

**Agony
of memory**

Ala Bashir

Hay Hill Gallery

35 Baker Street, London W1U 8EN

28 Jun - 23 July 2016

Agony of memory

Ala Bashir

Paintings of this exhibition titled (Agony of Memory) attempt to uncover the hidden power of the inaccessible memories.

Due to inability to control, organize and delete thoughts.

Memory becomes the source of pain, emotional and social problems, which results in shaping our future.

Ala Bashir

2016

The meaning of suffering, in Ala Bashir's paintings

In this exhibition, Ala Bashir places the viewer in the front line, and shares his intimate questions and experiences of human suffering. As a painter, sculptor, plastic surgeon and foremostly as a human being living a state of permanent suffering, his visual and graphic accounts speak on his behalf.

Bashir began his artistic career in Iraq and later moved to the United Kingdom, where he currently lives and works. Whether in his home country, or from afar in London, he was confronted daily (and until this day) with the suffering of his people. This experience left an important impact on his artistic practice.

During the Iraq-Iran war, Bashir was stationed at various hospitals in Baghdad as a medical practitioner and plastic surgeon. It was here that Bashir experienced daily encounters, face-to-face, with the horrific results of an unrelenting war - wounded soldiers; deformed faces; amputated limbs; piles of corpses.

As an accomplished artist Bashir sought release from the escalating violence and pain. Through his art, Bashir explored his deepest and darkest thoughts not only to document and represent what he experienced, but to consider and understand the meaning of life, who we are, amid the imminent possibility of death.

Placing the artistic language of Bashir within the larger Arab art movement is complex topic. During 1980's when Bashir was practicing, Arab artists predominantly chose to present the subject of suffering in very typical direct expression and visual language. Bashir distanced himself from that mould and established his own surreal artistic style.

For Bashir there is no detachment or space between the artist and the artwork - the artwork is the artist. This is why his work can be seen as a very deep personal reflection on the condition of the human being. His work is global and not only an indication of the suffering in his home country, but also that all over the world. His images act as a universal visual language that can leave a subtle impact on all that encounter it.

Bashir's artwork is provocative, deranging and beautiful at the same time, which is a quality that makes his work unique. There is no space for one opinion, positive or negative, when you standing front of one of Bashir's paintings. His work summons a mixture of feelings and builds a private relationship between the viewer and Bashir's personal world. It provokes images of the unknown and unimaginable, the real and the surreal, and leaves the viewer with a big question to consider, 'what is the meaning of suffering

Dr.Bahaa Abudaya
Curator of contemporary and modern Arab art
Paris - France



Destiny 2

2015

130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Memory of hope

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Invasion of memory

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Blue print of memory

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Raped

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Memory in silence

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas




**Resurrection of
memory**

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Memory DNA

2015
150 x 130 cm
Oil on Canvas



Leakage of memory

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Goddess of love(Ishtar)

2015
130 x 120 cm
Oil on Canvas



Hidden memory -1

2015
150 x 130 cm
Oil on Canvas





Infusion of memory

2015
150 x 150 cm
Oil on Canvas



Hidden memory 2

2015
150 x 130 cm
Oil on Canvas

A black and white portrait of Ala Bashir, an elderly man with thinning hair, wearing a striped shirt. The portrait is set against a dark background and is partially overlaid by a semi-transparent blue graphic of a human face and foliage on the right side of the page.

Ala Bashir

Born : Baghdad, Iraq 1939

College: Fellow Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, UK .
Baghdad College of Medicine.

Baghdad Institute of Fine Art.

Major: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Membership:

Member of Nottingham society of Artists - UK

Member of Iraqi Fine Artists Association - UK (IFAA)

Ala_bashir@hotmail.com

www.alabashir.com

ALA BASHIR
Exhibition
Agony of pain-2

EXHIBITIONS:

1982 international poster competition-Paris_ France
1987 Canne Sur Mer –France
1999 Arcima gallery – Paris- France
1999 Bolton gallery –London-UK
1999 UN headquarter New York-USA
2000 Palais Palfy gallery-Vienna-Austria
2000 Manach gallery –Moscow-Russia
2005 Corvus Art centre-New Haven- USA
2006 Dahesh museum of Art-New York-USA
2010 Richard Attenborough Embrace art Centre –Leicester-UK
2012 Katara Art Centre-Qatar
2013 Nottingham artists society- Nottingham-UK
2014 Colombia University-New York-USA
2015 Hay Hill gallery-London-UK

Museum Collections:

American visionary art museum-Baltimore.USA
D.H.Lawrence Museum , East Wood-UK
Corvus Art Centre , New Haven-USA
Museum of Modern Arab Art - Qatar
Iraq National Art Museum- Baghdad - Iraq
Jordan Contemporary Art Museum-Jordan
Municipality Hall Museum , Paris 6.-France

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