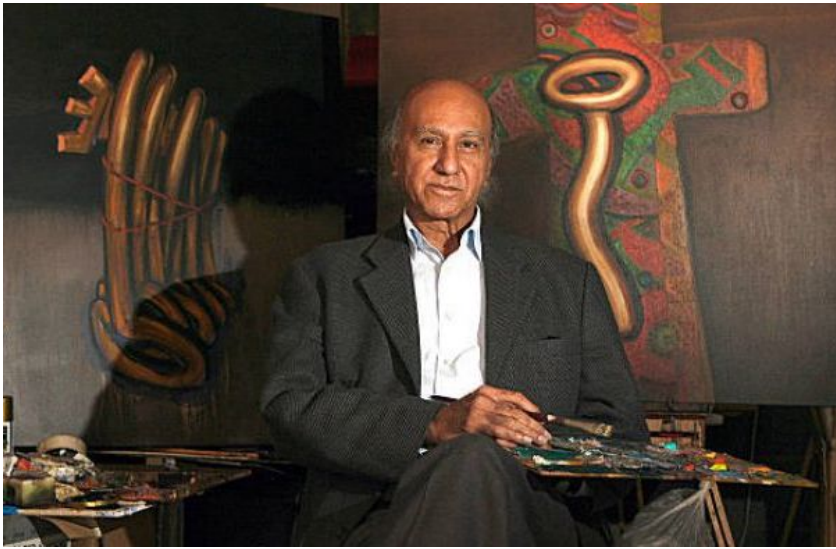


HAYHILLGALLERY

MASTER WORKS AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Ala Bashir



Ala Bashir was born in Iraq in 1939, eighteen years after his country declared independence from Britain. As an artist and physician, Bashir was once not only part of Saddam Hussein's medical team, but his reluctant confidant too. The resultant works from this period are given shocking context by Saddam's remark that they would be '*a record of Iraq at (that) point in history*'.

The artist's style is easily comparable to that of the surrealists, yet these nightmarish visions are not dreams—they depict the very real suffering he was witnessing daily. Unexpected directions in style often make his work difficult to decipher, whilst recurring signs such as the raven and

the mask draw directly from traditional Iraqi imagery. Abstract backgrounds eat into the figurative, bricks fuse with skin, snakes fall like entrails from rotting apples. These tortured forms metamorphose into each other, contorted with pain. Bashir paints with great compassion from the devastating perspective of the Iran-Iraq war. Having formerly pioneered techniques for reattaching severed hands, this artist-surgeon now attempts to reconnect the eyes with the heart.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2013 Solo Exhibition at Nottingham Society of Artists-UK
Solo Exhibition- NY- Columbia University
- 2012 Solo Exhibition (Memories of Chairs) – Katara Gallery- Cultural Village-Qatar
Solo Exhibition-Nottingham Society of Artists Gallery-Nottingham-UK
- 2011 Solo Exhibition (Memories Of Chairs) Gallery of Artists Society of Nottingham
- 2010 Solo Exhibition (Memories of Keys) Richard Attenborough Art Centre- University of Leicester
- 2009 Solo Exhibition (Single Line Drawings)-Nottingham Society of Artists-UK
Selective Exhibition at the American Visionary Art Museum-Baltimore-USA
- 2008 Solo Exhibition at Nottingham Society of Artists Gallery-UK
- 2007 Solo Exhibition at the Corvus Art Centre, New Haven-USA
Solo Exhibition at Nottingham Society of Artists Gallery-UK

Monuments

The Union, 21 meter high -Baghdad (stone) destroyed in 2010 by Iraqi government.
The Cry, 8 meter high- Baghdad (bronze), close to the Amyria shelter

Awards

- 2002 State Award for Science
- 2001 State Award for Art
- 1995 Highest Award of union of Iraqi Artists
- 1988 First prize (gold medal), Biennial of International Art –Baghdad

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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