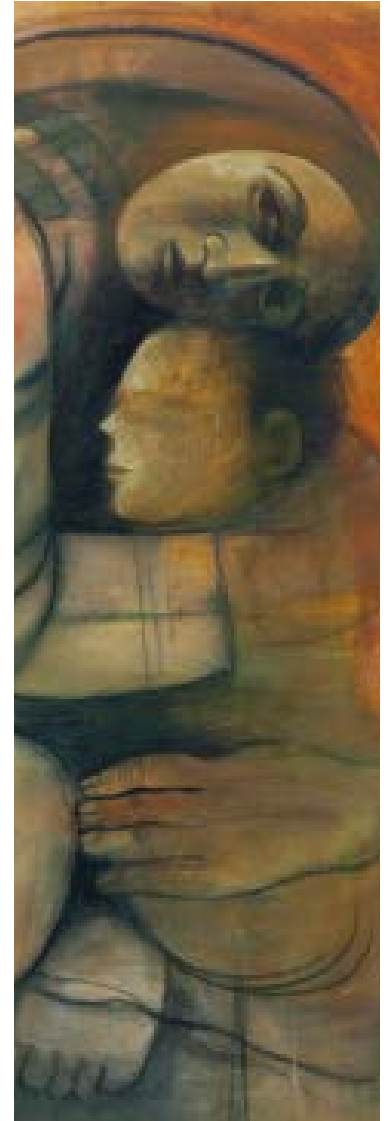


# NARRATIVES



14 - 28 June 2015

## Narratives

In the modern media-saturated, globalised world, it is part of the human experience to have an image bank in our minds and memories, both private and personal as well as public and collectively shared. Without such images, and the means to interpret them, we would be in a state of continuous amnesia, a condition in which we would struggle to find meaning and purpose.

All societies and ethnic and culturally-connected groups share image banks of histories, stories and symbols – their narratives. Palestine is no exception. Indeed, its image bank is richer and fuller than many and is shared and familiar across generations and the scattered and broken geography; the collective credit in this bank is rich and equitably distributed. Few explanations are needed as the collective suffering and awareness in examples of such images are mutually understood.

Artists have mined this rich source of images in their personal and idiosyncratic visual languages, and continue to do so as they extend the boundaries and possibilities of media and meaning. The land and physical body may be subject to restrictions but the imagination can be a place and space of freedom and possibility. And of empowerment.

Visual artists, in whatever medium they choose to use as a vehicle for their ideas, are uniquely placed in this regard. The images in the paintings, drawings and sculptures in this exhibition explore the historical legacies and traditions which are being slowly erased, the pleasures but also some of the horrors of Palestinian life, the contradiction of experiencing pain and hope in the same measure, the divisions and separations. Dancing can be a form of uplifting freedom for the body, but there is also a macabre dance that takes place between the occupier and the occupied, the oppressor and the oppressed. Iconic images of the voices of Palestine's soul and its conscience, such as the poet Mahmoud Darwish (in Mohammed Saleh's paintings), are instantly recognized. A shared visual library of images echoes through many of these works: the women in traditional dress, the fruits of labour on the land, the old village houses, mothers protecting their children, birds in flight. But ghostly presences also seem to haunt many of these works. The images that spoke of steadfastness, sumud, defiance and freedom, as well as the natural riches of the land, have been encroached by others: a blinkered carthorse pulling a heavy load (Sliman Mansour), and images of walls and checkpoints (Nabil Anani) which are now also iconic and similarly recognized by everyone. A collective bank of images and voices across time and distance, reflecting Palestinian life and their unique narrative in all its forms.

