

Mohammad Omran

Biography:

Mohamad Omran was born in Damascus in 1979, and has been living and working in Paris since 2007. Omran graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Damascus and began his career as an acclaimed sculptor in the local art scene, before leaving Syria to pursue a Master's Degree and eventually a PhD in art history at the University of Lyon II. The beginning of 2011 marks a turning point in his artistic career when his works on paper began to receive attention, allowing him to multiply individual and collective exhibitions, such as: "La façon" workshop in Lyon, Europia Gallery and Institute of Islamic Cultures in Paris, Le Rocher de Palmer in Bordeaux, Forum Factory in Berlin, Al Mashrek Gallery Amman, Round Tower in Copenhagen, Halles de Schaerbeek in Brussels. His work is part of numerous private and public collections including the British Museum and the Foundation Atassi.

Artist Statement:

About exposure

My new experience is not separate from my old work. The human being is always present. Over the years, the human element has gone through several stages of evolution. Initially it was often lonely. Then, I began adding toneless elements, increasingly separating it from the environment. I also started to examine the union of these elements with the human being, such as a chair or a wheelchair, which I later merged with this toneless mass. At a later stage, the human becomes a hybrid monster, significantly borrowing its appearance from fictional animals. Now, this single being will join the community, forming with it an audience, in the eternal waiting position.

The wait

During the wait, we observe our body grow limp and our arms relax on our bellies. We immobilize in time; we sink into boredom; we invent time; we kill time. We wait for the train to take us to our distant home; we wait for the death of our loved ones and sink into sadness; we wait for new-borns to rejoice with life; we await the end of the war until a new war breaks out. In our prisons, we wait for the freedom to search for a new prison.

Other artistic activities:

2015 Without sky, animation short film co-realization with Bissane Al-Sharif. This film has participated in several exhibitions including "Syria Third Space", British Council, United Kingdom, 2015.

2011 Conte de printemps, animated short film. Co-directed with Dani Abo Louh. This film has participated in several film festivals including: "The jasmine will prevail", Theater Jean Villar, Paris, 2011. "Creative Revolutions!", Al Valle domenica, Rome, 2011. Festival "Meeting point 5" Brussel / Berlin / Beirut, 2012.

2006 6th edition of the International Day of Photography in Damascus, organized by the French Cultural Center in Damascus, co-directed four short films with Bassel Makhoulf (Migraine, 10 sec. I can, 20 sec. I couldn't, 20 sec. I see, 3min27).

Solo exhibitions

- 2016 Art on 56 Gallery, Beirut- Lebanon
- 2016 Gallery La Marianne, Argeles sur mer, France
- 2016 Gallery Europia, Paris, France
- 2014 Atelier La Façon, Lyon, France.
- 2012 Europia Gallery, Paris, France.
- 2009 Gallery Kozah, Damascus, Syria.
- 2006 Gallery Palette Art House, Damascus, Syria
- 2004 Syrian Cultural Center, Paris, France.
- 2003 Ishtar Gallery, Damascus, Syria.

Collective exhibitions

- 2016 «Open Houses of Artist Workshops of the 6th» Paris, France
- 2016 «6 SYRIAN ARTISTS» Galerie Pictura, Bourges, France
- 2016 "Shared Ego", Europia Gallery, Paris, France
- 2016 «SYRIA IN THE HEART», Galerie Neuf, Nancy, France
- 2015 «5 SYRIAN ARTISTS», Workshop of Ola Abdalla, Paris, France
- 2015 "Art En Marche", Rocher de Plamer, Montpellier, France.
- 2014 "And yet they create! Syria: Faith in Art, Institute of Cultures of Islam, Paris
- 2014 "Syrian crisis, The Art of Resilience" World Bank Group, Washington DC, USA
- 2014 «Syrian Kunststoff», Forum Factory, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 "Syrian Art In Hard Times", Al-Mashreq Gallery, Amman, Jordan
- 2013 «Syria, Art in Revolution», Galerie St Germain, Paris Descartes University, Paris
- 2013 "Syria's Art of Resistance", Round Tower, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2013 «ARA» Art Residance Alye, Lebanon.
- 2012 "What can the cinema? Tribute to Syria and its cinema, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2011 The Arab International Contemporary Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2010 Galerie LA Pardalera, Elne, France, "Joint exhibition with Florence Fabre
- 2009 "Cement in the Arts Plastics vol. 1-2 ", French Cultural Centre, Damascus, Syria.
- 2008 Retrospective of the plastic arts in Syria (vol.4), Damascus, Syria.
- 2007 Goethe Institute, exhibition following a workshop, Damascus, Syria.
- 2006 Tribute to contemporary Syrian art, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2004 Zara Gallery, Amman, Jordan.

Awards

- 2005 First prize, sculpture category, Mustafa Ali Foundation, workshop and exhibition projects "Couleurs de Damas".
- 2003 Grand Prize of the Al-Mahaba Biennale, Latakia.
- 2002 First prize, category sculpture, 3rd edition of the "Rendez-vous of the last creations of the new generation of Syrian artists".
- 2001 Special Jury Prize, 2nd edition "Rendez-vous of the latest creations of the new generation of Syrian artists".

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