ART PALESTINE

NABIL ANANI

TAYSEER BARAKAT

SLIMAN MANSOUR

Curated by Rula Alami Zaki and Charles Pocock

Meem Gallery

NABIL
ANANI

OLIVE TREE

Arts and culture play a vital role in the expression of peoples' afflictions and their aspirations for a better life. In light of the recent uprisings in the Arab world, my mission as an artist to reflect topical issues has become more important, both in Palestine and the region. These revolts against corrupt dictators are not isolated from the Palestinian cause rather, they are deeply related. Social and economic injustices and the absence of dignity are among the main factors behind these revolts which are aimed at changing, reforming and democratising our societies.

I use the olive tree in my recent work to portray an essential cultural aspect of the Palestinian conflict with the country's occupation. The olive tree is a major part of Palestine's culture; it constitutes the bulk of the Palestinian landscape which has been the target of Israeli attacks. Its destruction reflects the policy to obliterate Palestinian identity, to evacuate the land and alter the landscape. I feel deep agony when I witness an olive tree being cut down, or a house being destroyed.

Nabil Anani
Ramallah
15 April 2011

I started working on realising my vision and dreams through a new dynamic world, bonded by unified harmonious elements: the olive tree, humankind and home. I aim to capture these elements by creating a powerful composition in terms of shape, colour and texture. These are separated by strong lines and vivid colours. I use a scalping knife to apply cold hues to evoke a sense of movement, dynamism, anger and sometimes tranquility.

Through this experience, I hope to discover new visual and expressive forms of art, to help me reach out to viewers and inspire them to engage with the Palestinian cause and to keep pace with the transformations taking place in the Arab world. Recently, my concerns for Palestine's inhumane conditions under occupation and the perpetual targeting of people in all aspects of their daily life has dominated my thoughts. I address these issues by celebrating my chosen icon: the olive tree.

Generally the elements of my new works are distributed horizontally and vertically on the canvas thus generating a homogenous composition in terms of shape, colour and texture. These components are usually separated by soft lines of bright colour on darker areas. Using knife scalping in different directions evokes a more tangible sense of violent winds or feelings of anguish and rage. The effect of this technique in a variety of coloured lines defines the shades of darker forms which are usually painted in two or three hues. This creates a harmonious colour palette and a dramatic sensation connected to these forms.

The way that spatial depth is explored in my work is far from a realistic representation. The flatness of my compositions are sometimes created by an interaction of large and small areas, especially in my works devoted to the theme of the olive tree. However, my use of colour remains the same, thus yielding a sense of paradox and achieving the desired contextual impact of the art work.

b. 1943, Latrun

Education

1969
BA Fine Arts (specialised in oil painting), Fine Arts College, Alexandria
1998
MA Islamic Archaeology, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem
Dissertation: *Reliefs and Sculptures in Kherbet Al Mafjar (Hisham's Palace)*

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1972
YMCA, Jerusalem
1980
Gallery 79, Ramallah
1985
Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem
1996
Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah
1998
Al-Wasiti Art Centre, Jerusalem and Arts and Crafts Village, Gaza City
2001
People and Chairs, Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah
2003
Ink on Paper, Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah
2005
Border Rituals, Peace Centre, Bethlehem
2007
A Journey into Script, Foyles Gallery, London
2008
A State of Mysticism, Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah
2009
A State of Mysticism, El Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo

