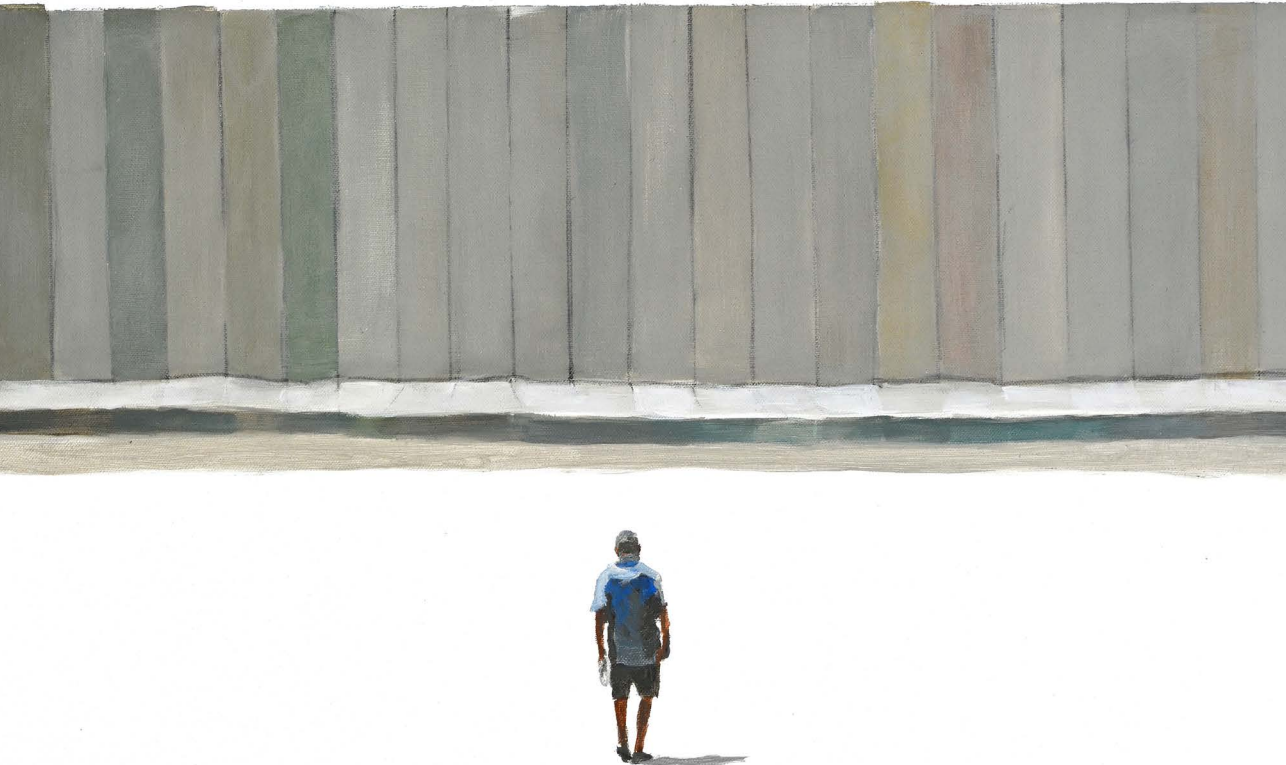


KHALED HOURANI  
***LEAPING OVER THE BARRIER***

فاصل متواصل ، وسنعود

ZAWYEH GALLERY, DUBAI  
19 SEPTEMBER - 3 NOVEMBER 2022



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**LEAPING OVER THE BARRIER**

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The separation wall is the subject of the solo exhibition of the Ramallah-based Palestinian artist Khaled Hourani. The new show *Leaping Over The Barrier* is a return for Hourani to paint the separation wall.

Hourani tries to remove the wall and transcend it through his paintings. He paints young men climbing using hands, ropes, and ladders, but he also paints them climbing the wall relying on their imagination. He depends on media images from Palestine documenting people climbing over the separation wall to a certain extent.

