



the
mosaic
rooms

Fragile Bodies

Young Artists from Occupied Palestine and the Golan Heights

Seven Finalists in the AM Qattan Foundation's Young Artist of the Year 2008 Award (The Hassan Hourani Award)

25 September - 21 October, 2009

Monday - Saturday 11 - 6 pm, Tuesdays 11 - 4 pm

Akram Halabi

Majd Abdel Hamid

Hazem Harb

Salama Safadi

Shada Safadi

Layan Shawabkeh

Wafaa Yasin



Layan Shawabkeh, *Ladies of Gaza*, 2008 (detail), acrylic on canvas, 243.9 x 233.7 cm

Curator: Nicola Gray

Entrance Free

Open Mon - Sat 11 - 6

Tuesdays 11 - 4.

For further information, please call 0207 370 9990 or email us on info@mosaicrooms.org

All works will be available for purchase.

Directions: The Mosaic Rooms, Tower House, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW.

Nearest Tube: Earl's Court (Earl's Court Road Exit).

Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3.

One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement only. Please call us. Otherwise, metres are available nearby in Lexham Gardens.

www.mosaicrooms.org

The seven artists in this show were all finalists in the AM Qattan Foundation's 2008 Young Artist of the Year award, which was launched in 2000 to support and promote artistic practice by young Palestinian artists. The artists have grown up under conditions of military occupation, discrimination, alienation or exile. Forced by circumstances to be wiser than their years, the multiplicities of layers and pressures in the environments they exist in and their daily experiences have fed into their work – both directly and subliminally – for which they use the diversity of media in contemporary art practice, from video and installation to painting, photography and the traditional art of etching. The seven artists come from or are based in Ramallah, Jerusalem, the Galilee, Gaza and, for the first time in the Award's history, the occupied Golan Heights. This area has also been under occupation since 1967, and suffers from many of the same social and political issues as occupied Palestine. The works shown in 'Fragile Bodies' reveal some of the shared legacies and themes of pain and loss; of loneliness, exile, and a lack of stability while being subject to forces out of the artists' control.

"I try in my work to highlight the fragile human condition, and Palestinian daily life in particular. The formlessness, absence of features and the mystery all signify the loss of stability and the feeling of defeat. In my recent works, I chose one element within each frame to emphasise the solitude, and sometimes the obligatory exile, and the absence of any feature of stability." Hazem Harb



The Mosaic Rooms is an AM Qattan Foundation project



Majd Abdel Hamid
Untitled, 2008 (detail of mixed media installation)



Hazem Harb
Labyrinth, 2008 (detail), 34 etchings on paper, 25 x 25 cm each



Shada Safadi
In the Presence of the Crow II, 2008, mixed media on canvas, 196 x 139 cm

Akram Halabi was born in 1981 in Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan Heights and studied art at the University of Damascus in Syria and the Fine Arts Academy in Vienna.

Majd Abdel Hamid was born in 1988 in Damascus and was one of the first selected students to study at the new International Academy of Art in Ramallah, which opened in 2007. He will complete his studies in 2009-10 at the Malmö Art Academy in Sweden.

Hazem Harb was born in Gaza in 1980. He left Gaza in 2006 to study at the Academy of Art and the Istituto Europeo di Design in Rome where he currently lives. Artist-in-residence at Darat Al Funun, Amman, in 2008, his most recent exhibition was 'Art Behind the News' (with Mohammed Joha) at EineWeltHaus, Munich in March 2009.

Salama Safadi was born in Majdal Shams, occupied Golan Heights, in 1981, and received his Diploma in Photography from the Academy of Fine Arts in Damascus in 2007.

Shada Safadi (3rd prize) was born in Majdal Shams, occupied Golan Heights, in 1982. She studied painting at the University of Damascus and engraving at the Adham Ismail Art Institute there.

Layan Shawabkeh (1st prize) was born in Jerusalem in 1986. After initially studying Architecture at Birzeit University for three years, she transferred to the new International Academy of Art – Palestine in 2007. She will complete her fine art degree in 2009-10 at the Malmö Art Academy in Sweden.

Wafaa Yasin (2nd prize) was born in Tamra in the Galilee in 1980 and received her BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. Also a finalist in the 2006 Young Artist Award, she has been an artist-in-residence at the Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, Italy. She is currently in the Master of Fine Art programme at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

A catalogue is available from the 2008 Young Artists Award featuring all the twelve finalists, with an essay by Dr. Tina Sherwell (£15).