

Made in Palestine NY Exhibit extended following 3,364 visitors in first three weeks of opening

April 11th, 2006 -- Organizers of the *Made in Palestine* exhibit announced today that the New York show will be extended until May 27th, after seeing 3,364 visitors pass through the Chelsea exhibit, in the heart of New York's art world, during the first three weeks.

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, the Galilee, Syria, Jordan, and the United States.

Come celebrate the extension of *Made in Palestine* this Friday, April 14th, at an exciting evening of performance at The Bridge to raise money for the exhibition, hosted by Suheir Hammad (HBO's Def Poetry Jam; "Zaatar Diva" author). Doors open at 6.00pm for art viewing, with readings and performances at 7.00pm by Maysoon Zayid (comedienne; NYAACF founder; MTV; 20/20), Ishle Park (HBO's Def Poetry Jam; 2004 Poet Laureate of Queens), Kathy Engel (poet & activist; MADRE founder), Ehab Zahriyeh (Poetic Injustice), Nigel Parry (songwriter: "This Side of Paradise"; Electronic Intifada co-founder), and TBA. \$15/\$10 sliding scale. Donations accepted.

The Made in Palestine Closing Celebration will take place on Saturday, May 27th, from 6.00-9.00pm at the Bridge.

After the conclusion of the Made in Palestine exhibit, The Bridge is proud to present another exhibit: "Three Arab Painters in New York: Samia Halaby, Sumayyah Samaha and Athir Shayota." Guest Curated by Maymanah Farhat, "Three Arab Painters in New York" will run from June 3rd to 24th, Tuesday-Saturday, 11.00am-6.00pm, with a reception on Tuesday, June 6th, 6.00-9.00pm.

"It's hard to imagine peace if Palestinians can't even be heard on their own terms."

– *The New York Times*

MADE IN PALESTINE

"A stunning exhibition..."

– *The Houston Chronicle*

Exhibition Dates

March 14th–May 27th, 2006.

Open Tuesday to Saturday.

11.00am–6.00pm.

Admission free.

Closing Celebration

Saturday, May 27th, 2006.

6.00pm–9.00pm.

Gallery Information

The Bridge Gallery

521 West 26th Street, 3rd Floor

(between 10th and 11th 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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Online Information

www.madeinpalestine.net

Art in Review

'Made in Palestine'

Contemporary Palestinian Art

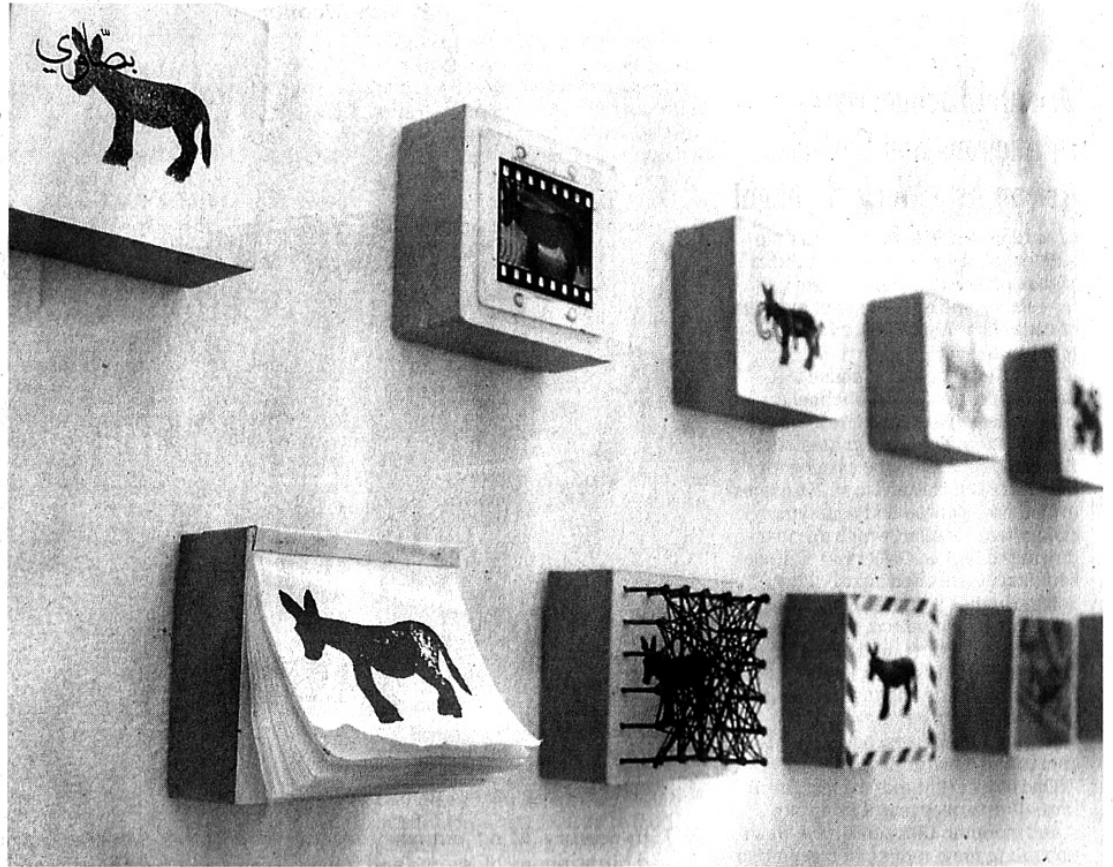
The Bridge
521 West 26th Street, Chelsea
Through April 22

