Berlin, Cairo, and Sharjah. He left Baghdad in 1979 and headed to Beirut, where he worked in graphic design and journalism while continuing to draw and paint, using his talents to express his position vis-à-vis the cause of his people. Radwan's works have special characteristics as they do not include realistic or political imitations. He seeks to photograph the external world in all of its spaces and its various states and situations, using techniques that go beyond color and different materials, thus forming a world of his own. Details of the scenes in Baghdad have played a major role in his artistic experience, inspiring his work that has spanned over 25 years of ongoing production.

Radwan has exhibited widely, and his solo shows have been held in cities including Tunis (1993); Tokyo (1985); Nicosia (1983); Ramallah (2003,2002,1997); Baghdad (2001), and Kuwait (2008). Radwan lives and works in Holland.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

- The British Museum (London, UK)
- Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan)
- Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar)
- Imago Mundi Collection (Treviso, Italy)
- Dar El-Nimer (Beirut, Lebanon)
- Jordan National Museum (Amman, Jordan)
- Clifford Chance (Dubai, UAE)
- Ministry of Culture (Ramallah, Palestine)
- Birzeit University Museum (Birzeit, Palestine)
- Yasser Arafat Museum (Ramallah, Palestine)
- Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre (Ramallah, Palestine)

NABIL ANANI

(b. 1943, Latroun, Palestine) Nabil Anani is a key founder of the contemporary Palestinian art movement. Anani studied Fine Art at Alexandria University, Egypt, in 1969. On his return to Palestine, he began a career as an artist and an art instructor at the UN college in Ramallah. Anani held his first exhibition in Jerusalem in 1972 and has since exhibited widely in solo and group shows in Europe, North America, the Middle East, North Africa, and Japan. His works can be found in many museums and private collections.

As a multi-talented artist, Anani is a painter, ceramicist, and sculptor. He pioneered the use of local media such as leather, henna, natural dyes, paper-mâché, wood, beads and copper, and other materials. Over the past four decades, he has built an impressive catalogue of outstanding, innovative, and unique art. Anani is also the co-author of a number of books on Palestinian arts and folklore. He was awarded the first Palestinian National Prize for Visual Arts in 1997 by Yasser Arafat. He was the head of the League of Palestinian Artists and played a key role in the establishment of the first International Academy of Fine Art in Palestine. In 2006, Anani was awarded the prestigious King Abdallah II Arab World Prize for Fine Art. He lives and works between Ramallah and Dubai.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

- The British Museum (London, UK)
- Tate Modern (London, UK)
- The Bunker Art Space Museum (Florida, USA)
- Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris, France)
- Imago Mundi Collection (Treviso, Italy)
- Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)
- Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- ADMAF Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar)
- Dar El-Nimer (Beirut, Lebanon)
- Jordan National Museum (Amman, Jordan)
- The Agha Khan Museum (Toronto, Canada)
- Palestine Museum US (CT, USA)

YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Yazan Abu Salameh explores the production and consumption of cement in the Palestinian case under occupation. In his works, he protests and rejects what has become of the Palestinian towns as a result of occupation; the loss of public and green spaces.

The melancholy of the urban environment and the overwhelming presence of concrete as a byproduct of military occupation overshadows his artworks. He works with ink and collage creating an effect of sections from the separation wall and other military structures. He presents boxes packed with congested buildings with little white windows as a representation of the densely built-up environment in Palestinian towns, which are restricted from natural expansion. Those boxes are left partly open as if the towns desire to escape confinement. The cardboard texture and colors, build a striking connection between the sun in the sky and these boxes as well as the separation wall as if a conversation between these elements is taking place. Abu Salameh uses a variety of mediums and presents circles that act as a magnifying glass, or perhaps an indication of an unstoppable process of urbanization.

Yazan Abu Salameh was born in 1993 in Jerusalem. He studied Fine Arts at Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem in 2011. He participated in several workshops including scenography at Al-Quds College in Beit Jala. He taught art at several community centers including at Aidya Refugee Camp in Bethlehem.

Abu Salameh has participated in several group exhibitions in Palestine, Jordan, and the UAE. He won the third prize in the competition "Let's Make it Glow" which allowed him to exhibit in Italy in a group exhibition held by Turin Municipality in 2019. He participated in Ramallah Art Fair (2023 & 2022 & 2021) and Art Dubai (2023 & 2021) with Zawyeh Gallery. His first solo exhibition titled Cemented Sky debuted on the gallery's premises at Alserkal Avenue in Dubai. He currently lives and works in Bethlehem.

BASHAR ALHROUB

Born in Jerusalem in 1978, currently living and working in Ramallah. Bashar Alhroub graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from Al-Najah National University, Palestine in 2001. He was awarded the Ford Foundation fellowship

to pursue an MFA, which he completed in 2010 from the Winchester School of Art, the University of Southampton in the UK. In 2012, Alhroub was awarded the first grand prize at the 14th Art Asian Biennial, Bangladesh.