Selected Group Exhibitions

1973
Joint exhibition with Issam Bader, Orthodox Club, Ramallah
1976
Palestinian art exhibition, Tetra Shell Castle Ship, London
1977
Palestinian art exhibition, travelling exhibition moved between 8 states, US
1977-1985
Travelling exhibition of twelve local Palestinian artists' work, League of Palestinian Artists, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Tol Karem, Nezareth, Gaza and Hebron
1986
Palestinian Art Festival, Moscow
1989-1996
New Vision Group (with Tayseer Barakat, Sliman Mansour and Vera Tamari), Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem, Salerno and Amman
1990
Palestinian art exhibition, Parliament Hall, Madrid
Palestinian art exhibition, Red Crescent, Montreal
1992
Kufia, Palestinian art exhibition, Rome
1995
It's Possible, Palestinian and Israeli artists, National Museum, Washington, DC
Palestinian Subordination Day, United Nations Headquarters, New York
1999
Artists of the Occupied Lands, Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman
Palestinian Artists Today, Drammen Museum, Drammen
2000
Palestinian art exhibition, Bissan Gallery, Doha
2001-2003
Palestinian art exhibition, League of Tunisian Artists, Tunis and JALA Exhibition Hall, Tokyo
Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah
2002
Alexandria Biennial, Alexandria
2004
Colours of LIfe and Freedom, Palestinian art exhibition, UNESCO, Paris
2005
Palestinian art exhibition, UNICEF, Beirut
Artists from Palestine, Four Walls Gallery, Amman

2009
7*7 , Amman Bank Hall, Amman
2011
Art Palestine, Meem Gallery, Dubai

Awards

1997
State of Palestine Award in Fine Arts
2006
King Abdullah of Jordan Award in Fine Arts for the Middle East (shared with Egyptian artist George Bahjuri), Amman

EXHIBITING



Racist Section
(2011)
Acrylic on canvas
120 * 150 cm



Towards Change (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
110 * 300 cm



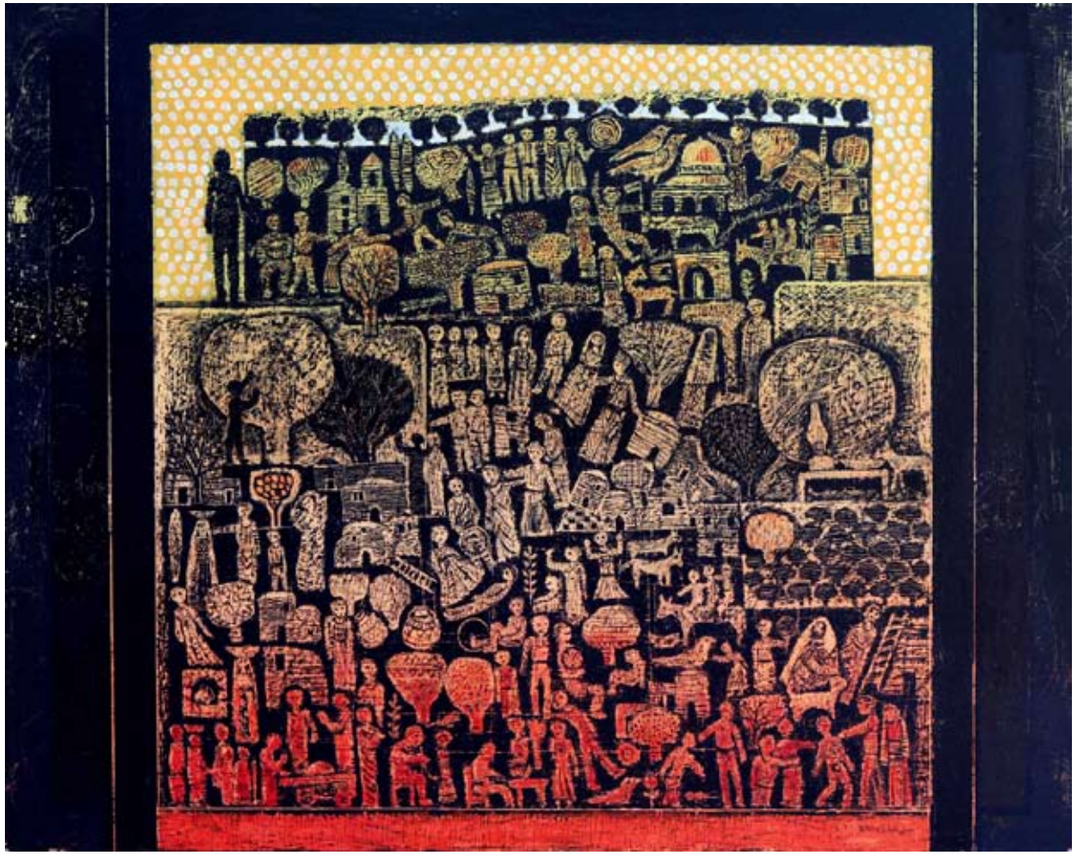
In the Village at Nighttime (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
120 * 150 cm