Hourani says: Perhaps it is not expected from me, as an artist, to continue painting the separation wall in Palestine, even if this is done in a bid to bypass or climb over it with the impossible. Yet, I find myself not only returning to the separation wall, but also producing an entire exhibition about it. The “Wall” condenses the meaning of “occupation” and continues to disrupt our lives, growing taller in Palestine but also elsewhere in the world. My inner voice asserts: Stop the walls so I can stop painting them. There are plenty of topics that one can discuss, in particular since the Covid-19 pandemic. Plenty of subjects are becoming a source of worry to us humans rather than a source of comfort. What do we expect? What is a possible painting? I ask myself, what occupies my mind as a human? And what do people expect from an artist who lives in this part of the world?

I find myself repeating with Amal Mathlouthi the lyrics of her song (A Dream):

If I could close my eyes,  
And the dreams take me by the hand,  
I would rise and fly in a new sky,  
and I will forget my sorrows.  
If I could travel in my imagination,  
I would build palaces and nights,  
where love and hopes can grow, and we will erase the pain...

A world, in which you see people, whose features  
are clouded by oppression, misery, and suffering,

from a bitter reality that destroys everything we build.  
A world where you see rising walls of tyranny,  
That crushes in us dreams and dreams  
And reign darkness and greed in all hearts.

Instead of building bridges and paving roads, separation walls are built. Separation becomes the rule and nature becomes the exception. I exclude the landscape in some paintings, yet the barriers remain subordinate to the land curves that define the place. In other paintings, I tried to remove the wall and transcend it by climbing using hands, ropes, ladders and imagination. Yet, what people do in reality, is the genuine art that no one can compete with. I did not fabricate images in my studio for the sake of symbolism or to suggest something new. I relied instead on images from Palestine published by the media as they recorded live inspiring performances of those people who do not stop climbing the wall.

Endless barriers are being leapt over; barriers between what is normal life and what isn't; barriers between homes, between a farmer and his fields, between a believer and his worship house, and between the scenery and the painter. Barriers continue throughout the country at its length and breadth, between the village and the city, within the country and abroad, on the borders between the north and the south, between one continent and another, and between the place and its details.  
A prolonged interlude but we shall return.. we shall return home to paint life with all its glory and will leap over it as should be.



**Khaled Hourani**

*Queue* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

78 x 100 cm (30.7" x 39.3")



**Khaled Hourani**

*The Comeback* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

87 x 68 cm (34.2" x 26.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Naser* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

87 x 68 cm (34.2" x 26.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*The Golden Hour* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

87 x 68 cm (34.2" x 26.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Climbing Holds 1* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

121 x 103 cm (47.6" x 40.5")





**Khaled Hourani**

*Climbing Holds 2* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

101 x 102 cm (39.7" x 40.1")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Climbing Holds 3* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

121 x 102 cm (47.6" x 40.1")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Wall Climbing 1 (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

70 x 60 cm (27.5" x 23.6")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Wall Climbing 2 (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

121 x 103 cm (47.6" x 40.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Wall Climbing 3 (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

121 x 100 cm (47.6" x 39.3")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Wall Climbing 4* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

121 x 102 cm (47.6" x 40.1")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Rise* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

92 x 73 cm (36.2" x 28.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*iCloud* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

81 x 50 cm (31.9" x 19.7")





**Khaled Hourani**

*Nap* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

77 x 96 cm (30.3" x 37.8")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Blue Cloud* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

71 x 63 cm (27.9" x 24.8")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Wood on Concrete* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

71 x 63 cm (27.9" x 24.8")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Shadow* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

71 x 63 cm (27.9" x 24.8")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Shireen* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

101 x 98 cm (39.7" x 38.5")

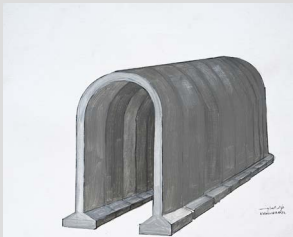


**Khaled Hourani**

*Jerusalem Milestone* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

91 x 102 cm (35.8" x 40.1")





