

Hasko Hasko

Hasko Hasko born in 1973 Aleppo, Syria. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus in 2000 and specialized in oil painting. He states: “Now, with Syrian art fetching high prices on the international market, life is becoming easier and artists are gaining more respect. Before, we were considered crazy. That’s completely changing; now, we’re becoming respected like poets and directors.”

Since 2002, his work has been the highlight of many solo exhibitions and group shows in Syria and around the world including in London, The United States, Iraq, Lebanon, UAE, and in Turkey. The themes in his contemporary paintings focus on nature, animals, and mythical figures that are inspired from Mesopotamian cultures. They are treated mainly in acrylic paint or mixed media, with low-key colors and defined brushstrokes in compositional clusters.

Hasko fled the war to Turkey in 2013 and, the following year, journeyed on a lifeboat through the Mediterranean in order to reach Europe. The artist made it to Denmark, where he since has been living as a refugee. “A Perilous Journey,” a project which chronicles the journeys of three Syrian war refugees traveling from Syria to Europe (one of which is Hasko’s story), was launched at *The Nobel Peace Center* in Oslo, as well as serialized in an animated comic and published in *The Guardian* and *Aftenposten* on November 12th, 2015.

Artist’s statement:

I draw shapes without the sanctity of cumulative human thoughts and leave form to instinctively express itself. I do not remember what I look like when I paint; I may turn into an individual that has been liberated from everything related to reason. This is why I do not draw human beings in my paintings. I seek to provide more consideration to marginal shapes, such as the worm, the beast or the ugly creature. I enjoy giving life and expressive value to these forms, while offering the viewer a space to unravel his/her imagination. The forms and objects appear beautiful and cultivated when given the freedom to exist and to express themselves.

Whenever I gain freedom in painting, the shapes become increasingly beautiful and honest, considering that the attempt to show the greatest beauty possible is in itself a form of resistance against the hideousness of the last five years. Rather than giving art an ideological meaning, artists should strive to stay true to their individual, creative paths along the artistic journey.

Exhibitions

- 2014 Exhibition for Syrian Art sponsored by World Bank (Spring Meetings 2014 Washington, USA)
- 2014 Syrian Art auction 101 works of Art for Syrian Children Refugees, Beirut Art 14 London, Art on 56th Gallery, London, England
- 2013 Beirut Art Fair, Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Colorful Legends by Young Wisdom, Art on 56th, Beirut
- 2013-2014 Summer Collective Exhibition, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Art on 56th Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012 Art 8 Gallery, London
- 2010 Kozah gallery, Damascus
- 2009 National museum, Damascus
- 2009 Free hand gallery, Damascus
- 2009 Contemporary art assembly, Istanbul
- 2009 Museum of modern art, Latakia
- 2009 French cultural center, Damascus
- 2009 Art 8 Gallery, Istanbul
- 2008 French cultural center, Damascus
- 2008 Al Markhiya gallery, Qatar
- 2008 Free hand gallery, Syria
- 2007 Ayyam gallery, Syria
- 2007 Mustafa Ali gallery, Damascus
- 2005 National museum, Aleppo
- 2004 French cultural center, Damascus
- 2004 National museum, Sulaymaniya, Iraq
- 2003 Sulaymaniya, Iraq
- 2003 Medea gallery, Iraq
- 2002 Ishtar gallery, Damascus
- 2002 Russian cultural center, Damascus
- 2001 Unesco, Beirut
- 2000 American cultural center, Damascus
- 1993 Abla gallery, Aleppo

Awards

- 2007 First prize at the Ayyam Gallery competition for Syrian Youth
- 2003 Fine arts award at the fourth exhibition for Syrian Youth
- 2001 Jury award at the second exhibition for Syrian Youth