

DIA MRAD
BASHIR QONQAR
NABIL ANANI
BASHAR ALHROUB
RUBA SALAMEH
YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

ENTANGLED EXISTENCE

08.03 - 14.05.2022



غاليري زاوية
ZAWYEH GALLERY

Warehouse 27, Alserkal Avenue
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 585 925667
zanani@zawyeh.net
www.zawyeh.net

ENTANGLED EXISTENCE

08.03 - 14.05.2022 | Zawayeh Gallery, Dubai

In this exhibition, six artists come together to express how their existence is entangled with the land and nature. **Dia Mrad, Bashir Qonqar, Nabil Anani, Bashar Alhroub, Ruba Salameh, and Yazan Abu Salameh**, voyage through their relationship with nature and surroundings using a variety of mediums.

Dia Mrad, a Lebanese photographer, who comes from an architecture background, participates with a series of photographs titled *Revisiting Beirut*, aiming to celebrate and document the physical history of the city by looking back at abandoned landmarks and neglected structures that once shaped its culture. Mrad celebrates the city's architecture from the Ottoman and French Mandate eras to the modern one, which boomed in the 1950s and 1970s just before the civil war started. He also documents the city's historical buildings and the multi-layered cultural fabric, reflecting his understanding that architecture is a physical tool for transmitting cultural identity from one generation to the next.

Bashir Qonqar explores the woods as a metaphor for life and existence. He presents several artworks using acrylic and oil on canvas and Chinese ink on jute. By painting the woods, Qonqar reveals what's hidden inside his head: entangled trees and branches and layers of vibrant colors. Although the woods stand as a metaphor for a safe internal sanctuary, it also becomes a source of constant fear for him. Refugees can be seen hiding between those branches looking at a far away fruit plate in what looks like a still life painting titled *Hunting Season*. This work depicts the tragedy of thousands of abandoned refugees stuck in the woods on the borders of Poland.

Nabil Anani presents some of his landscape works; dreamy landscapes that can only be found in a utopic Palestine free of occupation. In his last series, Anani includes large figures as focal points, blended with nature. The integration between the land/nature and humans manifests clearly as the branches and roots of the trees bend and twist all over these female bodies turning into veins and arteries. Anani uses female bodies to emphasize the connotation of "motherland" to stress the beauty of the land and the importance of the connection with nature. The works are painted in cheerful vibrant colors, and their titles further stress the theme: *The Land and I* and *Branches and Sprigs*.

Bashar Alhroub's artistic style varies as well as the methods he uses to express his desired theme: Spirituality. In this series titled *Meditation*, he uses mixed media on paper and silkscreen printing to reflect a colorful connection between his soul and the colorful skies. Yet, this

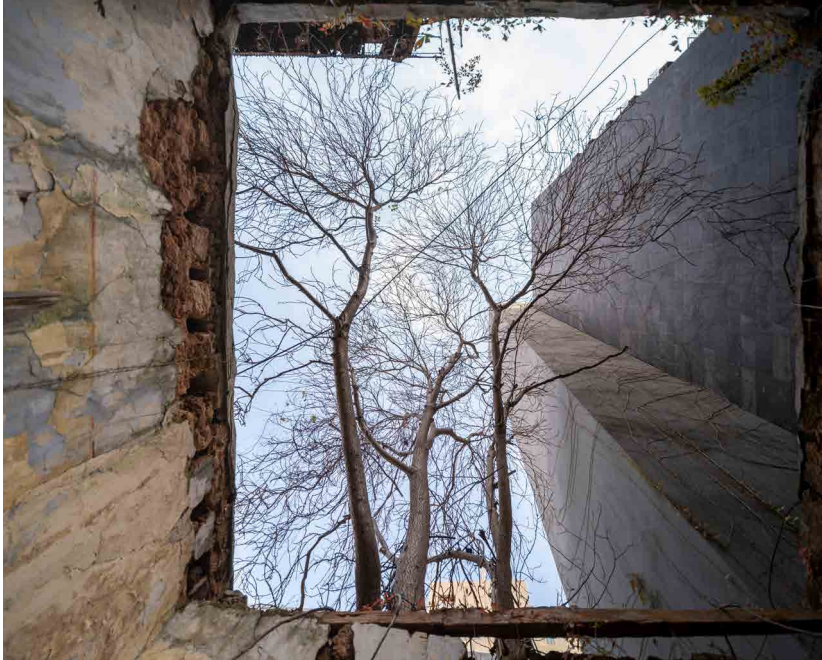
connection is obstructed by entangled branches of high trees. Their silhouette and branches appear like creatures from another world, perhaps the same discreet world that Alhroub is trying to connect with spiritually.

