



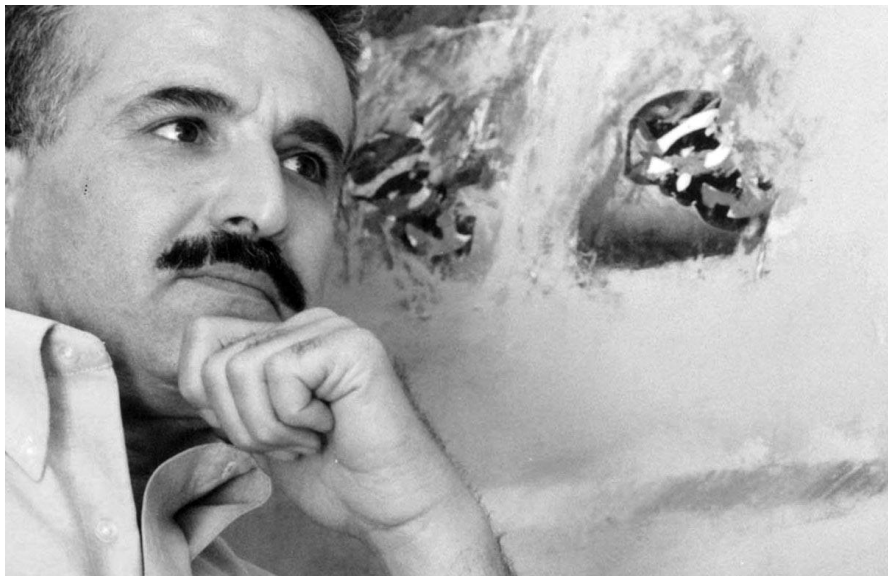
# Fragments

حسني رادوان

HOSNI RADWAN

21 March - 2 April 2015





**Hosni Radwan** was born in Baghdad in 1955 and completed his studies at the Fine Art College in 1978. Radwan is an abstract painter and his work is influenced by the environment in which he has lived including Beirut in the 1970s and 1980s. Places, landscapes and portraiture continue to dominate his work.

He has exhibited widely with many of his contemporaries and his solo shows have been held in cities including Tunis (1993); Tokyo (1985); Nicosia (1983); Ramallah (1997, 2002, 2003); Baghdad (2001) and Kuwait (2008).

#### **Artist Statement**

*In this exhibition, I went back to some early spontaneous scripts bearing expressions of places and people and transforming them through an action of passion- into black lines forming shapes of human bodies. By operating on bigger spaces, I converted my paintings into a home for extended colors, solid materials, soil and paper scraps, intending to achieve the same goal.*

*Hosni Radwan  
March 2015*

## Exhibition review

Hosni Radwan's paintings have absorbed the colours, and spirit of Palestine mingling in the turmoil of feelings, faces, thoughts and bodies that inhabit it. The artist is what Baudelaire describes as a "lover of crowds and incognitos" who appreciates "everything that happens on the surface of the world[1]".

We meet Radwan's art in the streets of Palestine where a woman sits pensive on the door steps holding her knees in search of some rest (*Patiently Waiting*, acrylic and charcoal, 2015). Is she waiting for someone, thinking or dreaming? Another woman walks by; a girl whispers in her friend's ear (*Discrete*, 2015 charcoal on paper); a gust of wind blows and dark hair trails in the breeze (*Breeze*, 2015 mixed media on paper); a man walks by on his way to work; a woman sits in a café; will he talk to her? Men and women carry on their usual business in the streets of the city, in the market and in shops. They all live in the universe of Radwan's work. Bodies and faces appear and disappear in the artist's densely worked paintings. Each body is a continent; each face is a map of affects, memories and expressions. For, a mouth or an eye are not simply body parts – they have their own stories to tell. Stories without words that speak to us in the language of material – of vivid colours, shapes and textures. The artist depicts bodies and faces as fragmented; in his paintings any illusion of unity of perception is disrupted. These bodies and faces are like the places they inhabit, a modern patchwork of memories, concrete buildings, images, lived lives, smells and sensations. Any ideal unity is exploded. To create the effect of fragmentation, the artist's work makes a references to Picasso's deconstructive style sometimes using as support wood or paper to disrupt not only the unity of the depicted subject, but also of the support itself. *Mask* (2014), for instance, a diptych showing two mouths roughly painted in white on a piece of wood mounted on supports made of wood and paper.

In Radwan's paintings the face becomes the surface on which the subject's interiority and the outside world are equally reflected. A nose becomes a tree, a chick changes into a square, a mouth transforms into a bench. As the painting takes shape, figures emerge and the reality of the place unfolds. In Radwan's work, art manifests with the insatiable passion for seeing and feeling. It sets up house in the heart of the place, in the middle of the ebb and flow of the crowd, in the infinite and the fleeting. Art responds to the movements of a place, and reproduces the multiplicity of life and the flickering grace of all its elements: colours, spirits, joy and pain of Palestine. Radwan's paintings and drawings do not so much depict the place, for the place lives in them.

