

**THE LOUD SILENCE**  
**IBRAHIM AL MOZAIN**

28 May - 18 June 2016



**Zawyeh Gallery**

7A Al Zahra St.

Ramallah, Palestine

[www.zawyeh.net](http://www.zawyeh.net)

[anani.ziad@gmail.com](mailto:anani.ziad@gmail.com)

+970 597 994997

Ibrahim Al Mozain has always existed in multiple dualities it seems, a state that could be said to be symptomatic of the Palestinian condition: between refugee camp and outside, between exile and home, between leaving and returning. But dualities are not about being between; it is, rather, about existing in the same space at the same time, where binaries collapse and separations are overcome.

As an artist, Al Mozain has found a home, and maybe both an exile and sanctuary, in the physical art of theatre as well as the less tangible art of image-making in painting and drawing, although the two areas of creative life are not, of course, mutually exclusive. In the theatre, transformations take place, the unreal becomes real, actors metamorphose into something/someone else. The audience enters a state of willing suspension of belief and is temporarily lifted out and away from daily reality.

The process of transformation in the visual arts is different, although no less powerful. The theatre is an experience that occurs in time in one space, it is temporally contingent. Painting is also a temporal art, but in a different way. It can continue to exist. The images in these recent paintings are a fixed testimony to the artist's visual explorations of hybrid dualities, of liminality, and of transmutation. Blurring definitions and accepted truths, they feature bird-animals, women-men, fish-reptiles, amphibians that are born and live in water but breathe air, chameleons who change their skin colour to camouflage themselves and blend into their surroundings.

Such hybridities and shape-shifting are exemplified in Al Mozain's visualisations of the Greek mythic figure of Tiresias, the blind prophet and clairvoyant who could foresee the future and understand the language of birds. As a form of punishment for hitting out at two entwined copulating snakes, Tiresias was transformed into a woman for seven years by the goddess Hera, the wife of Zeus. He returns to masculinity seven years later when he again passes by two snakes and this time leaves them alone. But he/she also bridges other divides in his/her abilities to communicate between the sphere of the gods and the human world, between the living and the dead. With the powers of soothsaying, Tiresias 'sees' in other ways and is thus both blind and sighted.

In this world where boundaries are fluid and opposites fuse, where time has no weight, where the past is present in the future and the future is present in the past, the dead and the absent co-exist with the living in their non-presence. They have not left, and may return. The silence is loud with voices, and the blackness of the void is full of colour-filled images.

Nicola Gray  
May 2016

I always wanted to represent life and human figures in the same way I see them in reality. I remember I have seen people trapped in a state of constant stillness, as if they were waiting for something to happen or for somebody to return. The moments I capture are free of excitement or anticipation. Stillness alienates people from their own feelings and emotions. The people I meet are usually waiting for a son, a father, or a wife or husband to return from jail or exile, and perhaps they wait for their lost loved ones to return in the shape of memory in their dreams. They choose not to live with the pain of the present.

Ibrahim Al Mozain  
May 2016

## BIOGRAPHY

Ibrahim Al Mozain was born in Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in 1961. He graduated from the School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem in 1995. Al Mozain is a contemporary Palestinian artist whose work is notable for its colours and themes that address topics related to freedom as well as social and political dynamics. Al Mozain takes his inspiration from human sexuality and the body in relation with the surrounding elements and culture. Ibrahim Al Mozain has participated in several group exhibitions around the world, and a number of solo exhibitions in Palestine, including Tal Al Fukhar Theatre in Acre (1993), Rashad Al Shawwa Centre in Gaza (1998), in addition to installation works on the Gaza beach (2001).

Al Mozain is also interested in theatre production and theatrical performances. He directed six plays and produced stage decorations for many more.