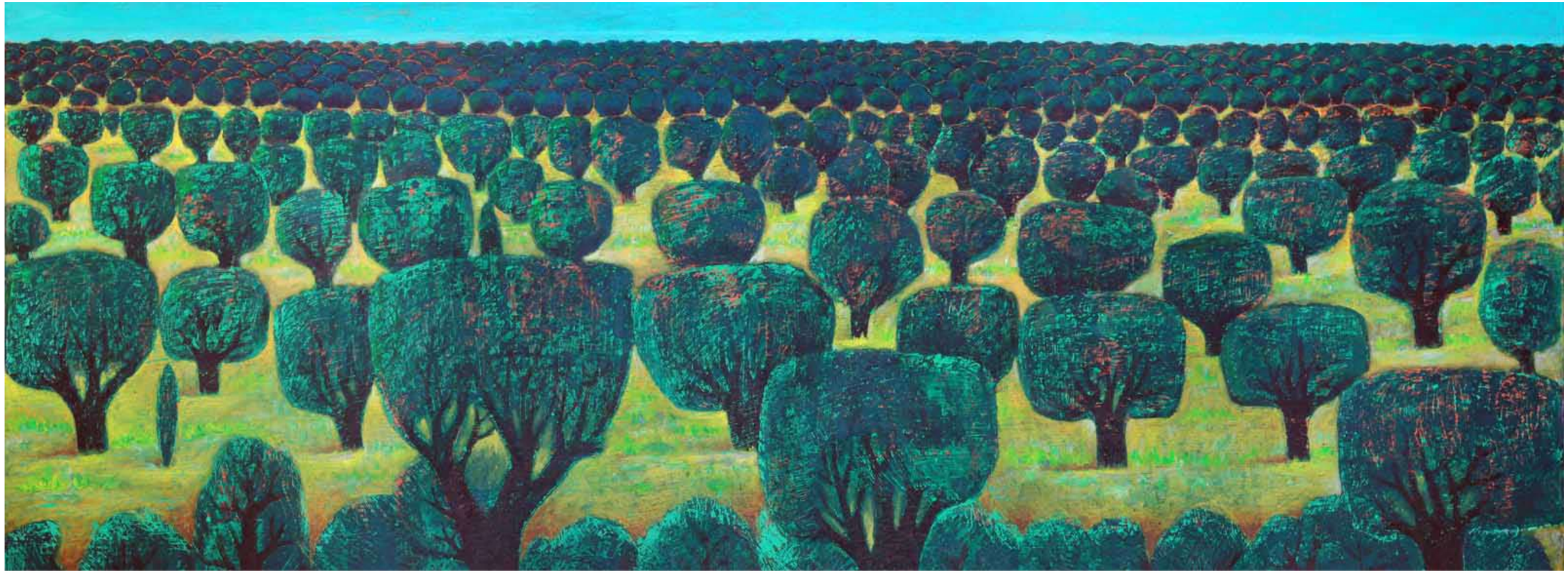
The Olive Intifada (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
120 * 150 cm



Olive Pickers at Dawn (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
120 * 150 cm



Life's cycle (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
120 * 120 cm



Olives from West Ramallah (2011)
Acrylic on canvas
110 * 300 cm

TAYSEER
BARAKAT

IMAGES FROM THE UNKNOWN

On this occasion, I had no desire to write. Indeed, I tried to evade it repeatedly. Eventually, without prior planning, my pen rushed ahead of me. So I have tried to explain my self-imprisonment and the buried lines since the time of Hammurabi, my distrust of history; my admiration for those in antiquity who sailed across the Mediterranean, the inventors of algebra, medicine, the zero, and Hammurabi's wheel.