**Khaled Hourani**

*Blocks (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")





**Khaled Hourani**

*Traffic Sign (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Dim* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Sniper* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Side Sequence* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")

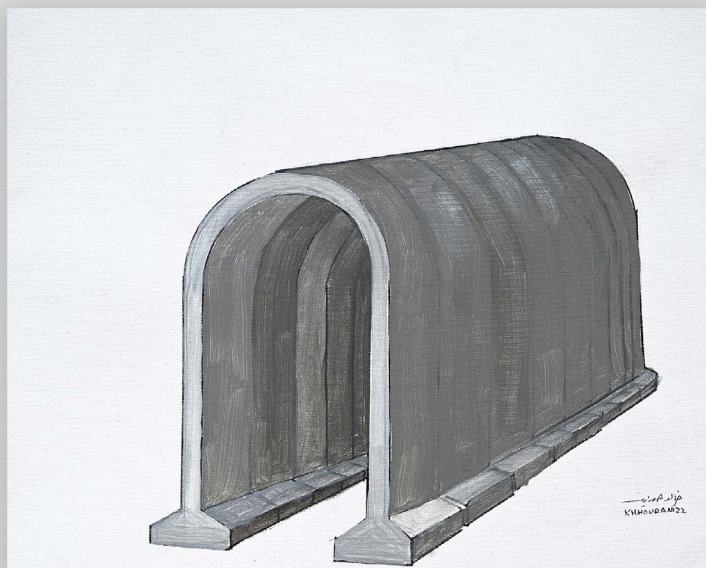


**Khaled Hourani**

*Leftover (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Arch* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Madness* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Warning Sign (2022)*

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 42 cm (14.1" x 16.5")





**Khaled Hourani**

*Block* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

110 x 40 cm (43.3" x 15.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Amusement Park* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

90 x 92 cm (35.4" x 36.2")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Abu Dis* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

40 x 50 cm (15.7" x 19.7")



**Khaled Hourani**

*Damascus Gate* (2022)

Acrylic on canvas

40 x 50 cm (15.7" x 19.7")



*The Golden Hour* (2022), Detail

## BIOGRAPHY

Khaled Hourani (b. Hebron, Palestine, 1965) is a prominent Palestinian artist. He was the Artistic Director of the International Academy of Art Palestine from 2007 – 2010 and its General Director from 2010 to 2013. He also worked as General Director of the Fine Arts Department in the Palestinian Ministry of Culture (2004 – 2006). In 2013, he was awarded the Leonore Annenberg Prize, Creative Time for Art and Social Change in New York City. In 2014, he organized his first retrospective at the CCA in Glasgow and Gallery One in Ramallah, followed by a retrospective exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan, in 2017.

Hourani was the initiator of the 2011 Picasso in Palestine Project and The Stone Distance to Jerusalem project. He has participated in several exhibitions, including the Sharjah Biennial, 2011; an exhibition at the Times Museum in Guangzhou, China, 2012; the 2nd CAFA Biennale Museum in Beijing, 2013; DOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel and KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin; Catastrophe and the Power of Art at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017; and more recently in Picasso and Spanish exile at Museum of Modern Art, Toulouse, France, 2019. Hourani is also known as a notable art critic, writer and curator, overseeing many exhibitions in Palestine and abroad. He lives and works in Ramallah.

### Selected collections

The Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, Netherlands)  
Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE)  
Guggenheim Museum (Abu Dhabi, UAE)  
Darat Al Funun (Amman, Jordan)  
Dalloul Art Foundation (Beirut, Lebanon)  
Birzeit University (Birzeit, Palestine)  
Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan)  
The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit, Palestine)  
Um Al-Fahem Museum (Um Al Fahem, Palestine)



غاليري زاوية

ZAWYEH GALLERY

Warehouse 27, Alserkal Avenue  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**+971 585 925667**  
zanani@zawyeh.net  
www.zawyeh.net