The Loud Silence I , 2012, acrylic on paper, 50 x 50 cm



The Loud Silence II, 2012, acrylic on paper, 40 x 55 cm





The Loud Silence III, 2012, acrylic on paper, 33 x 50 cm

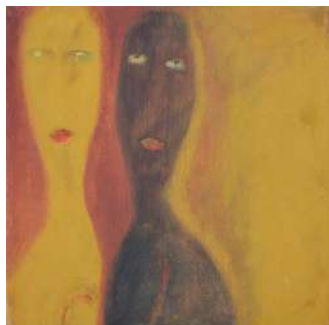




Underworld I, 2009  
oil on canvas, 50 x 40 cm



Underworld II, 2009  
oil on canvas, 50 x 40 cm



Solitude, 2009, oil on canvas, 25.5 x 25.5 cm each (set of 6)



Transition, 2012, acrylic on paper, 63 x 53 cm (2p)

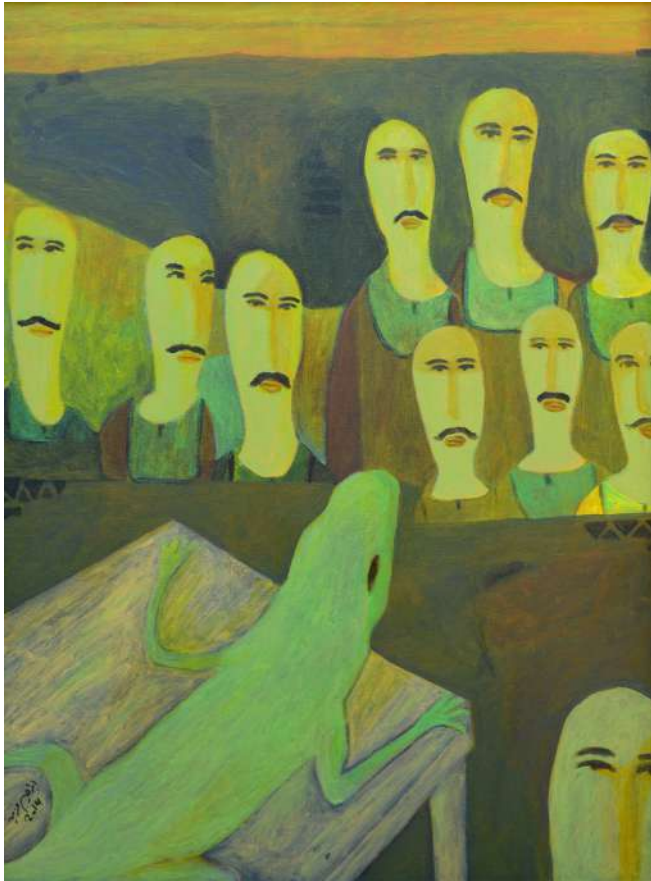


Jealousy, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 100 x 80 cm



The Return, 2014 acrylic on canvas, 100 x 80 cm





The Blind Prophet, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm



Speechless, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm

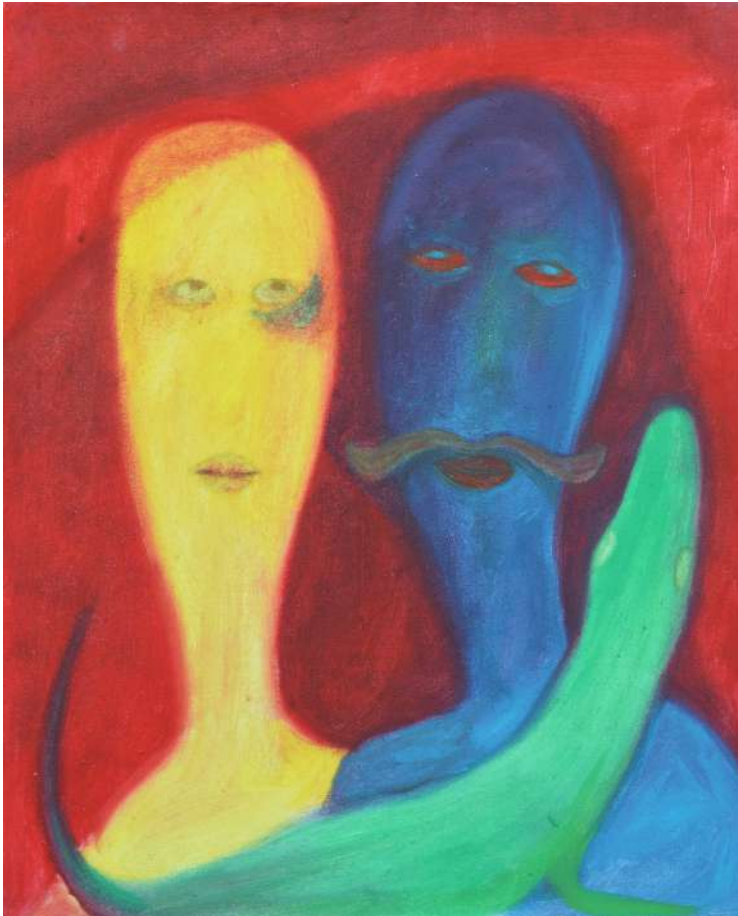




Silence, 2012, acrylic on paper, 65 x 50 cm



Hero, 2012, acrylic on paper, 35 x 67 cm



Lovers, 2009, oil on canvas, 50 x 40 cm



Tiresias, 2010, oil on canvas, 120 x 75 cm



Desire, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm



Tainted Spring, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm





Escape, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 100 cm





Longing I, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 200 cm