I knew what I wanted to say, but failed to discover how to explain that void and explore the unknown. I admit my passion for raw and natural materials, and recognise that it is the key for self-revelation. The chanting of uprisings across Arab streets has recovered my shattered soul from the alleys of exile and my deep desire to return home. Tears washed away the shaky decades of degradation and restored my scattered pieces into a mosaic of images. An image of confused Andalusian kings; another of a medieval priest seducing a woman; an old man begging during the era of the Berbers; a woman grieving her lost beloved; passionate lovemaking under a tree; love that flows like a beam of light along the Silk Road; fear of the unknown and the darkness of night; the first experience of sailing; my first love; winter in the camp; the scent of the alleys; the freedom of a flying pigeon; an ambiguous love on the mountains of Tibet and a discovered love at the walls of Jerusalem.

Tayseer Barakat
Ramallah
15 March 2011

b. 1959, Jabalya Camp, Gaza

Education

1983
BA in Fine Art, Helwan University, Alexandria

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1987
Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem
1992
Gallery Annadil, Jerusalem
1996
Al-Wasiti Art Centre, Jerusalem
Sao Paulo International Biennial, Sao Paulo
1997
Cultural Centre Hall, Austria
2006
Al-Hallaj Hall, Ramallah
Dar Al-Anda Gallery, Amman
Rafia Gallery, Damascus
2010
Dust, Dialogue and Iron, Alexandria Biennial, Alexandria

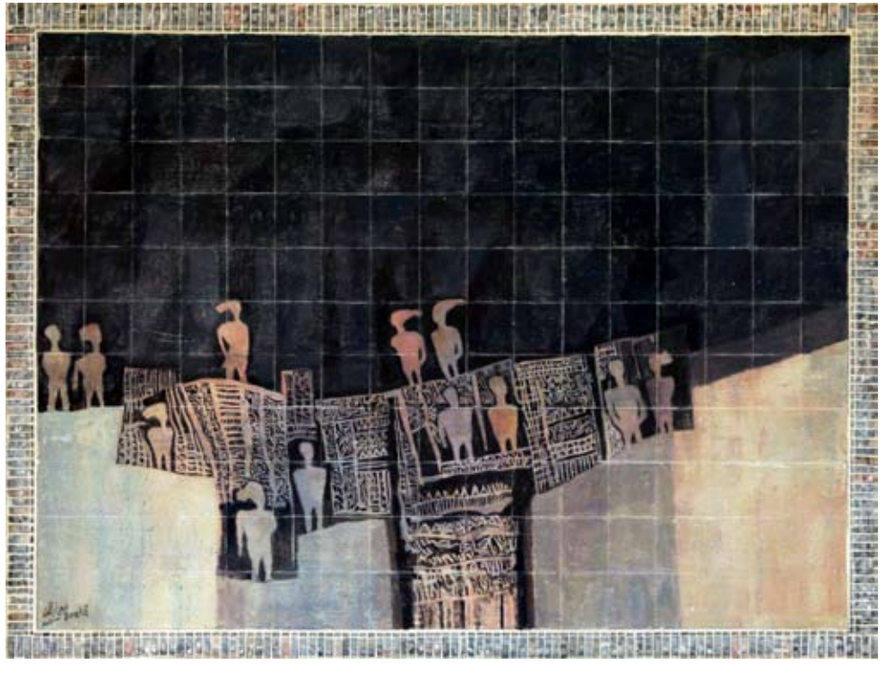
Selected Group Exhibitions

1989-1996
New Vision Group (with Nabil Anani, Sliman Mansour and Vera Tamari), Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem, Salerno and Amman
1993
Palestinian art exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm
1996
Joint exhibition of Palestinian artists, United Nations Headquarters, New York
1997
Palestinian Spring, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
2000
Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah
2003
Made in Palestine, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas
2005
Virtual Book, Library of Alexandria, Alexandria
2008
Three Stories, Umm Al-Fahem Gallery, Umm Al-Fahem
2011
Art Palestine, Meem Gallery, Dubai