Nicola Gray  
Writer and curator  
June 2015

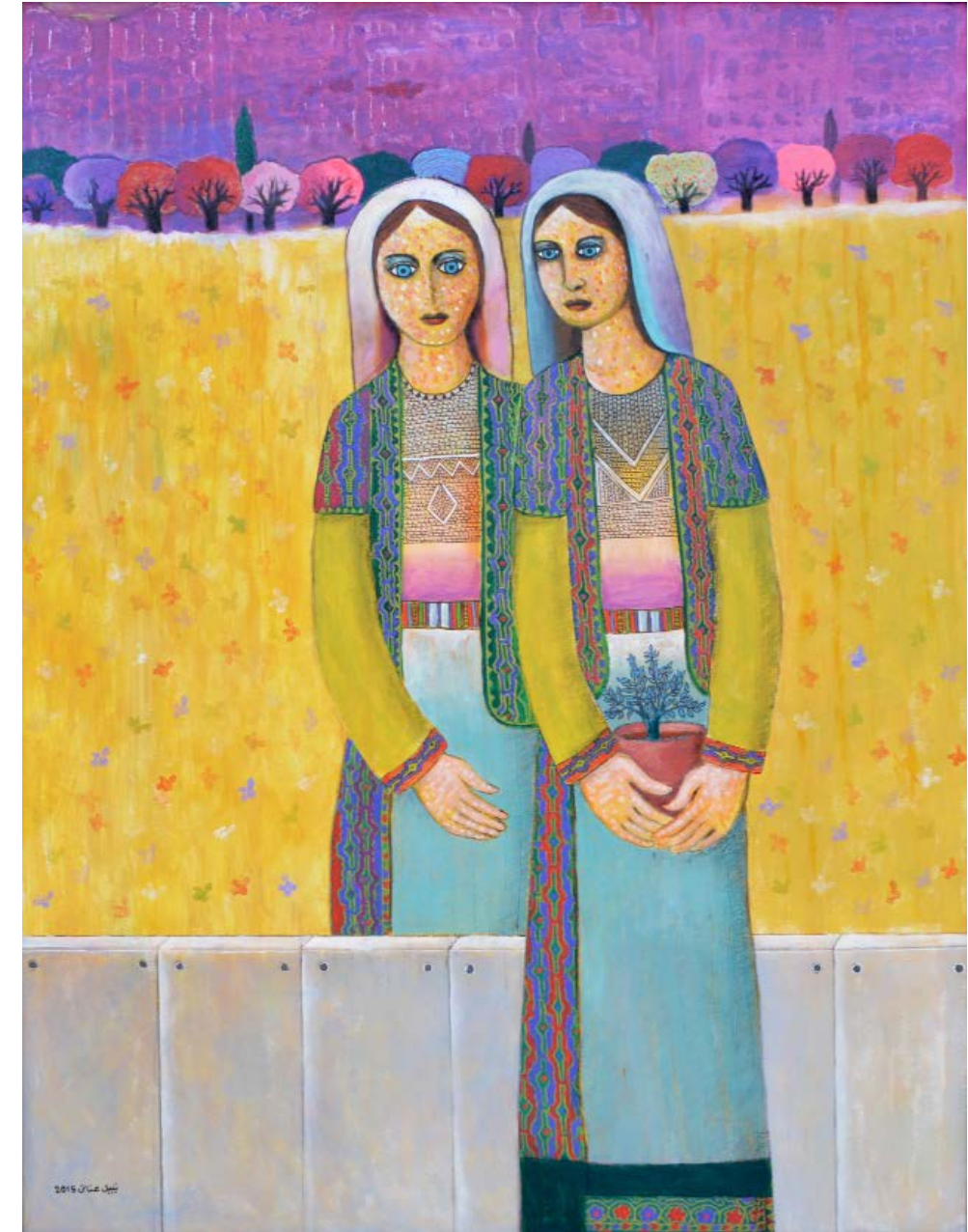


**Nabil Anani** was born in 1943, in Latroun, Palestine. Anani is one of the most prominent Palestinian artists working today. He is considered by many as a key founder of the contemporary Palestinian art movement.

On graduating in Fine Art from Alexandra University, Egypt in 1969, Anani returned to his native Palestine and began a fruitful career as an artist and a teacher trainer at the UN training college in Ramallah. Anani held his first exhibition in Jerusalem in 1972 and has since exhibited widely in Europe, North America, the Middle East, North Africa and Japan – both as an individual artist and with groups of his Palestinian contemporaries.

Anani is a multi-talented artist, for he is a painter, a ceramicist and a sculptor. He pioneered the use of local media such as leather, henna, natural dyes, Papier-mâché, wood, beads and copper. Over the past four decades, Anani has built an impressive catalogue of outstanding, innovative and unique art.