Alhroub works with a variety of media including photography, video installation, drawing, and paintings. His work directly deals with the polemics of a place, questioning its role in humanity and its influence on creativity. His work is deeply influenced by the socio-political sentiments that assert his identity as well as his desire to belong to a social and cultural community; rooted in a particular place, Alhroub constantly longs for a feeling of attachment, a sense of significant ownership of that place.

More recently, his work began to engage with the search into the self. Using the body as a signifier, his work shows the threatened self-identity through the process of scrutiny and experimentation. The work deals with personal vulnerability and experience of existential anxiety strongly associated with issues such as religion, nationalism, conflict, and identity construction. Moreover, it looks for meaning, not in the individual sign, but in the context of exile and fragmentation.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Imperial War Museum (London, UK)
Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris, France)
The Paul Valéry Museum (Sète, France)
Art Omi (NY, USA)
Imago Mundi Collection (Treviso, Italy)
Bengal National Gallery (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
China Printmaking Museum (Shenzhen, China)
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)
Birzeit University Museum (Birzeit, Palestine)
A.M. Qattan Foundation (Ramallah, Palestine)
Contemporary Art Platform (Kuwait City, Kuwait)
HH Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum Collection (Dubai, UAE)
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)

JACK PERSEKIAN

Jack Persekian (born 1962) is a Palestinian artist and curator from Jerusalem. He is the founder and Director of Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art and Gallery Anadiel in Jerusalem. He previously held the position of Director and Head Curator of the Palestinian Museum (2012–2015); Founding Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation (2009–2011); Artistic Director of the Sharjah Biennial (2007–2011); Head Curator of the Sharjah Biennial (2004–2007); Founder and Artistic Director of The Jerusalem Show (2007–present), and Qalandiya International (2012-14). Jack Persekian currently lives and works in Saudi Arabia.

(See Jerusalem Quarterly's Issue No.77 on Persekian's Past Tense Research)

SLIMAN MANSOUR

Born in 1947, in Birzeit, Palestine, Sliman Mansour studied fine art at the Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem. Mansour is known for his 1973 work *Camel of Hardship* depicting an old porter carrying Jerusalem on his back. Mansour has tailored his comprehensive portfolio around the Palestinian struggle, portraying peasants and women in traditional dress in his early work. During the first Intifada against Israeli occupation (1987 – 1993)

Mansour and other artists in the 'New Vision' art movement started in 1987 boycotted Israeli supplies. Instead, Mansour used local materials like mud and henna in his work.

Sliman Mansour draws inspiration from the subject of the olive tree and has focused on the theme of 'land' since 1970. His recent work is centered on the individual figure to convey the 'different states of exhausting anticipation or loss,' resulting from his experience of living under the occupation.

Sliman Mansour has held solo exhibitions in Ramallah, New York, Sharjah, Cairo, Gaza, and Stavanger, Norway. His group exhibitions include the Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow (1980), Palestinian Spring, Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem, 1985; New Visions, Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, 1991; Made in Palestine, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas, 2003; and Contemporary Graphic Art in the Arab World, Nabad Gallery, Amman, 2010. In 1998 he received the Palestine Prize for the Visual Arts at the Cairo Biennial.

Mansour's work can be found in international private and public collections, including, the Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE), Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar), Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris, France), Jordan National Museum (Amman, Jordan), Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE), Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan), Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE), Dar El-Nimer (Beirut, Lebanon), Birzeit University Museum (Birzeit, Palestine), The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit, Palestine), and Um Al Fahem Museum (Um Al Fahem, Occupied Palestine).

SHADA SAFADI

Shada Safadi is a visual artist born in Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan Heights. She finished a two-year class in painting and etching at Adham Ismail Institute in Damascus in 2003, before she joined the Department of Arts at Damascus University, from which she graduated with a degree in fine arts in 2005. Safadi is a founding member of Fateh Al Mudarris Center for Arts and Culture, in the occupied Golan. Safadi won the 3rd prize in the A.M. Qattan Foundation's Young Artist of the Year Award for her series of paintings, In the Presence of the Crow in 2008. Her work has been a part of several group exhibitions in Syria, Palestine, Sweden, and the UK, including; "Fragile Bodies" in the Mosaic Rooms, A.M. Qattan Foundation in London (2009), and Khalil Sakakini Center's Open Studio Program (2009 and 2010), "Golan Spring" in the French Cultural Center in Jerusalem (2012), Golamea project in Gallery Konsthögskolan in Sweden (2013), and she began her participation in the Syrian Cultural Caravan in 2014.

She also participated in the "Cité Internationale Des Arts" art residency in Paris, France (2014). She has also participated in multiple solo exhibitions including a solo exhibit at Fateh Al Mudarris Center in 2006. She currently lives and works between Majdal Shams in occupied Golan Heights and Ramallah, Palestine.