Awards

2010
Alexandria Biennial Prize, Alexandria

EXHIBITING



Love on the Moon (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
118 * 157 cm

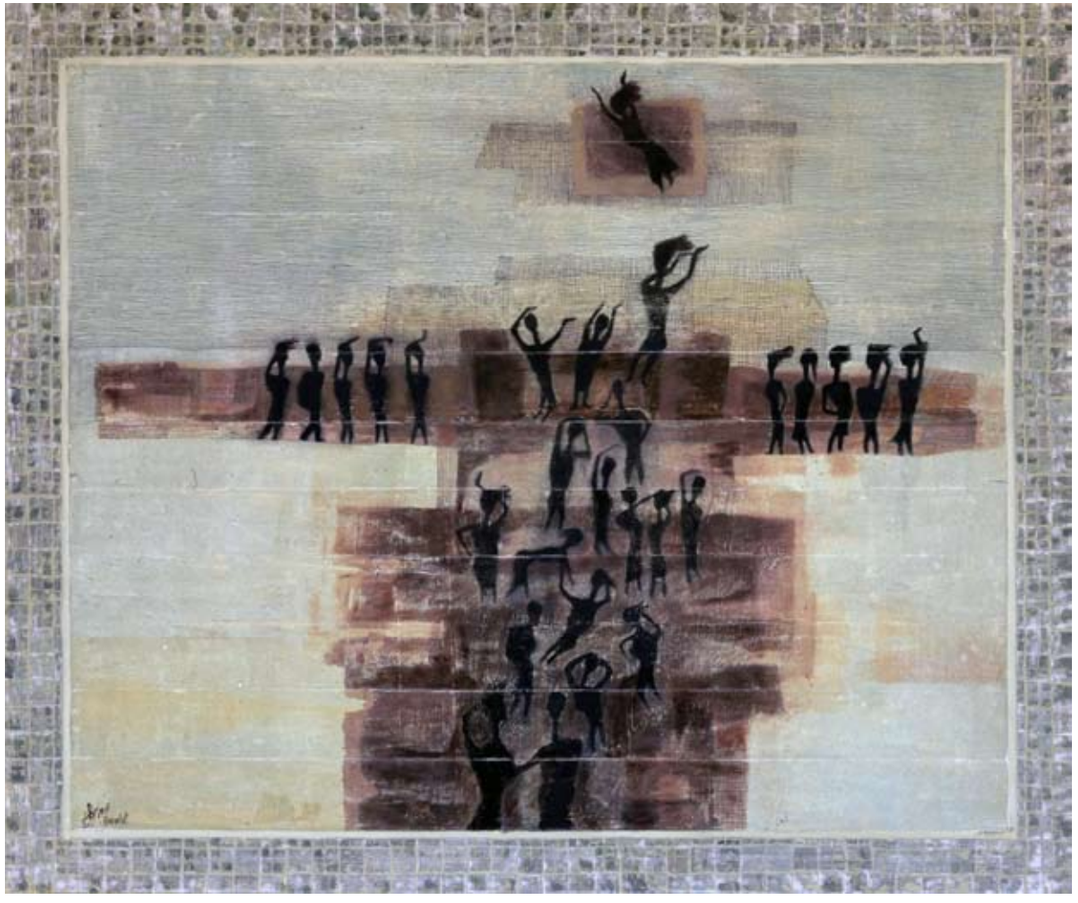


The First Beginnings (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
123 * 154 cm

Freedom in the Horizon (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
169 * 124 cm