Ruba Salameh continues to explore geometric shapes and follows the rhythms that unfold through the process of creating. Her interest in abstraction expands into a world that has no ending. In this new series she resumes examining the combination between abstract paintings and realistic ants that she adds to her linen surface. She ties her western educational backgrounds that she has gained and her reality, as someone belonging to the indigenous people alienated from the land. She deconstructs and reconstructs her perception of what it means to be Palestinian, emphasizing this existential connection between the land and its own people. For her, ants symbolize the many parallels and connections she sees between the two.

Yazan Abu Salameh presents a series of artworks that continues to discuss the rapidly changing urban environment as a result of the apartheid wall and its impact on daily life. Living in Bethlehem and encountering the Israeli Apartheid Wall, the endless concrete roadblocks, watchtowers, checkpoints, new buildings...etc, Abu Salameh thinks that our cities do not look like us anymore. Through his artworks, he tries to penetrate the blocked horizon and make a way for the beams of the sunlight as his figures keep seeking freedom.

DIA MRAD

Dia Mrad is a Lebanese photographer, who was born in 1991 in Ras Baalbeck, before moving to Beirut in 2007. In 2011 he pursued his Master's degree in architecture. Following graduating in 2017, he focused on combining photography and academic theory taking Beirut's history and architecture as a focal point in his practice. Since then, Mrad has been following the city through the transformation of its architecture, in an attempt to unlock its mysteries. Through photography, he looks into the contemporary history of the city and its recent unfolding transformation and sheds light on the architecture that might face the same destiny and slip into forgotten history. Mrad lives and works in Beirut.

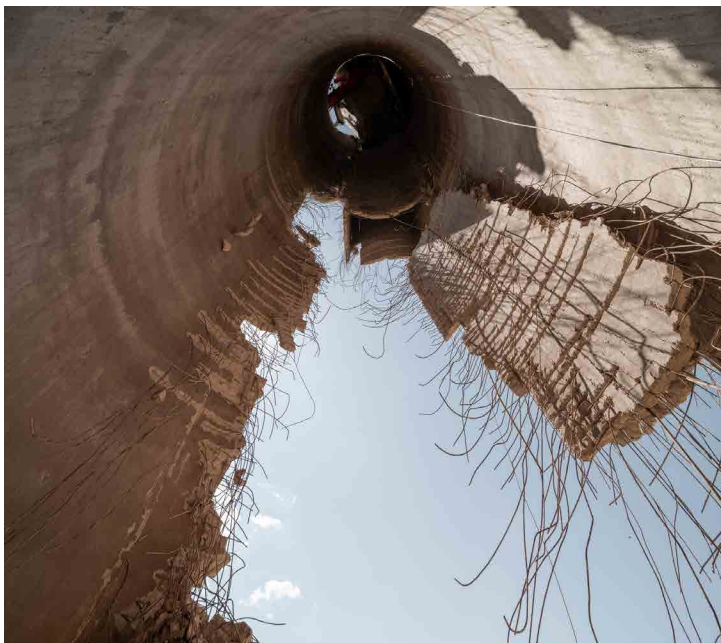


DIA MRAD

Trees Composition (2022)

FineArt Inkjet print on archival paper (Hahnemühle 310 gsm)

75 x 100 cm | Edition of 5

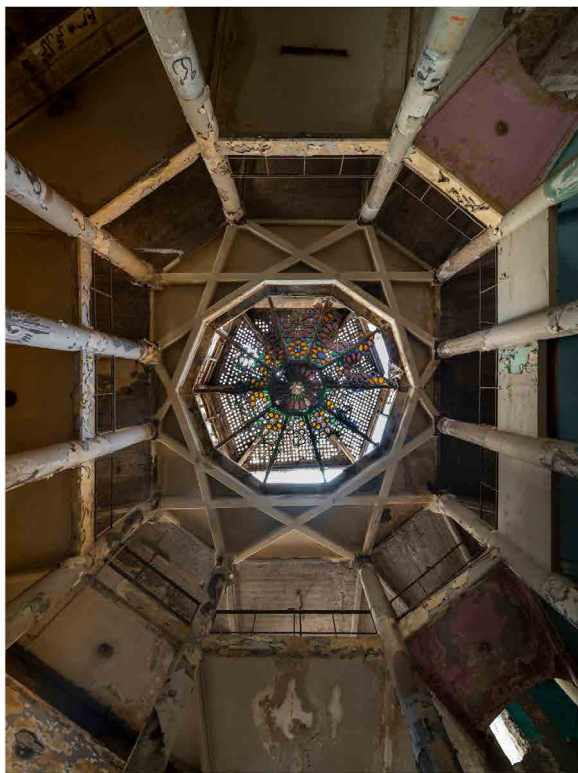


DIA MRAD

Black Hole (2021)

