

6:18, THE DAWN

Art Exhibition

Featured Artists:

Ammar Abd Rabbo

Issa Kazah

Mohannad Orabi

Mohammad Omran

Salah Hreeb

Majd Henawi

Shaza Bazerbashi

Joumana Mortada

Curation by **Line Kouwatli**


*signed
by* Line

MEZZANINE

revalue

Media partner
ibtikar.
communications

 February 9th – March 2nd

 Atelier 14, Al Khayat Avenue

6:18, The Dawn

At 6:18, The dawn broke, and with it, an era of silence came to an end. This moment marked the first breath of a new Syria—a fragile, uncertain, yet undeniable beginning. During this moment, darkness started to lift, and the sky hinted at the promise of light.

6:18, The Dawn is not only a reflection on Syria's past and future—it is a historic moment in itself. For the first time in over five decades, Syrian artists are free to create. Their canvases are no longer confined by fear. Indeed, this exhibition is their first unfiltered cry.

This exhibition explores a transitional phase merging artworks created during the past few years and others right after this Sunrise. They carry the weight of worry and struggle—but they also flicker with hope.

This new dawn is not without its storms. Syrians know well that the road ahead is riddled with hardship. This exhibition leans into the mourning of martyrs, into the struggle of rebuilding, into the need of a Syria rich in acceptance, diversity, and solidarity where differences coexist and unify.

6:18, The Dawn is both a reflection and a call. It urges Syrians not to forget the pain that shaped them, but also not to lose sight of the hope that can guide them. It honors the sacrifices made by countless souls who dared to dream of a better Syria. It challenges us to carry forward their vision in solidarity.

This group show brings together Syrian artists Ammar Abd Rabbo, Issa Kazah, Mohammad Orabi, Mohamad Omran, Salah Hreeb, Majd Henawi, Shaza Bazerbashi and Joumana Mortada and is curated by Line Kouwatli

This is more than an exhibition. It is a historic breakthrough—a space where Syrian voices finally rise freely. It is a moment suspended in time—the fragile edge between night and day. It is Syria holding its breath, for the sun to rise.



About Line Kouwatli

Line is a passionate art curator, collector, and advocate for Middle Eastern artists, with a particular focus on Syrian talent. Born and raised in Paris to Syrian parents, she moved to Damascus at the age of 13 and later continued her studies at the American University of Beirut. Her journey through diverse cultural landscapes has profoundly shaped her love for art, literature, poetry, and music—central elements of her life.

Since childhood, Line has been captivated by art, frequently visiting museums and galleries. Mesmerized by the art world, this early exposure ignited a passion that evolved into a lifelong commitment to supporting and championing Middle Eastern artists, particularly Syrians. Her personal art collection reflects this journey, showcasing the works of Syrian artists and embodying her deep connection to the region's cultural heritage.

As a curator, Line is dedicated to creating platforms that expose Middle Eastern artists, especially Syrians, to a global audience. She curated the impactful 2023 exhibition *Lights Through the Wounds* at Foundry Downtown Dubai, followed by *The Power of Synergy* in February 2024 at Atelier 14, Al Khayat Avenue, Dubai. Her upcoming exhibition, *6:18, The Dawn*, continues this mission. Each of her exhibitions carries a powerful message, emphasizing unity and collaboration within the Middle Eastern artistic community.

Beyond curating, Line has designed and moderated programs such as the Art Talks series at Urbanist Art Gallery, fostering dialogue between Syrian artists and a diverse international community. She is also an active patron of The Dubai Collection, a prestigious initiative dedicated to promoting and preserving Middle Eastern art. Deeply invested in fostering connections within the art world, she strongly believes in the power of collaboration and support among the various stakeholders shaping the art scene.

In addition to her curatorial work, Line has participated in art programs that support Syrian refugee children, providing them with creative outlets for expression. She firmly believes in the Middle East's responsibility to document its artistic heritage, nurture its art scene, and ensure its accessibility for all.



Ammar Abd Rabbo

Ammar Abd Rabbo is a French-Syrian journalist and photographer, born in Damascus, Syria, in 1966. He left Syria during his childhood and has been living in France since 1978. Since the 1990s, he has covered photo stories across the Arab world, including Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, and Syria.