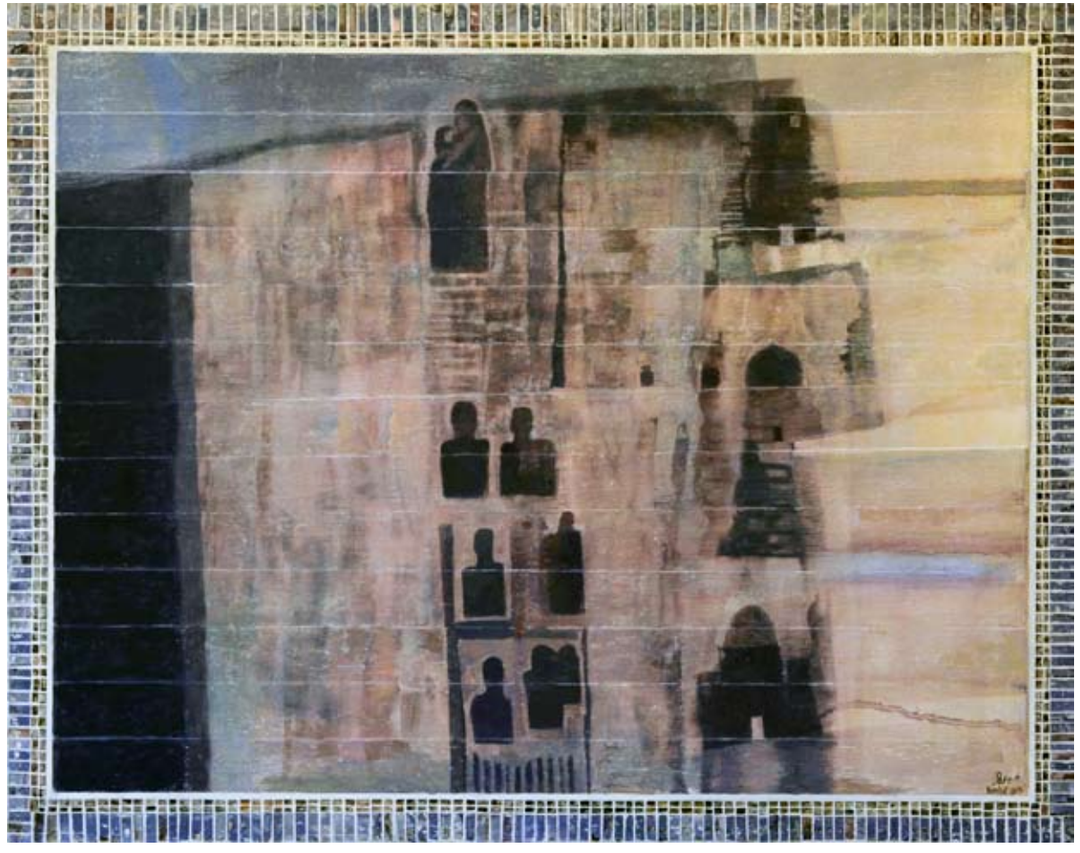






First Love (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
157 * 118 cm

Resurrection (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
126 * 153 cm



Temple of Dagon (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
123 * 157 cm



Spring Hill (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
123 * 157 cm





Under the Ashes (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
168 * 123 cm

Glory (2011)
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas
123 * 155 cm

SLIMAN
MANSOUR

THE SACRED LAND

My artistic passion has been aimed at discovering, and reflecting, through my work a natural scene of a people rooted to their land. I have sought to portray that relationship by focusing on local dwellers engrossed in their varying occupations with their tools and trades, relating to each other in their native language.

In the past, my goal—like that of any other Palestinian artist living with the 'occupation'—was to restore to the Palestinians a sense of their national identity, and to resist any attempts to deny and obliterate it. It is for that reason that I have created and borrowed several old and new symbols and forms. In fact, since 1970, land has become the central theme of my work.

I believe that art is an expressive and informational tool which illustrates a certain imposed, perpetual reality filled with conflicting values and concepts. Since my childhood, I have been working on filtering my own experiences, trying to bring to light some of the conflicting experiences of Palestinians in the occupied land. I feel at times as if I were documenting a Greek saga, working towards a conclusion though the ending is already known.

