AKRAM AL HALABI SHADA SAFADI

Mist

16 JUNE - 16 AUGUST 2022 ZAWYEH GALLERY, RAMALLAH

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AKRAM AL HALABI SHADA SAFADI

Curated by Rana Anani

When a cloud carrying a collection of tiny water droplets meets the top of a mountain, mist or "Ghatt" (as called in the Golan Heights) is formed. Thin transparent white aura envelops all familiar places urges us to make effort to distinguish what's around us from a different perspective and contemplate places as if seen for the first time.

In this exhibition, Shada Safadi and Akram Al Halabi rediscover their homeland through narratives of memory, myths, and daily life practices by taking a step backward and contemplating the scene in relation to its broader context. They place the past, present, and future in one crucible when producing treated, altered, and transformed visual scenes using a range of techniques. The show is an invitation to contemplate the scene and daily practices in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and to consider the beauty and contradictions that surface as a result of the paradoxical dynamics between the habitual and unfamiliar.

The two artists present a joint conceptual composition and multi-layered surfaces by creating visual rapport between images, colors, and shapes using simple techniques. Both artists apply a combination of predominantly abstraction and monochrome colors including in the video art, they present: "Whisper" and "Gaze 3". A white aura envelops most of the artworks as if it's a remnant of mist floating in the atmosphere while Halabi's audio work puts the artworks back in the context that they emerged from, the occupied Golan Height.

Each artist has his style when approaching the subject. Safadi dusts off childhood memories and the deeply rooted beliefs by discussing the symbolism of the place in an attempt to restore personal stories using abstraction, collage, cyanotype printing as well as installation work. She treats the surfaces of her artwork by using salt; an effect similar to mist, as if she is projecting her subjects through the clouds of memory. She presents a text in Braille in a glass frame that can be seen but not touched, forming a background to the stories and scenes hidden in the nooks of the past.

Al Halabi relies on photographs of daily life in his artistic production. He treats those images using colors, lines, and Arabic letters. He focuses on symbols and representations weaving a bond between the altered images of abstract reality and letters he illustrates . Its an attempt to make the scenes speak, by creating relevant strong loud sounds. For example, he uses the letters "W" and "Z" in Arabic, in a scene related to faulty electrical wires. He employs ready-made images of people or animals and introduces them to abstract shapes using colors and inks. As he emphasizes certain movements of elements in the artwork, one can feel his images moving despite their stillness, and making loud noises despite their silence.

This exhibition is a state of contemplation in a changing reality. It's a reflection of a time that is slowly passing in a familiar place beset with contradictions, some of which are imposed as a result of occupation and the prevailing political situation. Artworks are shrouded in the "mist" of memory as a result of the dynamics of a confused reality as well as deeply rooted myths and beliefs.

SHADA **SAFADI**



Shada Safadi The Cloud of N Qattana 1 (2022)

Mixed media & collage on paper 26 x 35 cm (10.2" x 13.7")



The Cloud of N Qattana 2 (2022) Mixed media & collage on paper 26 x 35 cm (10.2" x 13.7")



The Cloud of N Qattana 3 (2022) Mixed media & collage on paper 21 x 29 cm (8.2" x 11.4")



The Cloud of N Qattana 4 (2022) Mixed media & collage on paper 21 x 29 cm (8.2" x 11.4")



The Cloud of N Qattana 5 (2022) Mixed media & collage on paper 24 x 37 cm (9.4" x 14.5")



Shada Safadi The Cloud of N Qattana 6 (2022) Acrylic on paper 52 x 55 cm (20.4" x 21.6")

USD 3,350



Shada Safadi The Cloud of N Qattana 7 (2022) Mixed media on paper 22 x 23 cm (8.6" x 9")

USD 1,700



Shada Safadi The Cloud of N Qattana 8 (2022) Acrylic on paper 52 x 55 cm (20.4" x 21.6")

USD 3,350



Mountain Flower 1 (2022) Mixed media & collage on paper 28 x 21 cm (11" x 8.2")



Mountain Flower 2 (2022) Cyanotype & collage on paper 39 x 28 cm (15.3" x 11")



Mountain Flower 3 (2022) Mixed media on paper (monotype) 39 x 28 cm (15.3" x 11.")



Mountain Flower 4 (2022) Cyanotype on paper 33 x 24 cm (12.9" x 9.4")



Mountain Flower 5 (2022) Etching & acrylic on paper 38 x 38 cm (14.9" x 14.9")

USD 3,000



Mountain Flower 6 (2022) Cyanotype on paper (edition of 10) 39 x 28 cm (15.3" x 11")

USD 1,700



Mist (2022) Etching on plexiglass print (monotype) 33 x 42 cm (12.9" x 16.5")



Wild Flower (2020) Mixed media on paper (monotype) 29 x 21 cm (11.4" x 8.2")



Impossibility (2022) - set of 3 pieces Braille print & salt on paper 41 x 33 cm (16.5" x 13") each



Water Flow (2022) - diptych Collage & mixed media on paper 56 x 38 cm (22" x 15") / each

USD 4,700



When he was a Child (2022) - set of 9 pieces Collage on paper (1/9) 25 x 25 cm (16.3" x 11.6")

USD 1,200



Gaze 1A (2022) Metal, plexiglass, epoxi & fabric 190 x 68 x 56 cm (74.8" x 26.7" x 22")

USD 5,000



Gaze 1B (2019) Plexiglass & mixed media 90 x 40 x 6 cm (35.4" x 15.7" x 2.3")

USD 5,000



Gaze 2A (2019) Plexiglass & mixed media 77 x 60 x 6 cm (30.3" x 23.6" x 2.3")

USD 5,000



Gaze 2B (2019) Plexiglass & acrylic 18 x 47 x 16 cm (7.1" x 18.5" x 6.3")

USD 6,700



PLAY VIDEO

Shada Safadi Gaze 3 (2022) Video duration 00:03:40 Edition of 3

Price: USD 5,000

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 painting at Damascus University, in which she graduated from 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 a number of 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 "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.



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