As one of the Arab world's most prominent photographers, his work has been published in major international outlets such as Time Magazine, Paris Match, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and Asharq Al Awsat.

His photographs have appeared on over 60 magazine covers.

With a career spanning over 25 years, Ammar's portfolio includes portraits of world leaders, war coverage in Iraq, Lebanon, and Libya, and images of celebrities.

He usually covers major events such as the Cannes Film Festival and Paris Fashion Week. He is particularly known for his iconic images of Stephen Hawking and for the photograph of Benazir Bhutto, which graced the cover of Time after her assassination.

In December 2016, he published a book documenting the war in Aleppo entitled ALEP or "A Elle Eux Paix"

In recognition of his contributions to the photography world, Ammar was named a "Knight of Arts and Letters" by the French government in 2017.

Initially, Ammar photographed Bashar Al Assad and his family during the early years of Assad's presidency, believing in him at the time. However, by 2011, Ammar became a vocal critic of the regime. His opposition forced him into exile, preventing him from returning to Syria for 14 years. After the regime's fall, he returned, overwhelmed with joy at the newfound freedom. The most striking change he noticed was the absence of fear on people's faces as they walked the streets. In these three artworks, Ammar captures moments just days after the regime's collapse, determined to document these historic events. His long-anticipated dream of returning to Syria had finally come true.



Damascus, December 2024, I
In edition of 12+ 2 AP
60 * 90 cm

1800 USD



Damascus, December 2024, II
In edition of 12+ 2 AP
60 * 90 cm

1800 USD



Damascus, December 2024, III
In edition of 12+ 2 AP
60 * 90 cm

1800 USD



Issa Kazah

These artworks were created shortly after the fall of the regime, during a period of power shortages, with electricity only available for brief periods.

In his artwork, Issah depicts Noah's ship as a symbol of unity, this time bringing Syrians from different religious backgrounds together , where the boat is seen as carrying all Syrians to a better, more beautiful place.

Resurrection took also inspiration from The Last Supper.

Sculptor Issa Kazah was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1973. He studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, graduating in 1995. Dedicated to his craft, Issa has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions across Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Turkey, Denmark, and Hong Kong. His work is renowned for its powerful expression, often portraying individuals engaged in acts of mutual aid or set within symbolic environments reflecting religious themes. For the first time, Issa has introduced color into his sculptures, using it as a symbol of hope for a new beginning. The different colors represent the diversity of people, united despite all challenges.



Resurrection

H 37* W 38* D 17 cm

Bronze sculpture 2024 - 2025

5000 USD



Noah

H 39* W 31* D 27 cm

Bronze sculpture 2024 - 2025

3000 USD



Mohannad Orabi

Orabi is a renowned Syrian artist who graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 2000. In 2006, he won first prize at The Syrian National Young Artists Exhibition. In 2014, he was recognized as one of Foreign Policy's '100 Leading Global Thinkers.' His work has been showcased in numerous prominent galleries and museums, and he has participated in several auctions, including the sale of his piece *It's No Longer About Me* at Christie's in 2011.

Orabi is deeply intrigued by the development of consciousness during childhood and the sense of freedom expressed in children's drawings. He has been featured in numerous articles, largely due to his unique storytelling approach and the signature portraits that quickly made him famous. The Syrian conflict profoundly affected both his life and his art, with his works reflecting the new realities that emerged, such as the shift from traditional lifestyles to virtual communications through social media between family members and others.

The displayed artworks consist of a series created with charcoal produced following the recent event that took place in Syria in December 2024. While Mohannad remains hopeful for a better future, he was deeply impacted by the heartbreaking images of families who lost their loved ones during the war, desperately searching for any trace of them. This emotional turmoil is powerfully reflected in this series of works.

These artworks were created in December 2024, and a common theme throughout them is the sense of waiting. Many of the characters in the pieces are depicted carrying objects, such as one holding a bouquet of flowers, inspired by children selling flowers on the streets. These figures appear exhausted, yet there is a sudden sense of tranquility that emerges. In the context of Syria's history, it feels as though these characters have momentarily paused, reflecting on the struggles of the past while awaiting what the future holds. The presence of plant symbolizes the arrival of something good—hope. Whether these symbols of hope are carried by the figures or are part of the environment they occupy, the sense of observation and anticipation is prevalent. The artworks are created using charcoal, a medium that symbolizes emerging from the ashes, and this is contrasted with the strong white background, representing serenity and the absence of fear that has finally been achieved in this moment.