KHALED HOURANI

Khaled Hourani (b. Hebron, Palestine, 1965) is a prominent Palestinian artist. He was the Artistic Director of the International Academy of Art Palestine from 2007 – 2010 and its General Director from 2010 to 2013. He also worked as General Director of the Fine Arts Department in the Palestinian Ministry of Culture (2004 – 2006). In 2013, he was awarded the Leonore Annenberg Prize, Creative Time for Art and Social Change in New York City. In 2014, he organized his first retrospective at the CCA in Glasgow and Gallery One in Ramallah, followed by a retrospective exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan, in 2017.

Hourani was the initiator of the 2011 Picasso in Palestine Project and The Stone Distance to Jerusalem project. He has participated in several exhibitions, including the Sharjah Biennial, 2011; an exhibition at the Times Museum in Guangzhou, China, 2012; the 2nd CAFA Biennale Museum in Beijing, 2013; DOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel and KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin; Catastrophe and the Power of Art at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017; and more recently in Picasso and Spanish exile at Museum of Modern Art, Toulouse, France, 2019. Hourani is also known as a notable art critic, writer and curator, overseeing many exhibitions in Palestine and abroad. He lives and works in Ramallah.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

The Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, Netherlands)
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)
Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan)
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)
Birzeit University (Birzeit, Palestine)
Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit, Palestine)
Umm Al-Fahem Museum (Um Al Fahem, Palestine)

RAFAT ASAD

Rafat Asad was born in Nablus in 1974. He received his BA degree in fine art from Al-Najah University in 1998. Although he is a multidisciplinary artist producing sound and light installations, videos, and performances. Asad describes himself as a painter first and foremost. Starting as an abstract painter, his work has evolved to focus on the Palestinian landscape.

He has participated in group exhibitions in Palestine, Europe, Japan, the US and the Arab world. Asad's works have been shown in three solo exhibitions at a variety of venues including Nablus, Ramallah, and London.

FUAD ALYAMANI

Fuad Alyamani was born in Ramallah in 1996. He is a visual artist of Yemeni origin. He graduated from Birzeit University in 2021 with a BA degree in Contemporary Visual Arts. He participated and volunteered in a variety of youth institutions and groups interested in social creative activities. He resided and taught at Konstfack University in Sweden in 2022.

Al-Yamani participated in a number of exhibitions in Palestine, most notably the Ismail Shammout exhibition in Bethlehem in 2018 and "Take My Hand, You Impossible" at Zawyeh Gallery in Ramallah. Alyamani participated in international exhibitions, such as the Arab Forum for Fine Artists in Cairo and Tangiers, Morocco in 2017-2018, the Comics Festival in Amman and Cairo in 2019, and an exhibition in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 2015. He won first place in the WHO competition award in 2014. Alyamani worked on a number of art and mural projects in Palestinian cities in cooperation with municipalities and a group of artists. He is currently working on producing murals and digital paintings.

ALAA ATTOUN

Attoun was born in Amman, Jordan in 1994. He received his BA in Contemporary Arts from Dar Al-Kalima University for Arts and Culture in Bethlehem. He worked as an art constructor in schools in Jerusalem, as well as an art coordinator at Al-Markaz Contemporary Art Gallery, Jerusalem. He assisted in installing several exhibitions held in Ramallah and Jerusalem. Attoun draws using pencil as the main method, constantly researching his relationship with the place and focusing on telling stories in his artworks. Through his hyperrealism style, he dives deep into his subjects, reflecting souls and incredible emotions.

Attoun participated in group exhibitions, including WHERE TO?, an exhibition of the winning works of Ismail Shammout Fine Art Award, Fifth Edition, Dar Al-Kalima, 2019; Dream exhibition, Al-Markaz Contemporary Art Gallery, Jerusalem, 2018; Imago Mundi project exhibition, Mediterranean Routes, Palermo, Italy, 2017. He won third place in the third edition of Karima Abboud competition for photography organized by Dar Al-Kalima, Bethlehem. He was also part of a performance by the Iranian-Canadian artist Gita Hashemi, Beit Jala in 2016. He also participated in the Hidden Dimensions exhibition, as part of the Art and Resistance Conference in 2016. Currently, Attoun is working as a teaching assistant at Dar Al-kalima College.

“This is how I see my Kufiyah” by Issam Al-Haj Ibrahim

I constantly envision the Palestinian Kufiyah as a symbol of the resilience and fragrance of the land, representing an unwavering group of Palestinian people united by a common ambition – the pursuit of dignity and freedom.

“This is how I see my Kufiyah” serves as a reminder that cultural symbols can carry powerful messages, and it highlights the tenacity and unity of people who share a common goal. This artwork inspires hope and admiration for the resilience embodied in the Kufiyah.

Issam Al-Haj Ibrahim, born in the UAE in 1982, is a Palestinian artist with a natural talent for creativity. His artistic journey began at a young age, leading to exhibitions and recognition in countries like the UAE, Lebanon, and Kuwait.

Supported by his father, Issam’s artistry blossomed, and he collaborated in exhibitions across GCC countries, India, and Lebanon. With a diverse educational background in architecture, graphic design, marketing, and advertising, Issam’s professional journey led him to roles as art and creative director in multinational agencies like TBWA, U&R, and Leo Burnett.