"Made in Palestine: Contemporary Palestinian Art" has been installed in a Chelsea space with a raw, even bombed-out look that suits a show about everyday life under siege. Originating at the Station Museum in Houston in 2003, the exhibition has been on the road since, and this is a slightly edited version of the original.

Only a fraction of the work here is obviously topical. Rula Halawani's photographs of the 2002 Israeli invasion of Ramallah fall into this category. So do Noel Jabbour's portraits of families of Palestinian soldiers who have died and Rana Bishara's newspaper images of decades of violence, printed using chocolate, which looks like dried blood, instead of ink.

Certain artists address Palestinian identity in a more broadly historical way. Abdel Rahman al-Muzayen does in ink drawings of stone-throwing Canaanite goddess figures; Mustafa al-Hallaj, who died in 2002, in a set of fabulous, scroll-like Boschian prints; and Suleiman Mansour in relief figures of Ismael, the traditional ancestor of the Palestinian people, molded in parched-looking clay.

Colored-pencil allegories by Muhammad Rakouie, who taught himself to draw while in an Israeli prison are in a straightforward Social Realist style; Ashraf Fawakhry's variations on the image of a donkey as a symbol of Palestinian steadfastness have the wit of political cartoons. Other images are more abstract. Rubber-coated rocks set in a row by Nida Sinnokrot refer to bullets and hand-thrown projectiles;



Michael Stravato

Ashraf Fawakhry's "I Am Donkey," from the exhibition "Made in Palestine" at the Bridge gallery in Chelsea.

Mervat Essa's ceramic bags to salvaged possessions; Vera Tamari's cluster of ceramic discs to olive trees destroyed in war.

And a few pieces take a universalist approach to what others make specific: Mary Tuma's giant sheer, trailing black gowns; John Halaka's mural of silhouetted figures; and a wall piece by Samia Halaby that

looks like a cross between a floral bouquet and camouflage material.

Organized by James Harithas, director of the Station Museum, the show ends with a video by Emily Jacir, a young artist of Palestinian descent who well understands that political art is what it is: concrete in subject, but potentially subtle in execution and meaning. She made

"Crossing Surda (a record of going to and from work)" to document the difficulties encountered on a daily basis by Palestinians crossing Israeli checkpoints to get to their jobs. Because she had to hide the camera in a tote bag — she had had film confiscated earlier — all we see are feet — walking, stopping and stopping a long time before walking again: the broken rhythm of disrupted lives.

HOLLAND COTTER

Please help Al-Jisser extend the exhibit into May with your kind support!

The generous support of the community has enabled the *Made in Palestine* exhibition to be free and open to the public. Please help us extend the exhibit into May with your kind support. Checks can be made payable to the "Al-Jisser Group" and mailed to:

Al-Jisser Group, P.O. Box 255, New York, NY 10013

or dropped in the exhibit's donations box.

Online donations can be made via Paypal at www.madeinpalestine.net.