Anani was awarded the first Palestinian National Prize for Visual Art in 1997 and became the head of the League of Palestinian Artists in 1998. On retiring from his teaching post in 2003, Anani has dedicated much of his time to voluntary pastimes, leading on the League's activities and playing a key role in the establishment of the first International Academy of Fine Art in Palestine – with the assistance of the University of Oslo and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Sisters, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
133 x 100 cm





The Camp, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas  
107 x 120 cm

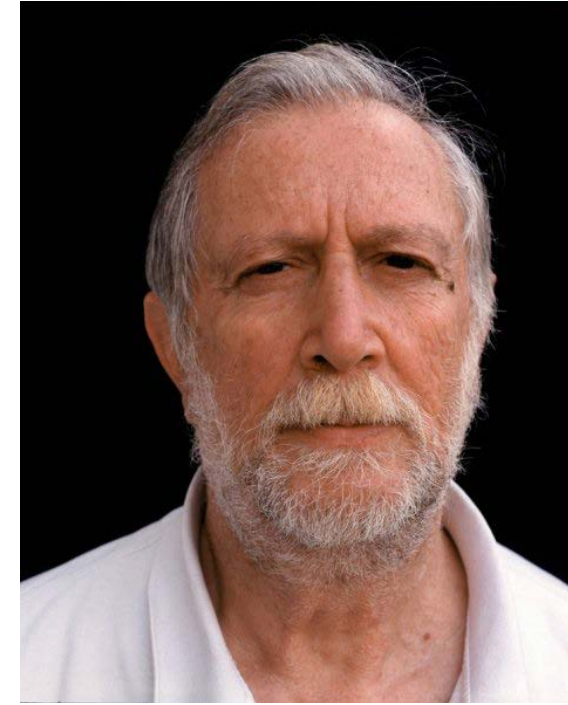


Qalandia, 2014  
Acrylic on canvas  
115 x 140 cm





Checkpoint, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
110 x 130 cm



**Sliman Mansour** was born in Birzeit in 1947 and studied fine art at the Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem. He is one of the most prominent Palestinian artists working today and is considered a founder member of the contemporary Palestinian art movement. Mansour's work centers 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 and used local materials like mud and henna in his work. For Mansour, art aids the continuation and revival of Palestinian identity, particularly as it captures images of the land and people working in the land.

He has held solo exhibitions in Ramallah, New York, Sharjah, Cairo, Gaza and Norway. His group exhibitions include Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow in 1980, Palestinian Spring, Jerusalem in 1985, New Visions, Amman in 1991 and Made in Palestine, Houston, Texas in 2003. In 1998 he received the Palestine Prize for the Visual Arts at the Cairo Biennial.



Jerusalem Shadows, 2012  
Oil on canvas  
95 x 100 cm



Motherhood, 2012  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
98 x 120 cm





Two Girls, 2014  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
98 x 120 cm

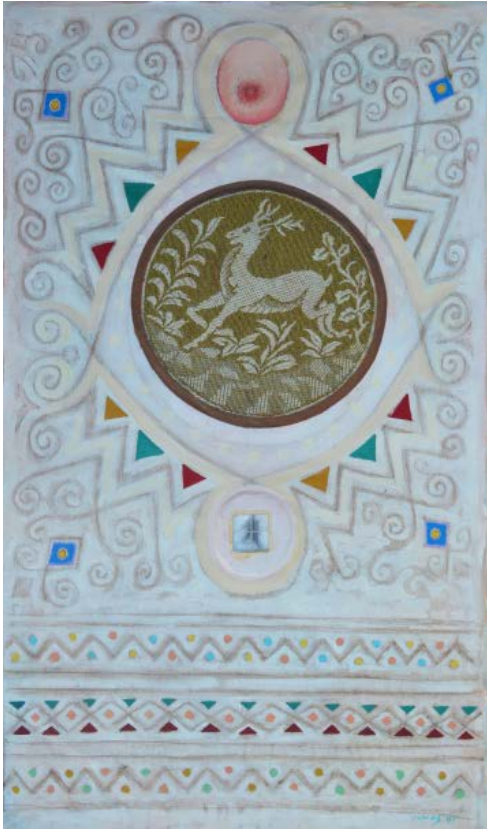


Frozen Memories, 2014  
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas  
100 x 133 cm





**Asad Azi** was born in Shfa ‘Amr in the Western Galilee in 1955. He earned his BA degree in art from The University of Haifa and then continued his studies at Tel Aviv University. In 1981 he visited the Italian village of Carrara where he was exposed to the secrets of Marble sculpture. Azi has published many articles and studies in the local Arabic newspapers and has received several awards. He has set up more than 17 solo exhibitions and has participated in more than 50 collective exhibitions locally and internationally. He currently lives and teaches art in Yaffa.



