

First Museum-quality Exhibition of Contemporary Palestinian Art to open in New York City on March 14th, 2006

MADE IN PALESTINE

“A stunning exhibition...”
– *The Houston Chronicle*

“A rare opportunity to view contemporary art from Palestine... a longer look at daily life in Palestine than our edited nightly news snapshots ever reveal.... The quality is exceptional. What these artists add to our minds’ images of destruction and despair from this troubled region is an underlying sense of consciousness, strength and hope, both in themselves and their people.”

– *ArtsHouston* Gallery Review

February 20th, 2006 – *Made in Palestine* is the first museum quality exhibition devoted to the contemporary art of Palestine to be held in the United States. It is a survey of work spanning three generations of Palestinian artists who live in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, parts of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and the United States.

The exhibition was curated by James Harithas during a month long stay in the Middle East, aided in his mission by Palestinian artist Samia Halaby. *Made in Palestine* premiered at The Station Museum of Contemporary Art in Houston, Texas and in 2005 traveled to San Francisco, CA, and Montpelier, VT.

“Another vision of Palestine and its people... Through a mix of painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, and video, the artists sow tales of love and loss. They speak of struggle and success. But probably most importantly, they offer hope for the future.”

– *The Christian Science Monitor*

The artists have been gaining recognition in both regional and international arenas. They utilize a multiplicity of techniques, mediums, and aesthetic styles such as realism, abstraction, and conceptual art. They have been influenced by ancient and contemporary art of the Near East and Egypt as well as by such Western approaches to art as Arte Povera and Installation Art. The works range from monumental pieces that impact the visitor upon immediate entry to the gallery, to pieces of a more intimate nature that invite close attention.

Linking ancient and modern myth, Mustafa Al Hallaj uses fantastic and folkloric imagery in his 296-foot-long print, *Self Portrait as God, the Devil and Man*. Emily Jacir’s video installation *Crossing Surda* is a document of Jacir’s experiences, some banal, some harrowing, of crossing the militarized Surda checkpoint that separates Ramallah, where she lives, from Birzeit University, where she teaches. In *I, Ishmael*, Suleiman Mansour creates clay “emblems of decay” that are “dry, cracked and distorted, reminding us of dispersion, waste, pain and death.”

Palestinian artists, like their peers in Europe and the United States, are thoroughly contemporary, but with a significant difference – the Palestinian artist is deeply concerned with the historical fate of the Palestinian people and issues of life, death, freedom and justice.

“It’s hard to imagine peace if Palestinians can’t even be heard on their own terms.”

– *The New York Times*

Exhibition Dates

March 14th–April 22nd, 2006.
Open Tuesday to Saturday.
12.00pm–6.00pm.
Admission free.

Opening Reception

Thursday, March 16th, 2006.
6.00pm–9.00pm.

Gallery Information

The Bridge Gallery
521 West 26th Street, 3rd Floor
(between 11th and 12th Aves)
New York, NY
Tel: 646-584-9098

Participating Artists

Zuhdi Al Adawi, Tyseer Barakat, Rana Bishara, Rajie Cook, Mervat Essa, Ashraf Fawakhry, Samia Halaby, John Halaka, Rula Halawani, Mustafa Al Hallaj, Jawad Ibrahim, Noel Jabbour, Emily Jacir, Suleiman Mansour, Abdel Rahman Al Muzayen, Muhammad Rakouie, Nida Sinnokrot, Vera Tamari, and Mary Tuma.

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