FineArt Inkjet print on archival paper (Hahnemühle 310 gsm)

140 x 160 cm | Edition of 5



DIA MRAD

Decks (2022)

FineArt Inkjet print on archival paper (Hahnemühle 310 gsm)

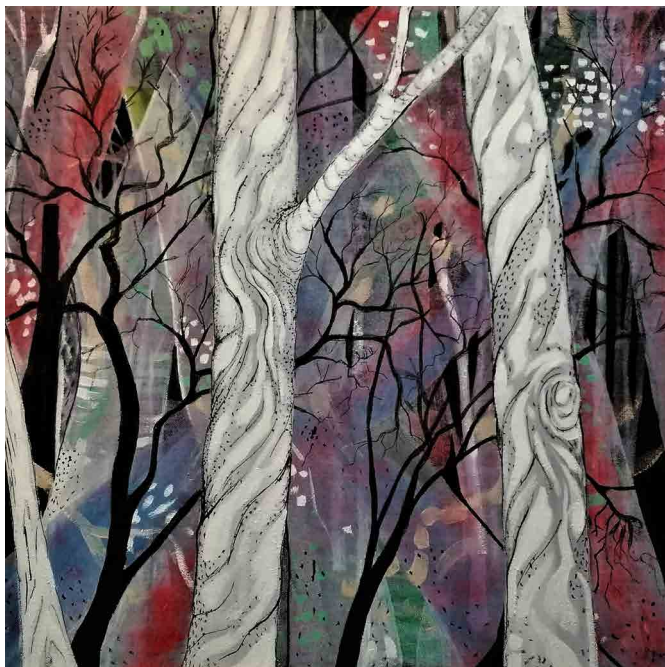
100 x 75 cm | Edition of 5



DIA MRAD
DETAIL

BASHIR QONQAR

Born in 1980, Bashir Qonqar is a self-taught artist currently working and living in Bad Goisern, Austria. He received his education in Heidenheim in Germany. When Bashir was 8 years old he experienced the loss of his father who got killed in the First Intifada, an experience which had left a deep impact on his personality and on his way of thinking. Bashir concentrates in his works mainly on the social aspects and interactions, trying to understand and reflect on human behaviors. He also focuses on the taboos and the collective behaviors of the societies; this made his works full of criticism and sarcasm at the same time. Bashir is working currently as a freelance artist and as a social pedagogic in Austria. He participated in several exhibitions and workshops on both local and international levels.



BASHIR QONQAR

The Woods I (2022)

Acrylic & Chinese ink on jute

100 x 100 cm

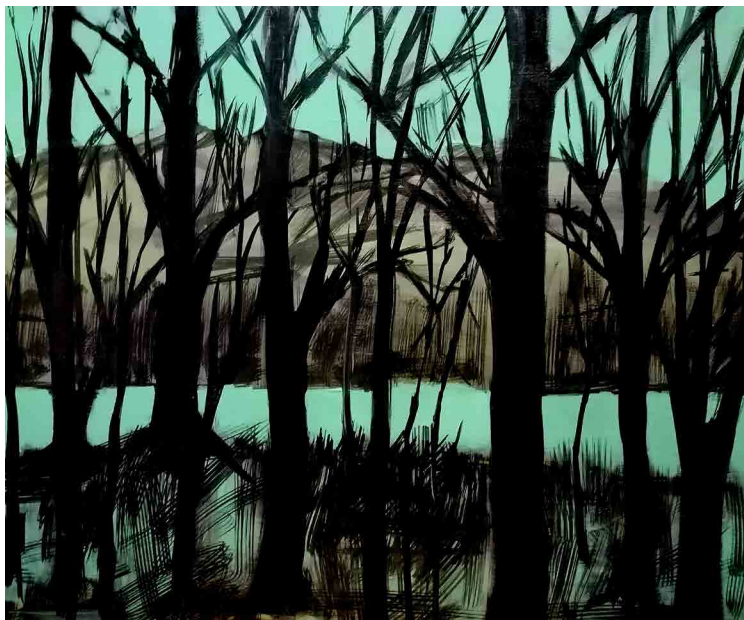


BASHIR QONQAR

The Red Tree (2021)