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carto 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carto 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carton 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carton 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carton 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



42*60 cm

Charcoal on carton 2024 - 2025

1600 USD



Colored shadows series

100*120 cm

Acrylic collage on canvas - 2025

7500 USD



30*42 cm

Mixed media on carton- 2024

800 USD



30*42 cm

Mixed media on carton- 2024

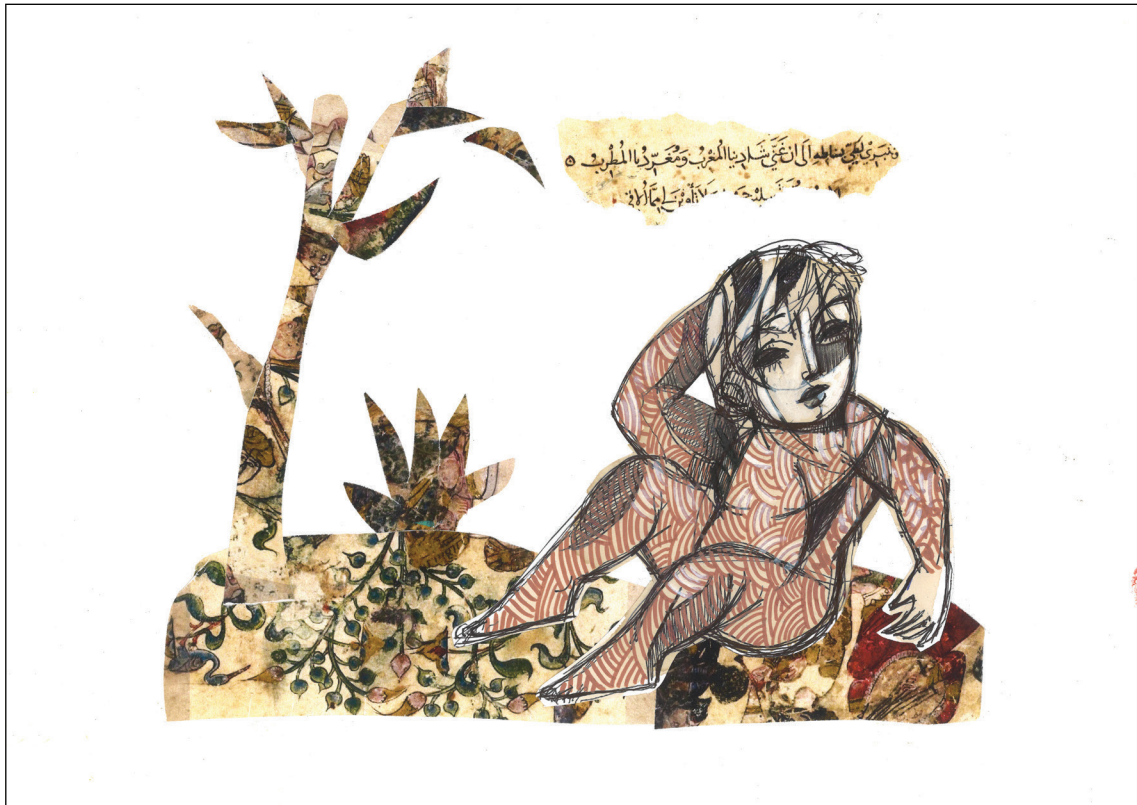
1000 USD



30*42 cm

Mixed media on carton- 2024

800 USD



30*42 cm

Mixed media on carton- 2024

800 USD



Mohamad Omran

Mohamed Omran graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in 2000. He later earned his Master's degree and PhD in Art History from Lyon. Over the years, he has created a variety of works, ranging from sculptures to paintings.

The human figure is a constantly present in his art, and he is profoundly influenced by the relationships between people, the human body, and the surrounding elements. His works often explore the contrast between movement and stillness, highlighting the tension between the dynamic and the immobile.

The ongoing war in Syria has had a significant impact on his perspective of humanity, shaping the themes in his work. Many of his pieces carry explicit social and political messages.

Through his art, he skillfully evokes empathy and dark humor, navigating a range of emotions with a raw directness that shifts between violence and lightness.