Camel, 1991  
Mixed media on canvas  
105 x 60 cm



Donkey Rider, 1998  
Oil on canvas  
80 x 50 cm



Narkis, 2014  
Mixed media on canvas  
98 x 158 cm





Crying Boy, 2008  
Mixed media on canvas  
98 x 136 cm



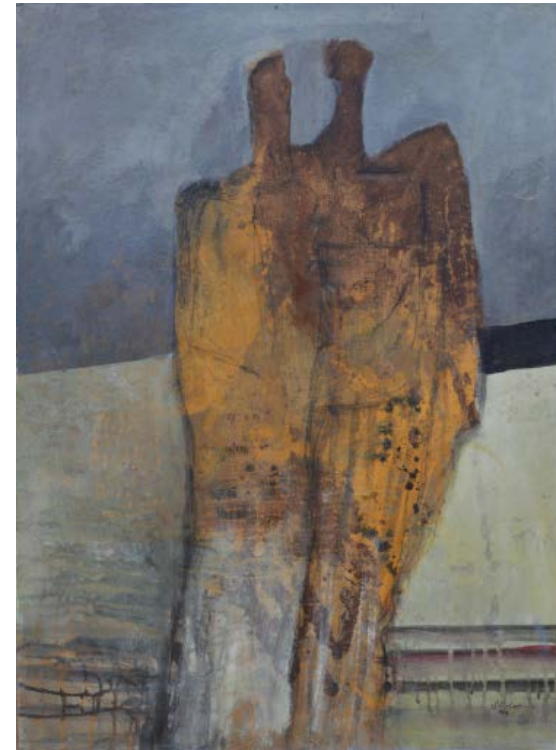
**Jawad Al Malhi** was born in Shufat Refugee Cam, Jerusalem, in 1969 and attained his MA in Fine Art from the Winchester School of Art, UK, in 2007.

A multi-disciplinary artist, Al Malhi works across painting, installation, photography and video. A keen observer of the human condition, his work explores the architecture and geography of marginality.

Exhibitions include Ground Floor America at Den Frie in Copenhagen, in the Middle of the Middle at Sfeir-Semier Gallery, Beirut, No Man's Land in Gemak, The Hague, the Sharjah Biennial 09 and Palestine c/o Venice in 2009.

Al Malhi lives and works on the border of Shufat refugee camp, where he co-founded the Open Studio Palestine, a project that runs art workshops for children.

In 2009, he was short listed for the Frieze Foundation Cartier Award and Prix Pictet.