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 180 cm

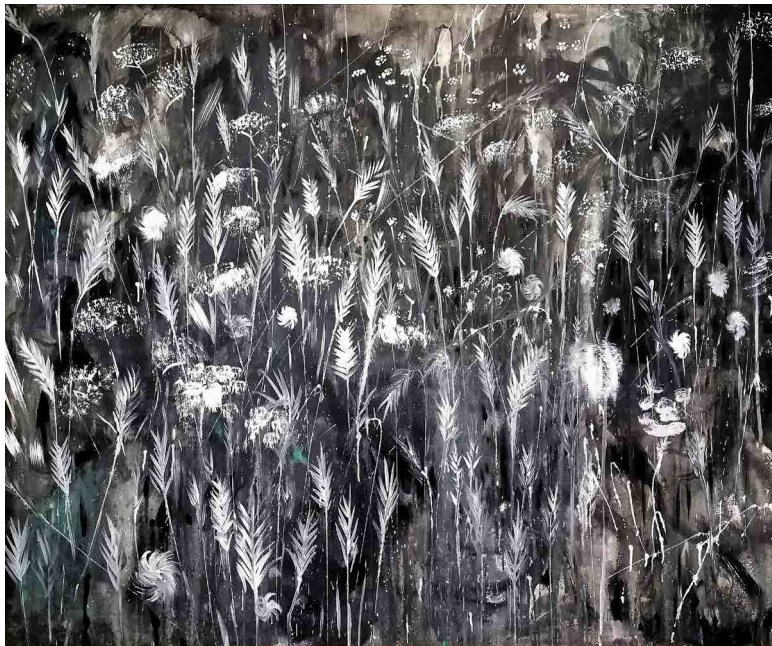


BASHIR QONQAR

The Woods II (2022)

Acrylic & Chinese ink on canvas

50 x 60 cm



BASHIR QONQAR

The Black Field (2021)

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 180 cm



BASHIR QONQAR
DETAIL

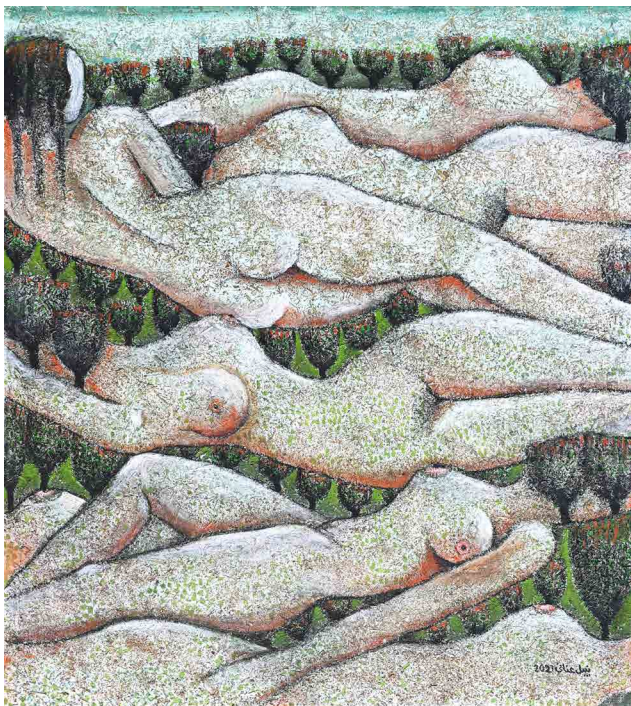
NABIL ANANI

(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 teacher-trainer 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 work is 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, papier-mâché, wood, beads, 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 Art in 1997 by Yasser Arafat. He was the head of the League of Palestinian Artists and played a vital role in establishing 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 in Ramallah.

Selected Collections

Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris, France)
Tate Modern (London, UK)
The Aga Khan Museum (Toronto, Canada)
Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar)
Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Jordan National Museum (Amman, Jordan)
Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan)
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)
Dar El-Nimer (Beirut, Lebanon)
Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)



NABIL ANANI

Nudes and Landscape (2021)