At the start of the war, Mohamed Omran began creating numerous sketches as a means of clearing his mind, which was overwhelmed by the crisis that his country was facing. The figures he depicts in his work represent sometimes the political figures often portrayed in a sarcastic manner.

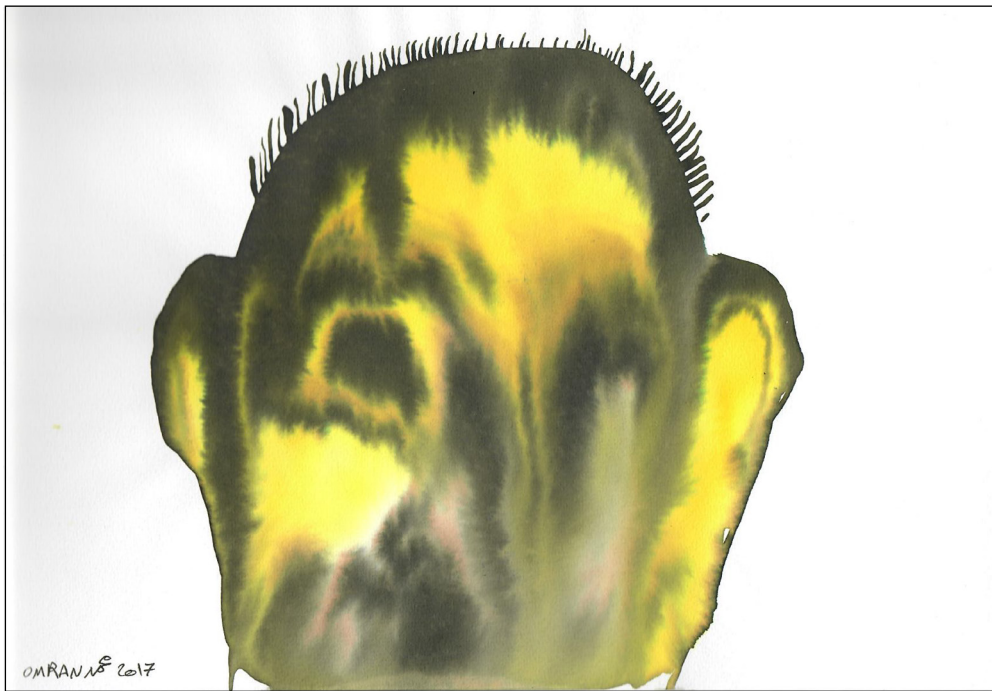
Omran was unable to return to Syria during the war. It was only last month that he was able to visit Syria for the first time in 14 years