Federica Bueti  
Writer and art critic  
March 2015



Faces (1-8)  
2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
50 x 50 cm (each)







Fragments, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
150 x 180 cm



Patiently Waiting, 2015  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
120 x 120 cm



Ladders, 2015  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
120 x 120 cm



Mask, 2014  
Mixed media (set of two)  
70 x 55 cm each



Breeze, 2014  
Mixed media on paper  
35 x 50 cm



Attached, 2015  
Mixed media on paper  
50 x 66 cm



Chapter Ten, 2014  
Mixed media on paper  
35 x 50 cm





Observation, 2015  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
120 x 120 cm

Imaginary I, 2015  
Mixed media on paper  
70 x 50 cm



Imaginary II, 2015  
Mixed media on paper  
70 x 50 cm



Pomegranate Love, 2015  
Mixed media on paper  
70 x 50 cm



The Rival, 2015  
Mixed media on paper  
70 x 50 cm





Pomegranate Dreams, 2014  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 150 cm



Releif, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
120 x 120 cm



Traveler, 2014  
Mixed media on wood  
109 x 109 cm





Discrete, 2014  
Mixed media on paper  
50 x 35 cm



Untitled, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas (set of two)  
70 x 70 cm each



Nude, 2014  
Ink on paper  
50 x 65 cm





Changeful I  
Mixed media on paper  
90 x 65 cm



Changeful II  
Mixed media on paper  
90 x 65 cm



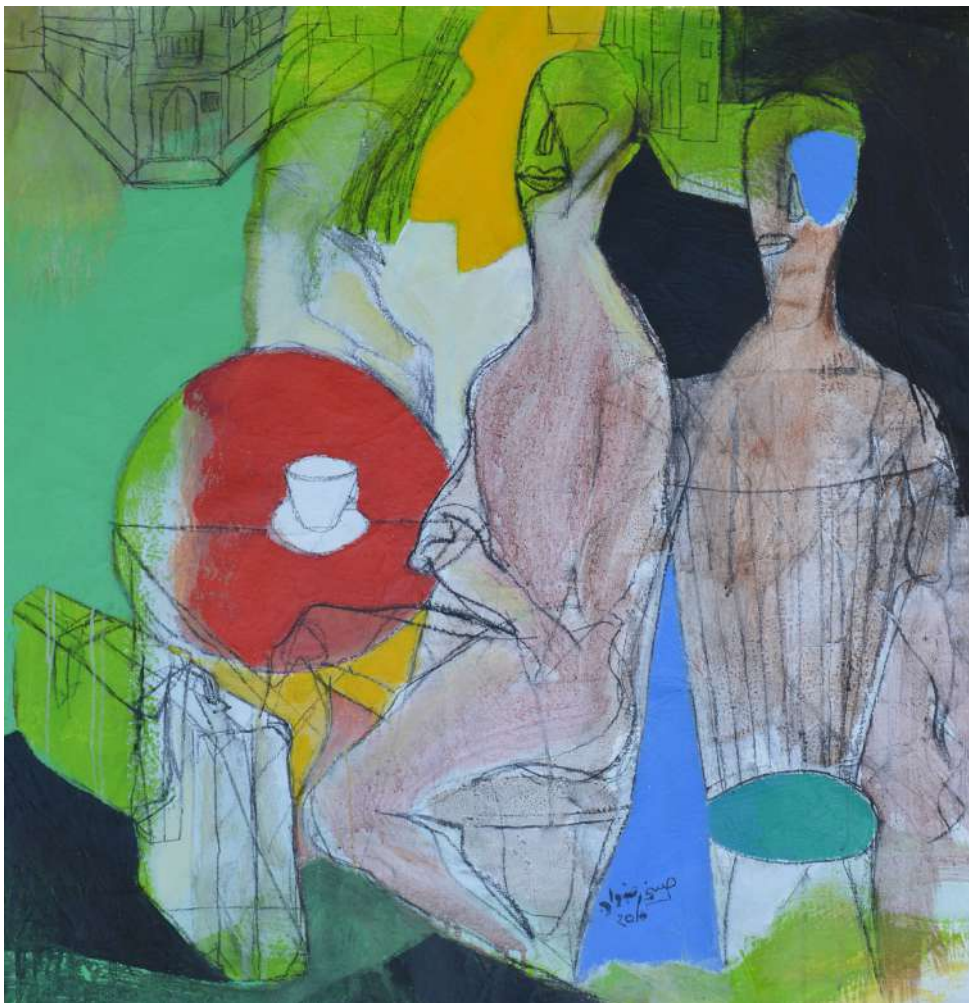
Ain-Elmriase, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
150 x 150 cm



Untitled, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas (set of two)  
70 x 70 cm each



Obverse, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
50 x 50 cm



Untitled, 2015  
Mixed media on canvas  
98 x 94 cm





**Zawyeh Art Gallery** is an independent visual art gallery in Ramallah, Palestine. It was founded by Ziad Anani in December 2013. In addition to presenting local artists to an international audience, the gallery's mission is to promote established and emerging artists from Palestine through various thematic exhibitions. Zawyeh exhibits artworks in a large variety of media including painting, sculpture, photography, and video. The gallery hosts monthly shows and plans to participate in several international art fairs.





Abdel Nasser Amer  
Ahmad Kanaan  
Bashar Khalaf  
Dina Ghazal  
Faten Toubasi  
Fayez Sirsawi  
Hosni Radwan  
Isra Frehat  
Irina Naji  
Jawad Ibrahim  
Jawad Malhi  
Khaled Hourani  
Maher Naji  
Majed Shala  
Mohammad Abusal  
Nabil Anani  
Nasr Jawabreh  
Rafat Asad  
Raed Issa  
Shafiq Radwan  
Sliman Mansour  
Sohail Salem  
Taleb Dwaik  
Taqi Sbateen  
Tayseer Barakat  
Vera Tamari

مستی / انوار



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