Mixed media on canvas

100 x 90 cm

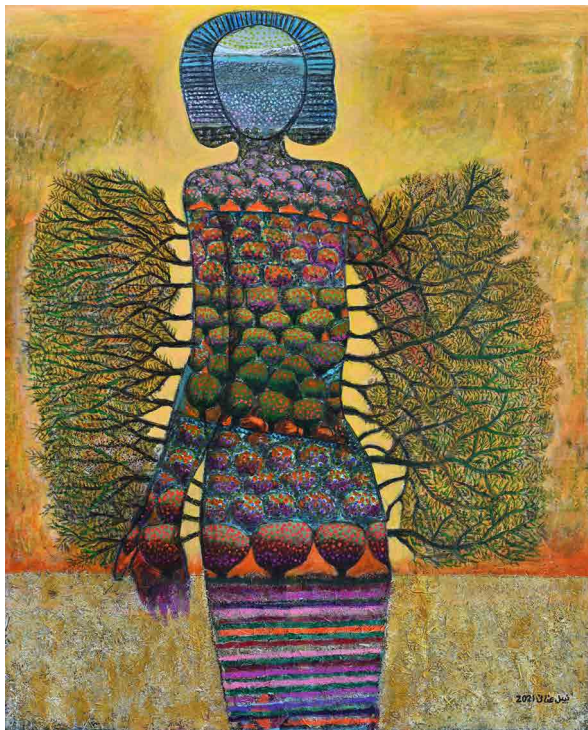


NABIL ANANI

Branches and Sprigs (2021)

Mixed media on canvas

100 x 81 cm



NABIL ANANI

The Land and I (2021)

Mixed media on canvas

100 x 79 cm



NABIL ANANI
DETAIL

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.

Selected Collections

Imperial War Museum (London, UK)
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)
China Printmaking Museum (Beijing, China)
Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art (Gdansk, Poland)
Bengal National Gallery (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
Birzeit University Museum (Birzeit, Palestine)
Krannert Art Museum (Illinois, USA)
Omi Art Centre (New York, USA)
Contemporary Art Platform (Kuwait, Kuwait)
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)

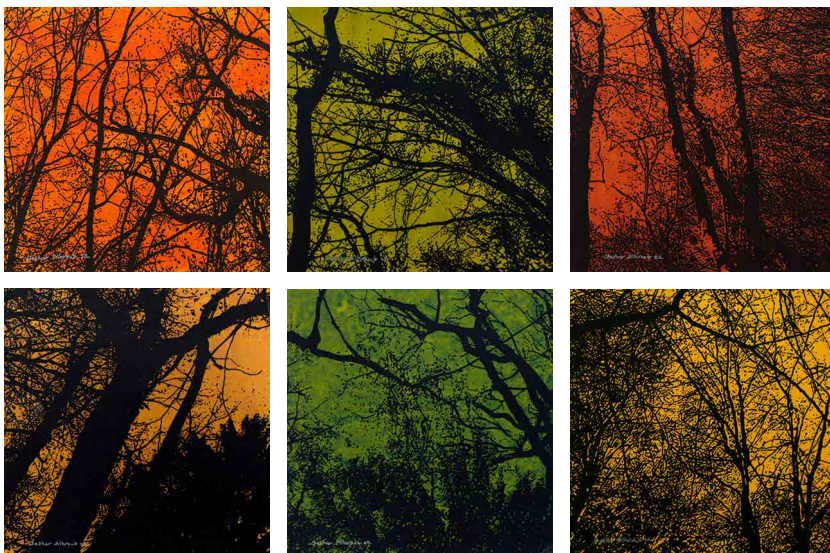


BASHAR ALHROUB

Meditation 1 (2022)

Silkscreen print 350 GSM FineArt paper

110 x 75 cm | Edition of 8



BASHAR ALHROUB

Meditation 3-8 (2022)

Mixed media on paper

22.5 x 22.5 cm each



BASHAR ALHROUB

Meditation 2 (2022)