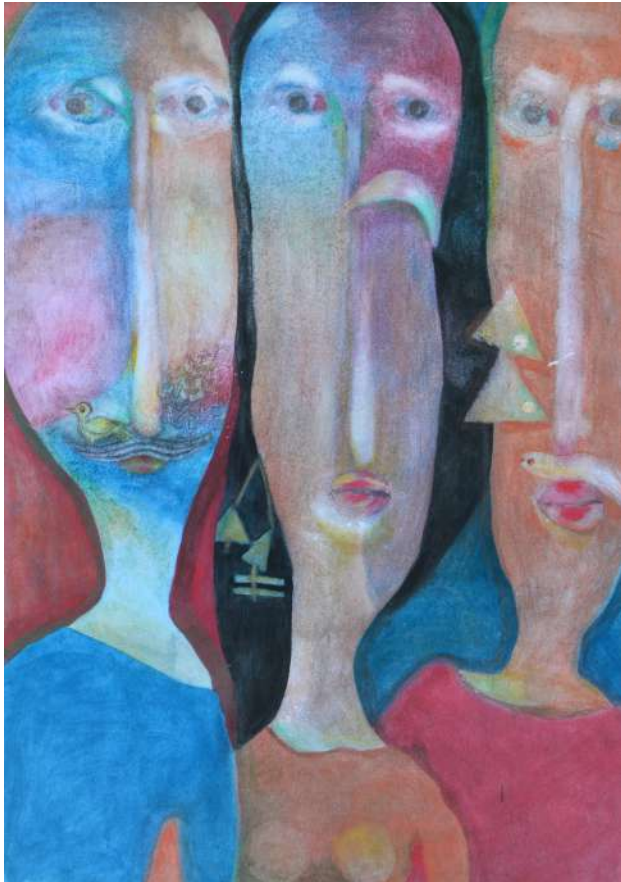
Nostalgia, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 186 x 220 cm (2p)



Longing II, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm



Longing III, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm



Untitled, 2005, watercolour on paper, 68 x 48 cm

Private collection: Mr. Sameh Abboushi





Absent I, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm



Absent II, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm



# ZAWYEH GALLERY

Zawyeh is an independent visual art gallery based in Ramallah, Palestine. It was founded by Ziad Anani in 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.

This catalogue is published in conjunction with “***The Loud Silence***” exhibition held at Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah, Palestine from 28 May - 18 June 2016.

Published in 2016

(C) Ibrahim Al Mozain

(C) Zawyeh Gallery

All works by Artist used by permission.

All rights reserved.

Text by Nicola Gray

Edited by Sulieman Mleahat

Artwork photography by Ziad Anani

Design by Ziad Anani



Zawyeh Gallery, 7A Al Zahra St., Ramallah, Palestine  
anani.ziad@gmail.com, [www.zawyeh.net](http://www.zawyeh.net)  
+970 597 994997, +970 2 2426486