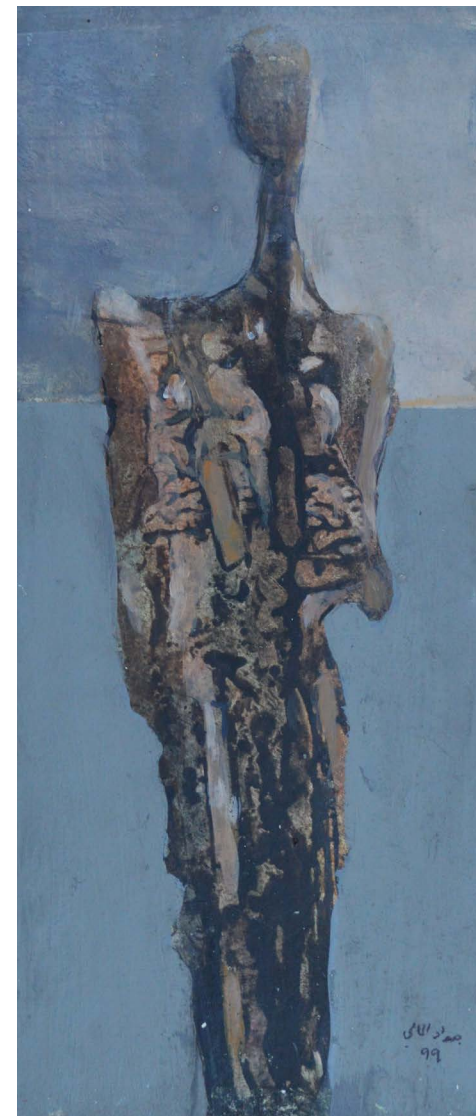
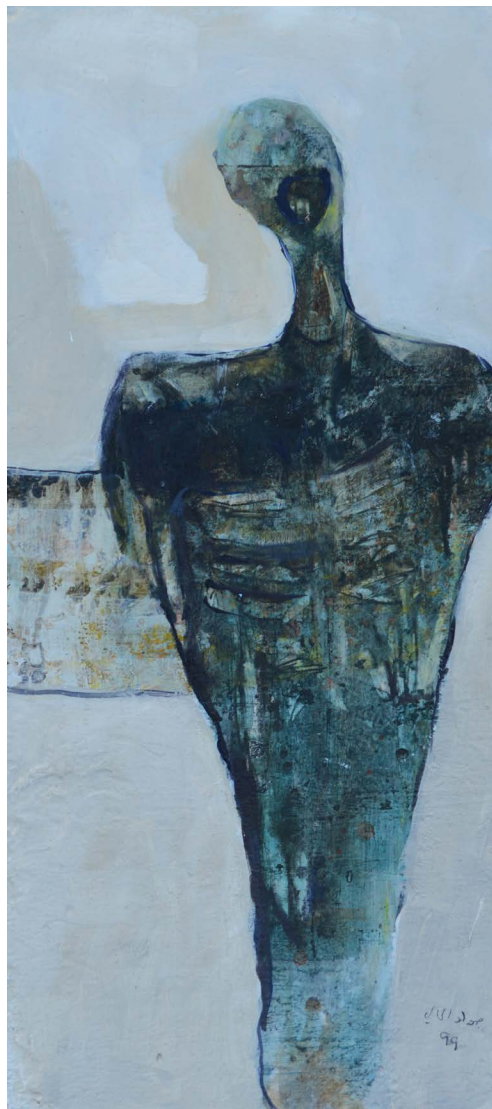


Presence of Absence, 1999  
Oil on board  
80 x 60 cm



Presence of Absence, 1999  
Oil on board  
80 x 60 cm





Untitled, 1999  
Mixed media on board  
40 x 18 cm each - Part of a 99 pcs collection