Mixed media on paper

76 x 100 cm



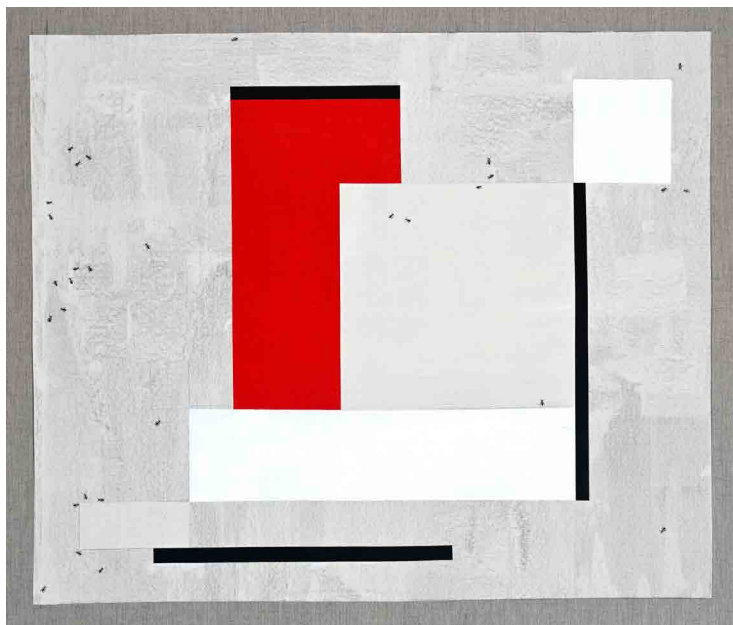
BASHAR ALHROUB
DETAIL

RUBA SALAMEH

Ruba Salameh is a visual artist who was born in Nazareth in 1985. She obtained both B.A (2006-10) and M.F.A in Fine Arts at Bezalel Academy for Arts and Design in Jerusalem (2012-2014). She works with a variety of mediums including painting, video and installation.

Recently, she has been working as a lecturer in the History of Art painting and practical classic painting at the Arab College in Haifa in addition to conducting short term workshops at Bezalel Academy. Ruba is currently working on a research film about the Palestinian cultural scene that appeared in Haifa in the last two years, and its complex relation to self-organization / autonomy and how it is operating within the constantly changing environment.

She participated in several exhibitions including "Limitless" at The walled Off Hotel, Bethlehem, 2019 curated by Rana Anani; Contemporary Arabesque, Museum of Islamic Art, Jerusalem, 2018; SRINAGAR BIENNALE, Basel, 2018; and "Ghost Dance" Group Exhibition curated by Fadwa Naamna, Haifa, 2017; Tensegrity, Dubai, 2020.

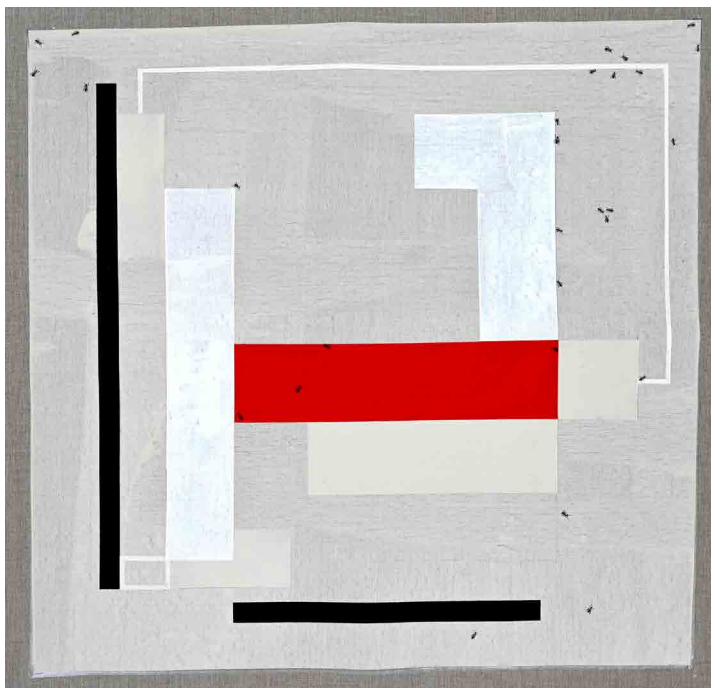


RUBA SALAMEH

Twin I (2021)

Acrylic on linen

91 x 106.5 cm

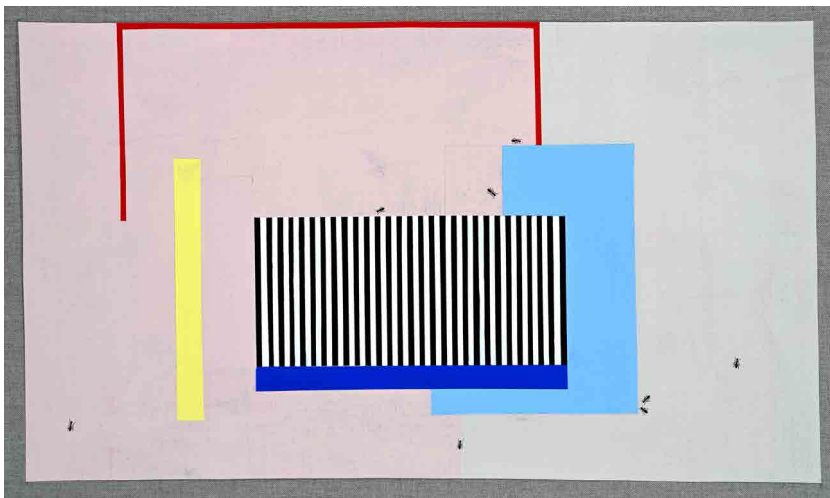


RUBA SALAMEH

Twin II (2021)

