

KARIM ABU SHAKRA

Born in 1982, in Umm al-Fahem city, Palestine. He graduated from Bet Berril Fine Arts School in 2000 as an artist and has since participated in several exhibitions, solo and group exhibitions, inside the country and in Europe.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2015 – *“The unity of human, animal and nature”*, art gallery Umm al-Fahem, Palestine
- 2013 – *“Self Portrait”*, Gallery Ebdaa’, Kfar Yasif, Palestine
- 2012 – *“Childhood Memories”*, art salon Palestinian Jaffa, Palestine
- 2009 – *“Black & white”*, the Palestinian National Theatre, Jerusalem, Palestine
“Childhood memories”, *“The Peace”* Gallery, Tel Aviv, Palestine
- 2008 – *“Enamored in color and paintbrush”*, Municipal Gallery Tamra, Palestine
Future Memory Gallery, Paris, France
- 2006 – Bet-El-Karma, Haifa, Palestine

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2016 – *“Roots of identity”* collective exhibition, Art On 56 th, Beirut – Lebanon
- 2014 – *“My facial features at glance at time”*, Hosh El-Fan Elfalasteny, Jerusalem, Palestine
- 2012 – *“Mask trees”*, Yigal Allons Gallery, Tiberias, Palestine
“The olive in the plastic arts”, Al-Saraya Gallery, Nazareth, Palestine
- 2011 – Aostraka Festival, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
- 2010 – *“Shbabik- For contemporary art”* Gallery, Gaza, Palestine.
- 2010 – *“Memory of the place”*, Hosh el-fan Elfalasteny, Jerusalem, Palestine
- 2009 – *“Portraits with aroma 2”*, Yigal Allons Gallery, Tiberias, Palestine
- 2008 – *“Etre Nee Nue/desiderata”*, Future Memory Gallery, Paris, France
- 2006 – *“Black coffee”*, Bet El-Karma, Haifa, Palestine

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The artwork of Karim Abu Shakra is conceived from and inspired by memories of his childhood. It is defined by the moments he experienced - those that are implanted in him and that continue to be a part of his life, such as fishing and making paper planes.

The cactus plant is commonly found in the alleys of his neighborhood in his hometown. It has become part of Palestinian history, of its people and is a means to describe his life, environment and society. In its ability to survive even the harshest of conditions, it echoes in its strength and resistance the will of the Palestinians to fight for their lives. The cactus conserves the land and preserves memory.

Through the cactus, the artist tries to depict his people and his surroundings. From its color, from its ability to withstand heat and cold, light and darkness, it has become a vehicle to translate visions and memories. Through an organic palette, Karim Abu Shakra imbues the plant with symbolic meaning, where the cactus becomes a marker for Palestinian resilience.