Sliman Mansour
Jerusalem
9 June 2011

To communicate my ideas, I focus on the experience of a person, whom I put in different states of exhausting anticipation or loss. This individual is portrayed in various conditions: locked inside a concrete block or an endless tunnel, moving slowly to an unknown end, or sharply watching familiar tragic scenes that defy both understanding and logic. At times the portrayal is of a shaded block or of lines lost in a remote and dusty void.

Among my other substantive symbols is the routine scene, one that never stops fragmenting and changing. Inspired by 'Our Great Olive Tree,' we see it exerting one last heroic attempt for survival and a new beginning. My artistic approach is to use mixed elements to indicate the beginning and the end; charcoal and brush drawings are combined, sometimes overlapping and at other times restricted, reflecting the 'Sacred Land' which is only accessible to a flock of immigrant birds.

My aim is to observe, think and work whilst benefiting from my global artistic experiences, without allowing them to dominate or blur my vision or divert my artistic path. Adhering always to the borderline between good and evil, allows me to be vigilant and my designs turn into well-outlined shades dominated by white and black. In between remains a spectrum of spent ashes mixed with the heat and colours of a previous life.

b. Birzeit, 1947

Education

1970
BA in Fine Art, Bezalel Art Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1981
Sliman Mansour, Gallery 79, Ramallah
1992
Roots, United Nations, New York
1995
Sliman Mansour, Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah
1996
Palestinian Art: Sliman Mansour, City Hall, Stavanger
1998
I Ismael, Cairo Biennial, Cairo
2001
Ten Years in Mud, travelling exhibition, Sakakini Centre, Ramallah, City Hall, Nazareth and Village of Arts and Crafts, Gaza
2003
The Fabric of Memory, Sharjah Museum, Sharjah
2007
Sketches, Al-Ma'mal Gallery, Jerusalem (Old City)
2011
Terrains of Belonging, Alhoush Gallery, Jerusalem

Selected Group Exhibitions

1975
First group exhibition of Palestinian artists under occupation, YMCA, Jerusalem
1980
Palestinian Art, State Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow
1981
Palestinian Art, Kunsternes Hus, Oslo
1982
Prisoners Day, YMCA, Jerusalem
1983
Thirteenth Arab Biennial, Kuwait
1984
Land Day, Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem
1985
Palestinian Spring, Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem
1988
It's Possible, Cooper Union, New York
1989-1996
New Vision Group (with Nabil Anani, Tayseer Barakat and Vera Tamari), Al-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem, Salerno and Amman
1990
Art Under Occupation, City Hall, Salerno
Occupation and Resistance, Alternative Museum, New York
1991
New Visions, Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman
1992
Seven Artists from the Occupied Territories, Shoman Foundation, Amman
Art Dialogue, Nora Latin, ABF, Stockholm
1994
Building Bridges, Meridian House, Washington, DC
1997
Palestinian Spring, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
1998
50 years of Nakbah, City Hall, Nazareth
1999
Palestinian Artists Today, Drammen Museum, Drammen
2000
Kwangu Biennial, Kwangu, South Korea
2002
Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo
2003
Made In Palestine, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston
2004
Colours of Life and Freedom, UNESCO, Paris
2005
Virtual Book, Library of Alexandria, Alexandria
2006
Palestinian Art, Umm Al-Fahem Gallery, Umm Al-Fahem
2007
Santa's Ghetto, Bethlehem Manger Square, Bethlehem
2008
Never Part, Bozar Museum, Brussels
2009
The Other Shadow of the City, Alhoush Gallery, Jerusalem
2009
Gallery Rafia, Damascus
2010
Contemporary Calligraphic Art in the Arab World, Nabad Gallery, Amman
2011
Art Palestine, Meem Gallery, Dubai