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD



The dream

20*20 cm

Ink on paper: 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD

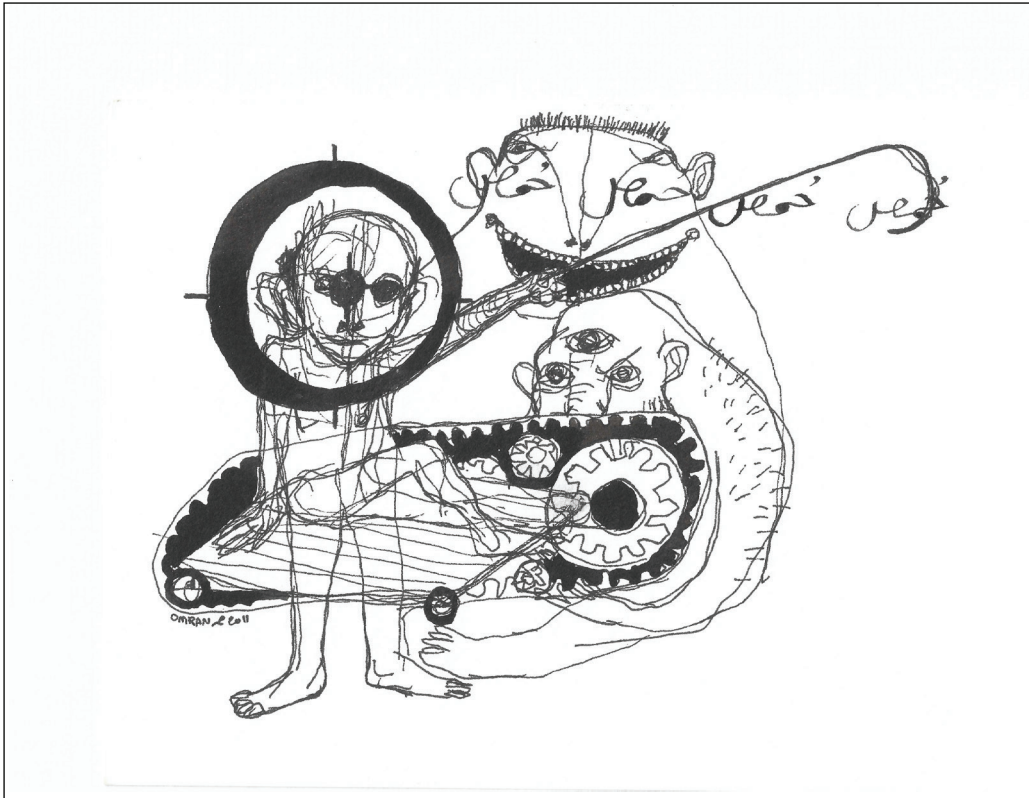


The dream

20*20 cm

Ink on paper: 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD

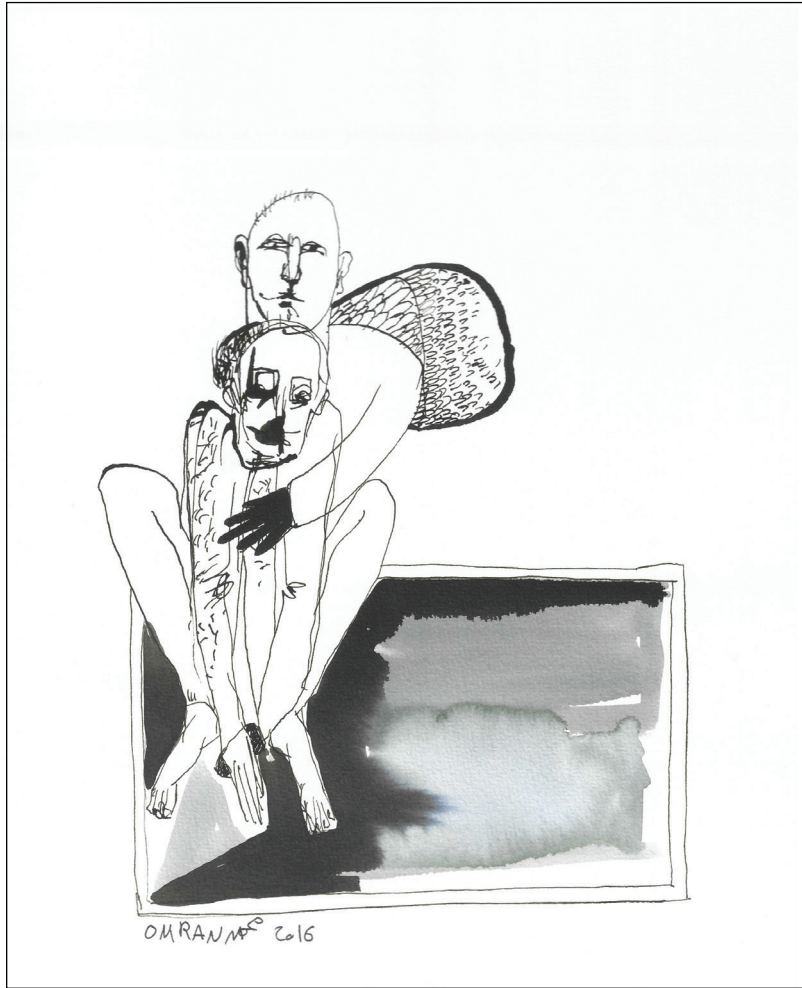


The dream

20*20 cm

Ink on paper: 2012 - 2016

350 USD



20*20 cm

Ink on paper 2012 - 2016

350 USD



The dream

20*20 cm

Ink on paper: 2012 - 2016

350 USD



Salah Hreeb

Salah graduated in 2010, and this artwork, along with the two others, is part of a series titled *Dreaming Portraits*. Through this series, the artist conveys his impression of the people he encountered while walking the streets of Syria during the war. To him, it seemed as though people were in a state of dreaming—perhaps dreaming of a better future, a change, or simply waiting for something to shift.

