

Press release
For immediate release
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the mosaic rooms



Mohammed Joha

Dream in Black and White

3 – 22 June 2011

The Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London, SW5 0SW

A mixed media exhibition by Mohammed Joha, the winner of the A.M. Qattan Foundation's 2004 Young Artist Award, will open at the Mosaic Rooms in Kensington on Friday 10 June 2011.

Dream in Black and White is a series of paintings, collages on paper, land art photographs and an installation composed of six handmade dolls. The work takes its inspiration from the many children in today's world who have lost their freedom and fundamental rights. Specifically, Joha draws on the experiences of children in Palestine where, in 2010, there were over 1,000 children under the age of 17 imprisoned in Jerusalem. He argues that these children are trapped by occupation, war, persecution, and pressure to accept their current conditions. His depiction of children as large dolls, held by many strings, symbolises the way in which they are psychologically and socially constrained, marginalised and exploited as innocent victims of conflict.

Joha comments: "My work expresses the concept of the compulsory binding, restriction and suppression of childhood today. The same strings which are moving the dolls are also crippling and strangling them."

Mohammed Joha was born in Gaza, Palestine, in 1978, and now divides his time between Gaza, France and Italy. In 2004, he won the Hassan Hourani Young Artist Award, organised biennially by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, which is open to artists under 30 of Palestinian descent, from any part of the world. He completed his BA in art education at Al-Aqsa University in Gaza city in 2003. His work includes paintings, installations, photography, and video art. He has exhibited his work widely in solo and group exhibitions, both in Palestine and internationally.

Mohammed Joha will give a talk at the Mosaic rooms on Tuesday 7 June at 7pm.
For further information, visit www.mosaicrooms.org.

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Notes to editors

- Images are available via Colman Getty
- Entry to the exhibition is free
- Mohammed Joha is available for interview through Colman Getty. He will be in the UK 31 May –10 June.
- The Mosaic Rooms are open from 11am – 6pm Monday to Friday and from 11am - 4pm on Saturday
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent arts space in west London, deliver a high quality, contemporary, progressive cultural programme from the Middle East and internationally. They are managed by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to the support of culture and education in Palestine and the Arab world. The Foundation's London office, headed by one of its trustees, Omar Al-Qattan, is responsible for the Mosaic Rooms' programme. The Rooms are part of the Culture and Arts Programme of the A.M. Qattan Foundation.
- The Mosaic Rooms is situated on the corner of the Cromwell Road and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London, a short walk from Earl's Court Underground Station and Exhibition Centre.
- For further information about The Mosaic Rooms and the A.M. Qattan Foundation visit www.mosaicrooms.org