Awards

1998
Palestine Prize for the Visual Arts
Grand Prize of the Cairo Biennial, Cairo

EXHIBITING



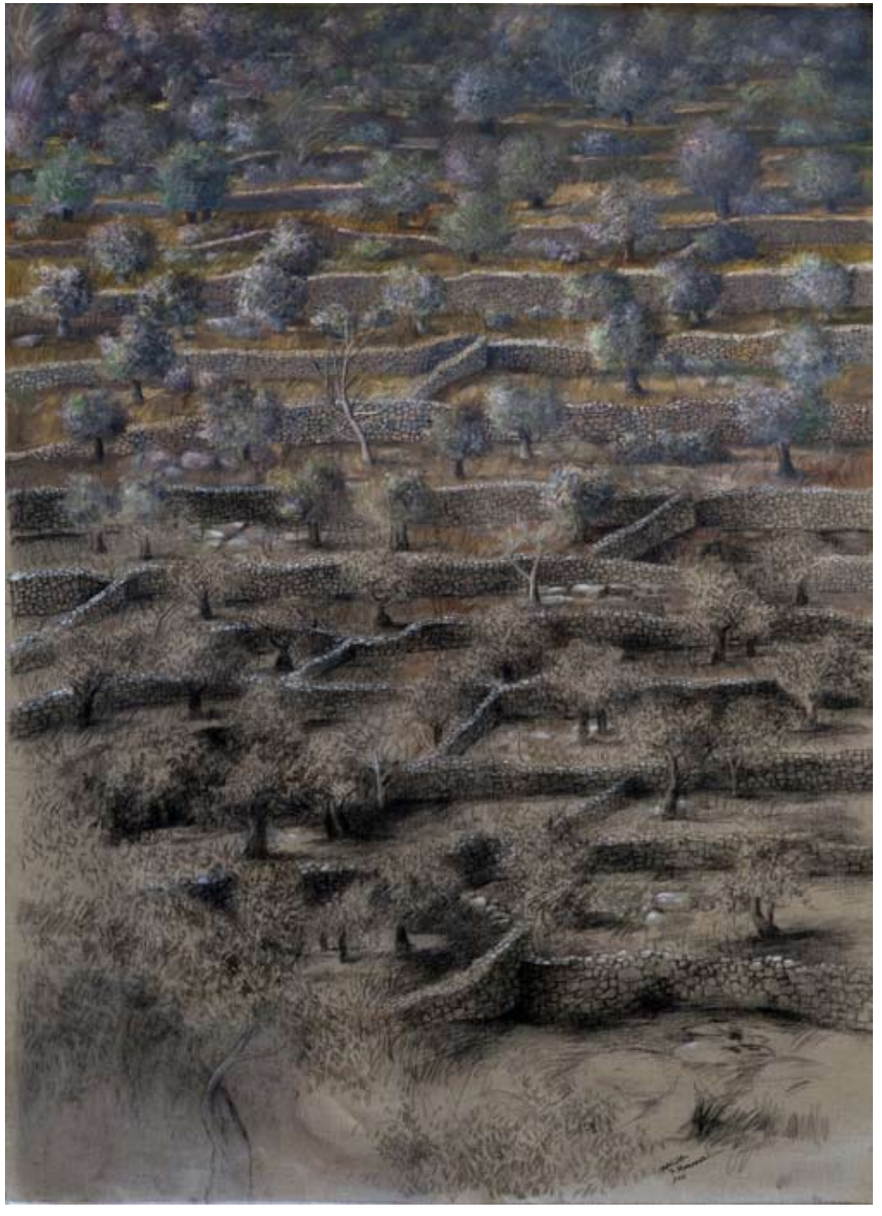
The Shadow (2010)
Oil on canvas
125 * 130 cm

Olive Field (2010)
Oil and charcoal on canvas
165 * 125 cm





Jerusalem (2011)
Oil on canvas
120 * 140 cm



Sacred Land (2011)
Charcoal and oil on linen
170 * 120 cm





October Afternoon (2011)
Charcoal and oil on linen
160 * 120 cm

Watch Tower (2011)
Charcoal and oil on linen
130 * 130 cm

MEEM
GALLERY

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