

Fouad Agbaria

Born in the village of Musmus near Umm El Fahm in 1981, Fouad Agbaria is one of the most prominent young Palestinian artists working today. Agbaria is a fine arts graduate and an award-winning student. He attained a bachelor's degree from Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem in 2004 and a master's degree from Haifa University in 2014.

Since completing his undergraduate degree, Agbaria has painted prolifically often experimenting with different styles, techniques and media including charcoal, oil, acrylic and lithography. His catalogue of work to date has dealt with many themes associated with the Palestinian narrative, identity and memory. He has participated in over 20 group exhibitions and has held several solo shows.

In a series of oil paintings, once again Agbaria journeys to his early childhood and life in his home village. Exquisite Post-Impressionist style paintings depict simple rural pastimes, much of which have been lost but remain foremost in Agbaria's memory. The classic Palestinian symbol of the cactus – or Sabra – is central to Agbaria's work and his latest paintings are homage to Palestinian survival and rebirth.

Education

2014 MFA, Master of Fine Arts, Art Creation

Department, Haifa University, Haifa

2000 - 2004 BFA, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Department,
Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem

Solo exhibitions

2015: Nostalgia to the light, Zawyeh gallery, Ramallah, Palestine

2015: Between the overt and the hidden mnshe art gallery, Palestine

2015: Between the personal and the political, Alber art gallery, Arara, Palestine

2014: Back to Open Spaces, Barie art gallery, Palestine

2012: Visual memory, Umm el Fahem gallery, Palestine

Group Exhibitions

2016: "Roots of identity" Collective exhibition, Art on 56 th, Beirut- Lebanon

2016: Contemporary Palestinian art, umm el fahem gallery, Palestine

2016: March comes, Maryam art gallery, Ramallah, Palestine

2015: Land, Tamra are gallery, Tamra, Palestine

2014: The holy tree, Umm El Fahem gallery, Palestine

2012: Palestinian Olive Art, Alsraia Gallery, Khan Albasha, Nazareth, Palestine
Spring Salon Contemporary Art, Jaffa Port, Palestine

2011: Palestinian Art Picture, Tira Gallery, Palestine

Bread and Roses, Minshar College of Art, Tel Aviv, Palestine

2010: Palestinian Art Salon Jaffa, Jaffa Port, Palestine

Here and there, Tamra Art Gallery, Palestine

2009: Hug, 'Ar'ara Art Gallery, Palestine

Black, Authors House Art Gallery, Nazareth, Palestine

2007: Do not Look, Do not Be Afraid, Umm El Fahem Art Gallery, Palestine

Equal and Less Eqaul, Museum On the Seam, Jerusalem, Palestine

2005: Rhythm, Municipal Art Gallery Tamra, Palestine

Wounds and Bandages, Umm el Fahem Art gallery, Palestine

Black Coffee, Beit alkarmah, Haifa, Palestine

Landscapes, Beit alkarmah, Haifa, Palestine

Artik 7, Ramat Gan Museum, Ramat Gan. , Palestine

2004: Untitled, Art Graduates Exhibition, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem,
Palestine

Game Scene, Beit alkarmah, Haifa, Palestine

Artist Statement:

In his work, Fouad Aghbaria expresses the different characteristics of the bonding between humans and their land. The olive tree and the cactus are core elements of his work and are signs of belonging to a place. The artist stimulates his memories and visions of society and history in order to both deconstruct and rebuild boundaries of the land. Using an ephemeral color palette, which is simultaneously indefinite and precise, with hints of bold pigment, he exposes the hidden secrets of his surroundings.

In an attempt to revive childhood memories and to resurrect visions of his land, the artist combines the abstract with the figurative, to conjure emotions and thoughts that have long been and continue to be repressed. The hidden messages about Palestine and its people are found within colors and within abstraction.