Salah used to notice that the facial expressions and features of the people have transformed, deeply influenced by the crisis. Rather than focusing on precise details of realistic portraits, he emphasizes the creation, symbolism, and meaning embedded in the shapes and colors.

The color white plays a significant role in his work, symbolizing hope for a brighter future. White is often associated with dreams, and in Salah's work, it conveys the possibility of something better ahead. At times, the portraits are placed on unstable, drifting white paper, which further evokes a sense of dreams. By avoiding clear, rigid boundaries for the paper, Salah suggests that it is a transient, fleeting object—just as a dream is fragile and uncertain.



Dreaming portraits series

60*60 cm

Mixed media on cardboard and wood - 2022

1000 USD



Dreaming portraits series

60*60 cm

Mixed media on cardboard and wood - 2022

1000 USD



Dreaming portraits series

80*150 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2023

3500 USD



Majd Henawi

Born in 1993, Majd Henawi graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University and later worked as a lecturer there. He has exhibited his work in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Germany, Tunisia, and the UAE. He has earned multiple awards, including the Syrian Annual Spring Exhibition Award in 2019.

Majd has also participated in notable international exhibitions, including the Carthage Days of Contemporary Art in Tunisia (2019), the Arab Art Exhibition in Beirut (2022), and Expo 2020 in the UAE.

Widely regarded as a rising star, Majd Henawi has gained recognition for his evocative portrayal of Syria's evolving landscape amid conflict.

Henawi delves into the profound connection between humans and their homeland, exploring themes of construction and deconstruction through his dynamic use of brushstrokes and knife. His work often features Syrian buildings, cities, and skylines, shedding light on the widespread damage caused by war while still celebrating the inherent beauty of the country.

Indeed; Though he paints the destruction, his pieces also capture glimpses of hope, symbolizing that light still persists amidst the devastation.

Each of Majd's artworks is infused with personal emotion. His thoughtful use of space and horizon lines makes the depicted locations instantly recognizable, especially as Syria's landscapes have been drastically altered by the ongoing conflict. His work starkly contrasts the ravaged cities of today with Syria's rich history, civilization, and beauty.

Artworks exhibited in this exhibition form part of a series titled Home, where he powerfully expresses this deep, emotional and complex bond between humans and their homeland through vibrant color compositions.

His artworks aim to showcase Syria's resilience and document the emotional turmoil he has experienced as his country has endured the ravages of war.

His work draws heavily from his personal memories of Syria, offering a unique perspective on the country's dire situation. Despite the challenges faced by him and fellow Syrian artists, Majd has remained committed to contributing to Syria's cultural revival through his powerful and poignant art.