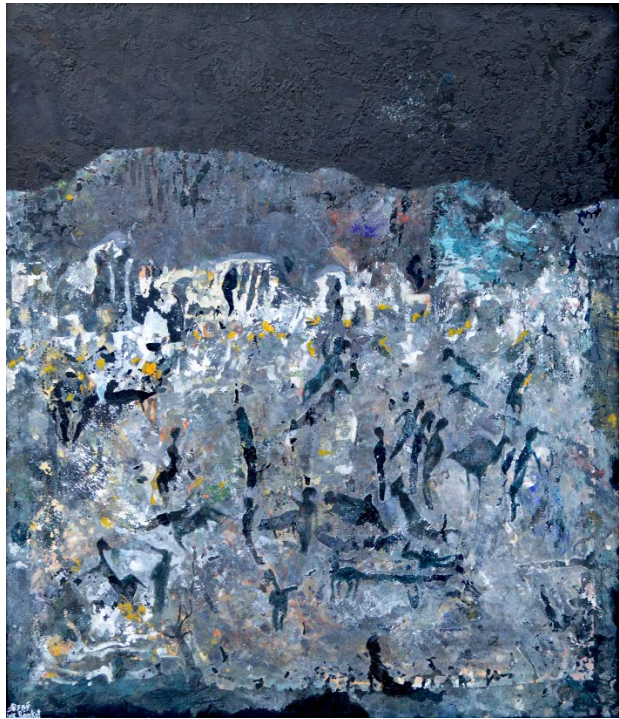




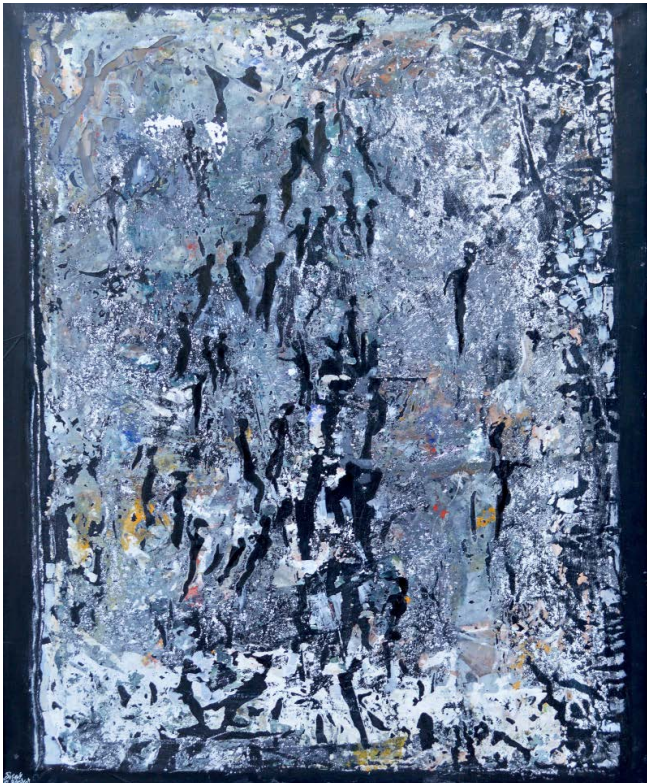
**Tayseer Barakat** was born in Gaza in 1959 and completed his arts education in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1983. After completing his studies, he moved to Ramallah where he has since based – both teaching and creating art.

A multi-talented artist, Barakat has worked with a variety 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. His style and technique are of international stature, often appealing to a wide range of audiences.

Barakat has held 9 solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous group exhibitions with many of his contemporaries in Japan, USA, Brazil, Europe and across the Arab world. His Solo exhibitions have 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.



Reminiscence, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 85 cm



Reflections, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
120 x 100 cm



The Dance, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
160 x 120 cm



Dialogue, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
154 x 122 cm





**Maisara Baroud** was born in Gaza in 1976. Baroud attained a BA degree in decoration from Al Najah University, Nablus in 1998 and he earned his MA in Fine Art from Helwan University, Cairo in 2010. The Artist has been an active member in a number of Palestinian Art Associations. The beauty in Baroud's works appears in his way of combining black and white using ink on paper, as it is the artist's way of describing the contradictory feelings a human is exposed to in daily life. Maisara has participated in many exhibitions locally and internationally, including: France, USA, Qatar, Cairo, Algeria, Abu Dhabi, Beirut, and Jordan. He currently works as an interior designer and a lecturer in the department of Engineering Science and Applied Arts at The University College of Science and Technology.



Sana Farah-Bishara was born in Nazareth in 1964. In 1985, she graduated from the Neri Bloomfield Academy of Design and Education in Haifa. In 1988, she received her B.A. in fine art and sociology from the University of Haifa, followed by a degree in museology. She has taught art and ceramics in a number of schools and community centers. Sana has served as the Director of Art Education for Arab Schools at the Janco Dada Museum, Ein Hod. She worked as an art teacher for the ministry of Education. The artist is a member of the Painters and Sculptors Association of Haifa. Her sculptures have participated in a number of private collections. In 2000, She received an honorary prize for Haifa artists and in 2007 she earned the Herman Struck Prize.



