



**TAYSEER
BARAKAT**
SPIRITUAL PATH

13 November 2021 —
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Zawyeh Gallery - Unit 27
Alserkal Avenue

ZAWYEH GALLERY

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In Spiritual Path, Tayseer Barakat transcends beyond the materialistic world. He takes a journey to explore people and landscapes through a mystical lens, bringing an extraordinary dimension to his art. Barakat whose style reminds of prehistoric cave art uses acrylic on canvas to create artworks infused with the essence of life.

In this exhibition, he touches upon metaphorical rituals, intimate moments, memories, and magical landscapes. The artworks show his perspective of the world as a spiritual place, and accordingly, they are shaped by deep mystical feelings stemming from a vision of an ideal place he imagines, rather than the actual harsh world of politics, traumas, and injustices that does exist. The exhibition speaks of the relevance of imagining an un-materialistic world in an era dominated by political upheavals and instability.

His characters look like divine beings appearing in sacred auras. Some are hidden around his canvases in tangled lines or around the intricate calligraphy he creates while others dominate the middle of the artworks practicing rituals, dancing, playing music, experiencing intimate moments, or even flying. His figures are ghostly and ethereal with certain fragile and delicate souls. Frames of images from memory occupy a few artworks backgrounds, yet in most of the works, dreamy landscapes dominate. He creates different textures on his canvases, using various techniques, which contribute to infusing the dream-like atmosphere around his characters.

Barakat's series of landscapes in this exhibition are remarkable and unique to Palestinian art. They are surreal and dreamlike. He paints a scene of a village with surrounding nature that looks as if floating on an invisible sea wave; another work illustrates mythical tree groves that stand under black rainy clouds penetrated by sun rays. Small white triangles, that look like magical amulets, spread around the canvases in these landscapes as if emphasizing the spiritual nature of the worlds he creates. He draws a peaceful village, with small houses lit at night with vibrant yellow in a kind of celebration of life's intimate moments.

Barakat, grew next to the sea in Gaza and has a deep connection with it. This can be seen clearly in some landscape works of the sea; he paints a wild colorful storm on the surface of the sea revealing a small fishing boat struggling on the surface. Shadows of fish swimming in different directions underneath the surface appear while fish with orange color jump out of the water. Barakat has always taken his art into a spiritual realm, yet in this exhibition, his journey into mysticism is shifting to a deeper sphere.



Untitled

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 121 cm
2015



Nostalgia

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 121 cm
2015



Conversation

Acrylic on canvas
163 x 124 cm
2015



Flute Player

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 118 cm
2015



Untitled

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 160 cm
2015



Ascension

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 122 cm
2015



The Dance

Acrylic on canvas
164 x 125 cm
2017



Celebration

Acrylic on canvas
160 x 120 cm
2014



Light in the Dark

Acrylic on canvas
200 x 500 cm
2016



Storm

Acrylic on canvas
120 x 159 cm
2021



Like in a Dream (1)

Acrylic on canvas
124 x 164 cm
2021



Like in a Dream (2)

Acrylic on canvas
120 x 159 cm
2021



Like in a Dream (3)

Acrylic on canvas
164 x 124 cm
2021



Like in a Dream (4)

Acrylic on canvas
164 x 125 cm
2021



Blue Portrait

Acrylic on canvas
64 x 79 cm
2020



Farewell

Acrylic on canvas
79 x 64 cm
2020



Love

Acrylic on canvas
59 x 75 cm
2020



Untitled

Acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm
2020



Refugees 1

Acrylic on canvas
59 x 67 cm
2020



Refugees 2

Acrylic on canvas
53 x 69 cm
2020



Untitled

Acrylic on canvas
59 x 72 cm
2020



The Hug

Acrylic on canvas
79 x 64 cm
2020

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tayseer Barakat was born in Gaza in 1959 and completed his art education in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1983. After completing his studies, he moved to Ramallah, where he has since based – both teaching and creating art. Barakat has worked with a variety of media and has experimented widely – with wood, metal, and glass – and has become one of Palestine’s foremost artists working today. Painting remains his first love, and he continues to work at a prolific rate, drawing on the artistic heritage of the region and its ancient influences.

Barakat is one of Palestine’s preeminent artists whose practice has drawn inspiration from the ancient past and from the oral traditions and cultural narratives that are intimately tied to life in Palestine. Working primarily in paint, inks, and dyes, he uses a color palette that is often limited to monochrome tones, which imbues his works with certain soberness. In Barakat’s words, the dark colors he uses “reflect the hardships of our time and our present life. I think the pressure on us makes us use dark colors.”

His solo exhibitions included Sao Paulo Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1996, The Number that Became a Name, Ramallah in 2006, and Distant Voices – Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah in 2014. In addition, he has held 11 solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous group exhibitions with many of his contemporaries in Japan, the USA, Brazil, Europe, and across the Arab world.

Selected collections:

Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris, France)
Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar)
Jordan National Museum (Amman, Jordan)
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)
Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan)
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)
Dar El-Nimer (Beirut, Lebanon)
A. M. Qattan Foundation (Ramallah, Palestine)



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