Home

145*95 cm

Acrylic on canvas - 2023- 2024

5000 USD

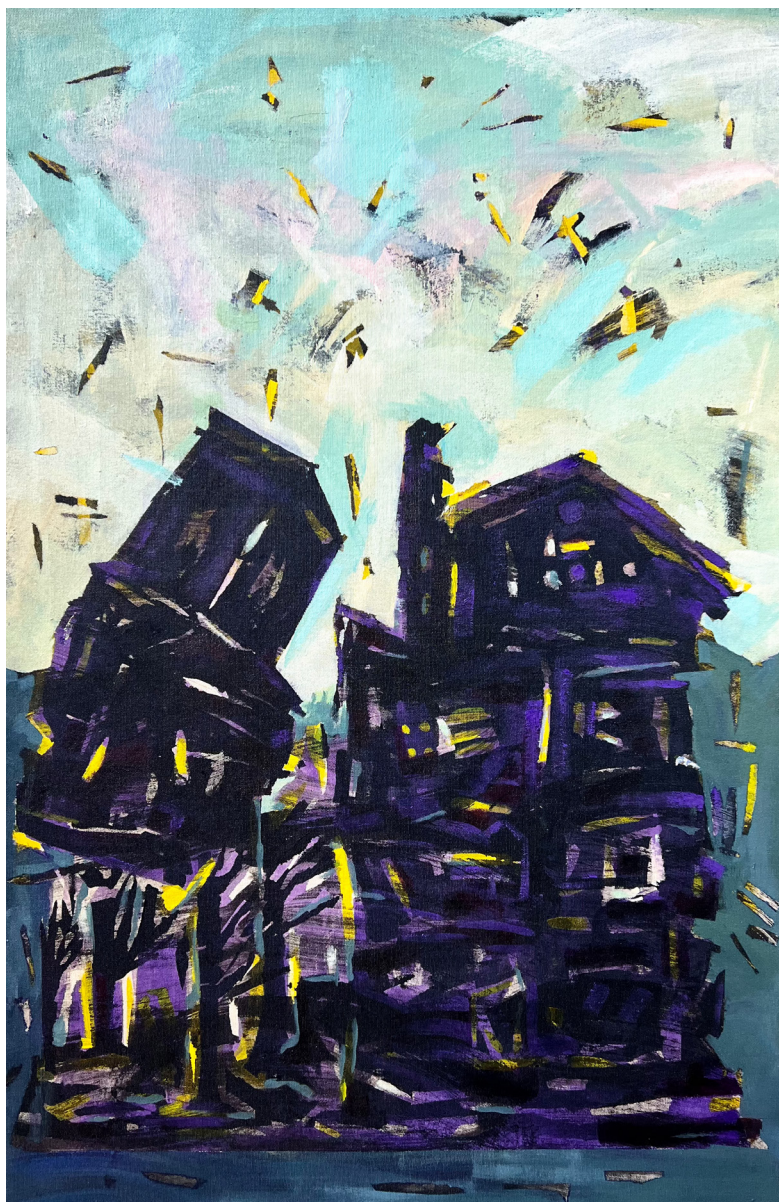


Home

145*95 cm

Acrylic on canvas - 2023- 2024

5000 USD



Home

145*95 cm

Acrylic on canvas - 2023- 2024

5000 USD



Home

145*95 cm

Acrylic on canvas - 2023- 2024

5000 USD



Home

150*150 cm

Acrylic on canvas - 2023- 2024

8400 USD



Shaza Bazerbashi

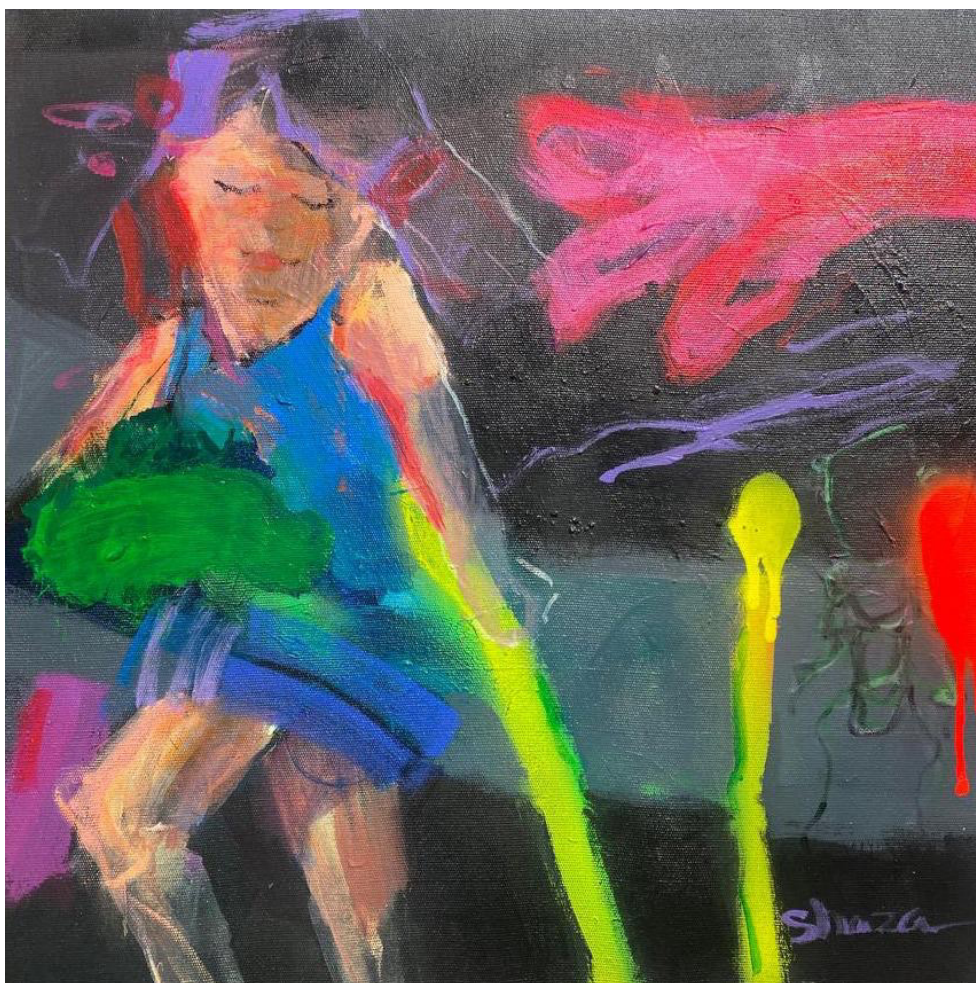
Shaza Bazerbashi is born in 1996. She is a Syrian artist who graduated with a degree in fashion design in 2017.