Kan'aniya I, 2015  
Ink on paper  
95 x 70 cm



Kan'aniya II, 2015  
Ink on paper  
95 x 70 cm



Kan'aniya III, 2015  
Ink on paper  
95 x 70 cm



Untitled, 2009  
Bronze cast  
31 x 34 x 16 cm



Woman with Jar, 2007  
Bronze cast  
58 x 25 x 11 cm





A Bird, 1998  
Bronze Cast  
68 x 20 x 6 cm



Untitled, 2012  
Bronze Cast  
40 x 30 x 35 cm



A Bird, 1998  
Bronze Cast  
43 x 34 x 14 cm



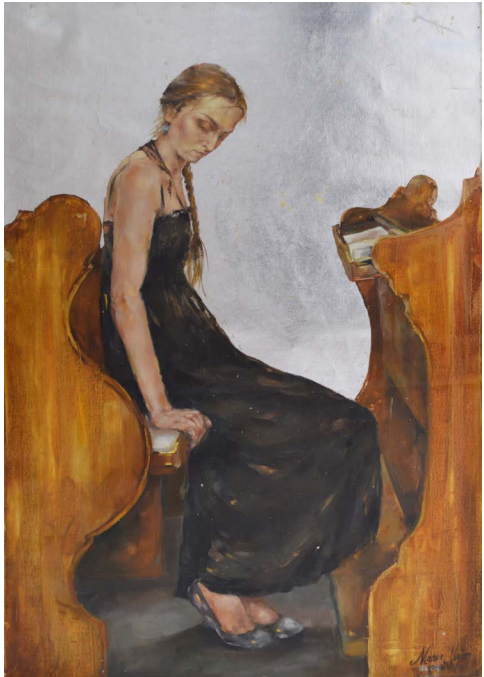
Secret, 1995  
Marble cast  
32 x 12 x 12 cm



Love Bird,  
Bronze cast  
20 x 22 x 7 cm



**Marwa Najjar** is a Palestinian painter. She was born in Amman, Jordan in 1984. She's known for her haunting portraits and delicate gold and silver leaf work. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Al-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine in 2005, returning there the following year to teach. Najjar's works focus on the beauty of women and children. She combines this with inspiration drawn from the works of Gustav Klimt and Byzantine religious iconography of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, especially in her use of gold and silver leaf. In 2006, the artist painted icons on the walls and domes of Saint Maria Cathedral in Nablus. Since 2012 she has participated in many solo and joint exhibitions. Marwa currently lives and works in Amman, Jordan.



After Praying, 2015  
Oil and silver leaf on canvas  
98 x 68 cm



Untitled, 2015  
Oil and silver leaf on canvas  
135 x 50 cm



The Clown, 2015  
Oil and silver leaf on canvas  
95 x 45 cm



Sisters, 2015  
Oil and gold leaf on canvas  
130 x 75 cm





**Mohammed Saleh Khalil** was born in Jordan in 1960. He completed his MA degree in 1988 at an art academy located in Dresden, Germany. After graduation, he headed back to Damascus where he displayed his first show at Naji Al-Ali Art Gallery. After his exposition, he made his way to Nicosia for work. During his stay in Nicosia, Mohammed was able to participate in several group exhibitions. Through his experience he was able to develop his own style of art that enabled him to set up several solo exhibitions. In 1994, He returned back to his homeland Palestine. Since then, he has participated in local and international exhibitions. His most valued award is the Jury Prize from the 2000 Biennale of Alexandria. Currently, Mohammed lives in Ramallah where he works as the art director of the Palestinian Ministry of Culture.



Mahmoud Darwish (1-4), 2015  
Acrylic on cardboard  
70 x 50 cm



Mahmoud Darwish (5), 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
118 x 86 cm





Harvest (1), 2015  
Acrylic on cardboard  
70 x 50 cm



Harvest (2), 2015  
Acrylic on cardboard  
70 x 50 cm



Syria Children, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
80 x 60 cm



**Irina Naji** was born in Russia in 1965, where she completed her high school degree. Later she joined the Baron Stieglitz Applied Artistic Academy in St. Petersburg. In 1994, Irena returned to Palestine where she was dazzled by the Palestinian aesthetic heritage and took it upon herself to regenerate the Palestinian cultural heritage with a new technique and representation. She has participated in a number of regional and international events and many of her artworks have been acquired as part of local and international private collections. Irina currently works and lives in Jabaliya Refugee Camp in Gaza.