Acrylic on linen

89 x 86 cm

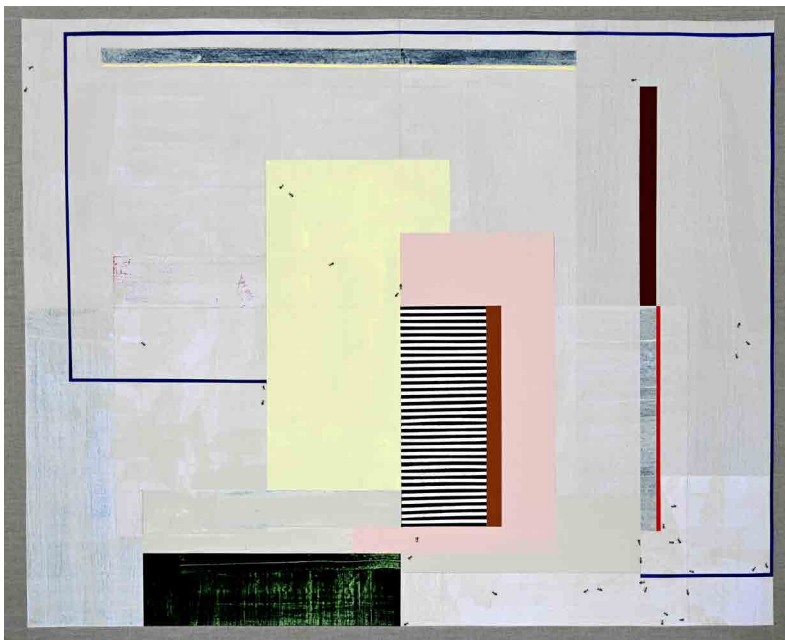


RUBA SALAMEH

Diner (2021)

Acrylic on linen

53 x 85 cm



RUBA SALAMEH

Green Velvet (2021)

Acrylic on linen

104 x 126 cm

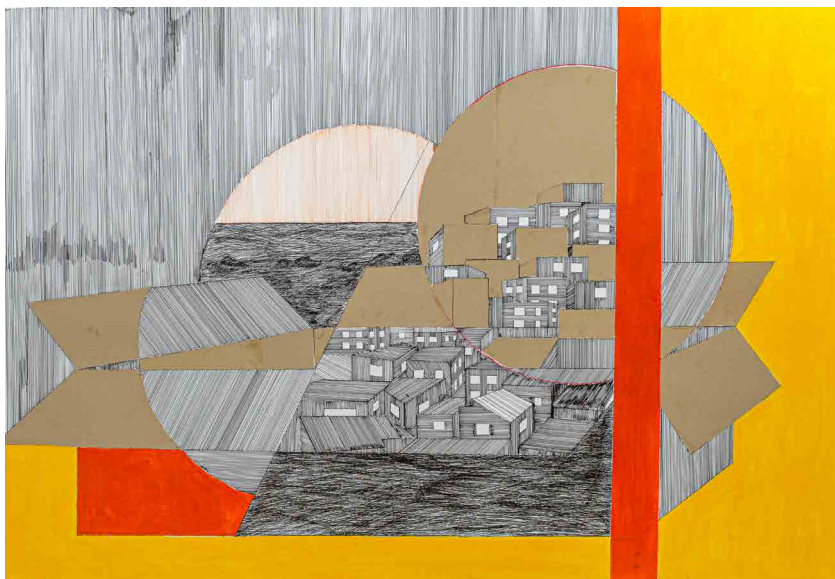


RUBA SALAMEH
DETAIL

YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Yazan Abu Salamah was born in 1993 in Jerusalem. He studied Fine Arts at Dar Al-Kalima College in Bethlehem in 2011 and participated in several workshops including scenography at Al Quds College in Beit Jala. He taught art at several community centers including the center at Aidya Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. He participated in two group exhibitions with his graduation project, the first was organized in Bethlehem in 2013, and the second in Amman organized by the Jordanian-Iraqi Center in 2014. He started working at the Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem in 2017 and continues to work there at present.

Yazan Abu Salameh participated in two group exhibitions at the Walled Off Hotel Gallery: the Second organized in 2018 and the Fourth organized in 2019. He won a third prize in the competition "Let's make it glow" which allowed him to exhibit in Italy in a group exhibition held in cooperation with Turin Municipality in 2019. Recently he participated in Ramallah Art Fair in 2020 and 2021. His first solo exhibition was held with Zawyeh Gallery in Dubai in 2021. He lives and works in Bethlehem.



YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Gift Box II (2021)

Ink & acrylic on paper

68 x 100 cm



YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Bethlehem (2022)

Ink & acrylic on paper

68 x 52 cm



YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Heritage on a Crossroad (2021)

Ink & acrylic on paper

59 x 75 cm



YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Untitled (2021)

Ink & acrylic on paper

42 x 29 cm

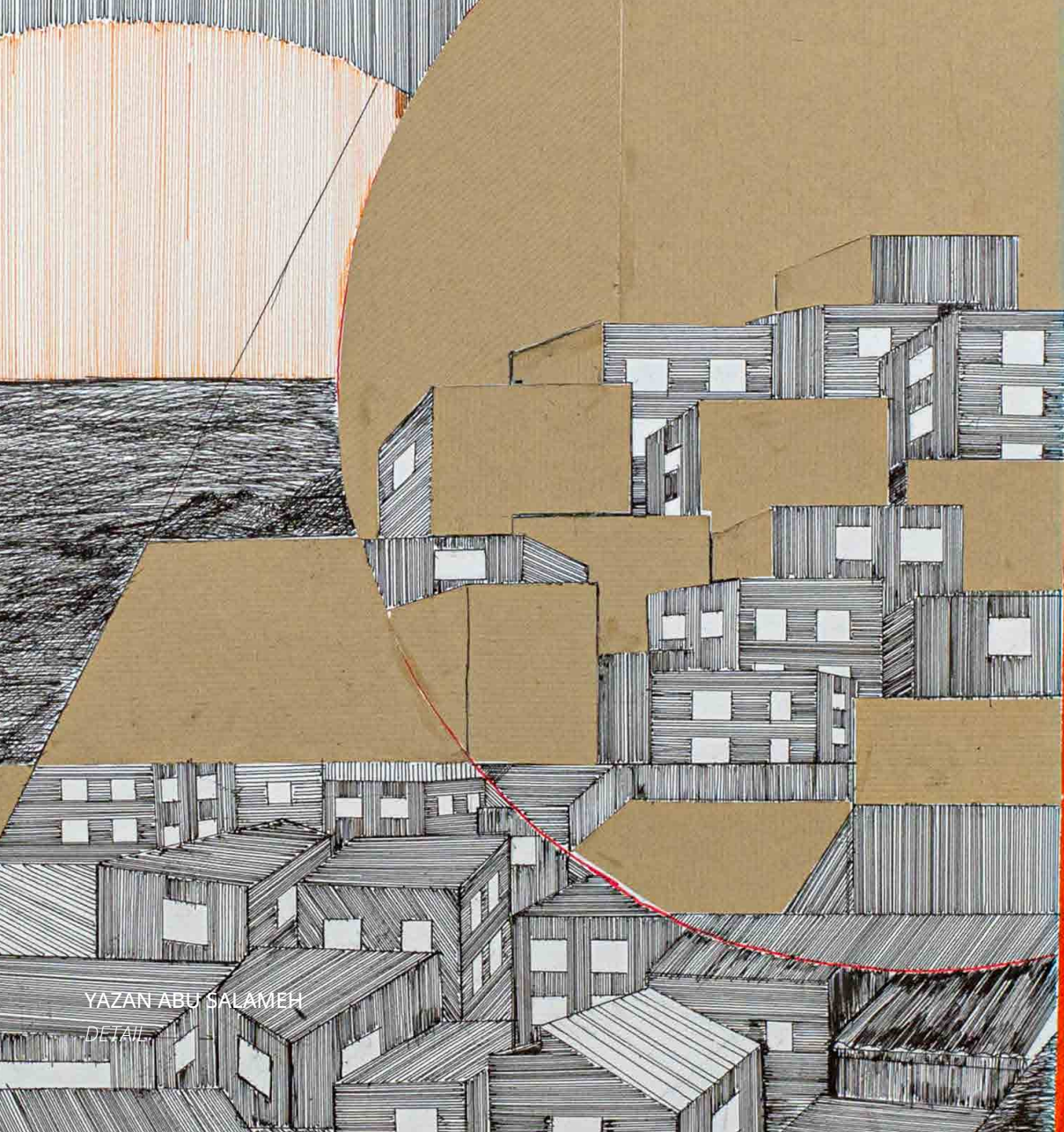


YAZAN ABU SALAMEH

Escalation (2021)

Ink & acrylic on paper

42 x 29 cm



YAZAN ABU SALAMEH
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