Shaza's work is a vivid exploration of childhood, capturing its inherent innocence, joy, and honesty. Her fascination with the world of children is evident in her efforts to capture their personalities, emotions, and imaginations. She uses a unique combination of intensity and naturalness, employing colors and forms that evoke the wonder and spontaneity typical found in childhood.

Shaza has participated in various group exhibitions in Syria and was awarded an honor at the Visual Arts Center competition in 2020. The artworks presented in this exhibition is part of a series called "The happy Prince" which delves into the boundless world of children's imagination. Inspired by the energy and spontaneity of young children, Shaza captures the essence of youth and the diverse personalities of the children she has encountered. This work celebrates the natural creativity of childhood.

Each piece in The Happy Prince tells a story in which the children become characters in their own dreamlike worlds. The artist allows their dreamscapes to unfold freely, resulting in vibrant, dynamic scenes that mirror children's unfiltered creativity.

The exhibition also explores the more complex aspects of childhood, such as moments of intense emotion that lead to hysterical cries or mischievous laughter, highlighting the purity and rawness of children's experiences. Central to the exhibition is the concept of the "inner child," with Shaza's main message being the importance of preserving a childlike sense of wonder and creativity throughout one's life.



The Happy Prince

60*60 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

600 USD



The Happy Prince

60*60 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

600 USD



The Happy Prince

120*100 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

2500 USD



The Happy Prince

120*100 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

2500 USD



Joumana Mortada

Joumana, born in 1998, graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 2021. She primarily focuses on contemporary abstract art. Over the years, Joumana has taken part in numerous group exhibitions in both Syria and Kuwait. Her solo exhibition held at the Known Boutique Hotel in Damascus “The Art house”, was a remarkable success.

In addition to her artistic endeavors, Joumana specializes in conducting workshops for children with Down syndrome. She also participated in the award-winning exhibition Once Upon a Time, which gained widespread acclaim for being held in the historic streets of Old Damascus.

In 2020, Joumana earned an award at the Visual Arts Competition in Mustafa Ali, Damascus.

Joumana’s artworks were created throughout the whole phase of the Syrian’s war up until the eventual fall of the Assad regime. Her work captures the intense emotions of that period—rage, sadness, hope, anxiety, and fear—reflecting the political turmoil in Syria. As a Syrian artist living in Damascus, Joumana personally experienced the hardships faced by young people, particularly emerging artists, struggling to survive amid the conflict. These emotions are expressed on her canvases in a deeply personal and powerful way, with the intensity of her feelings evident in each piece. Her artworks serve as both a restoration and affirmation of her roots, identity, and existence, despite the overwhelming odds.

The raw emotion in her work is unmistakable. Joumana draws inspiration from her land, the sun, nature, and themes of identity. These elements come together to form a vivid representation of her emotions. She uses her art to express how her homeland has been metaphorically and literally destroyed during the war. Her creative process became a way to channel her feelings of powerlessness, giving her a sense of agency in a situation beyond her control.

Now, Joumana’s work has evolved, reflecting a new sense of hope. Her latest pieces envision a fresh beginning, focusing on the possibility of a brighter future for all Syrians.



Collective rage

120*100 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

2500 USD



120*90 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

2000 USD



125*80 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2024

2000 USD



125*80 cm

Mixed media on canvas - 2022

2000 USD

For more information contact info@signedbyline.com