Winter in Gaza, 2009  
Oil on canvas  
162 x 245 cm

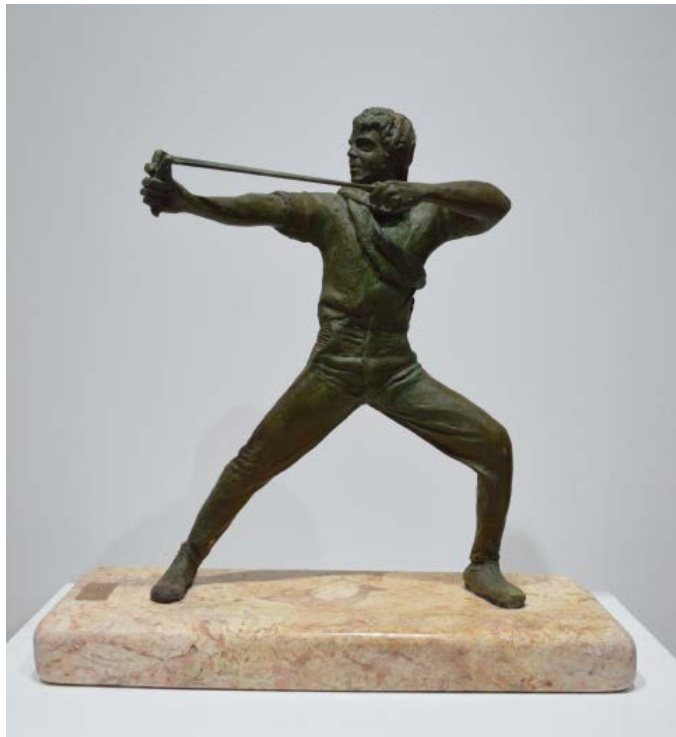




**Ahmad Kanaan** was born in Tamra in 1965 and graduated in fine art from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem in 1989.

A painter and sculptor, he has worked at a prolific rate producing work that draws on his narrative and experiences as a Palestinian in Israel. Kanaan has taught sculpture at the Arab Institute for Continuing Studies in Sakhnin from 1999 – 2006. He founded, directed and was curator for the municipal gallery in Tamra from 2004- 2010. Kanaan also taught art in Nazareth College in 2009 and in 2010 – 2011 he was curator at Jaffa Salon Of Palestinian art.

Since 1989, Kanaan has participated in many group and solo exhibitions. He has exhibited widely in Israel, Palestine, Oman, Germany, Japan, France, Russia, Korea, Jordan, UK, Egypt, Qatar, Hungary and Greece.



The Resistance, 1993  
Bronze cast  
46 x 33 x 8 cm



Refugees, 1992  
Bronze cast  
30 x 34 x 8 cm



Tamra, 1985  
Oil on canvas  
110 x 100 cm

Other selected works



Haddadin Family (Ramallah), 2015  
Artists: Nabil Anani and Sliman Mansour  
Bronze Cast (4/6)  
44 x 43 x 15 cm



Olive Tree, 2014  
Artist: Abed Alem  
Oil on canvas  
50 x 40 cm



Crack, 2011  
Artist: Abed Alem  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 50 cm



Avatar, 2015  
Artist: Amani Harhash  
Acrylic on canvas  
80 x 60cm



# NARRATIVES

Nabil Anani

Sliman Mansour

Asad Azi

Jawad Malhi

Tayseer Barakat

Maisara Baroud

Sana Bishara

Marwa Najjar

Mohammad Khalil

Irina Naji

Ahmad Kanaan

Abed Alem

Amani Harhash

This catalogue is published in conjunction with “Narratives” exhibition held at Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah, Palestine 14 - 28 June 2015.

Published in 2015

(C) Participating Artists

(C) Zawyeh Gallery

All works by Artists used by permission. All rights reserved.

Text by Nicola Gray

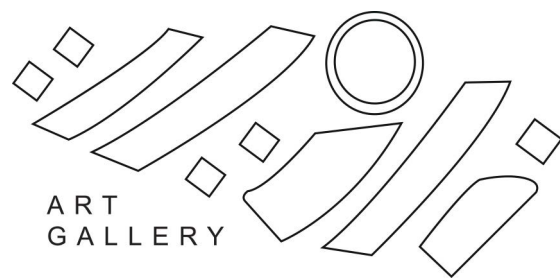
Artwork photography by Ziad Anani

Catalogue design by Ziad Anani



Zawyeh Gallery | 7A Jawwal Circle | Al-Balo' | Ramallah, Palestine  
anani.ziad@gmail.com | [www.zawyeh.net](http://www.zawyeh.net) | [www.facebook.com/zawyeh.net](https://www.facebook.com/zawyeh.net)  
+972 597 994997 | +970 2 2426486





ART  
GALLERY