

Press release
For immediate release

the mosaic rooms



Fadi Yazigi

Che, angel, it's me, donkey

7-28 October 2011

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

To coincide with Frieze Art Fair this October, the Mosaic Rooms in Kensington will host a striking exhibition from celebrated Syrian artist Fadi Yazigi. One of the most important artistic voices in the Arab world today, Yazigi has exhibited extensively throughout the Middle East, Europe and the United States, but this is the first time his work has been displayed in the UK. At the present time of civil unrest in the Middle East, the Mosaic Rooms is privileged to welcome this talented artist to London.

This solo show will include recent paintings, reliefs, sculptures and films by the artist, many of which reflect the personal tragedies of contemporary Syrian reality. Instead of painting life-like portraits, Yazigi's works often depict ordinary people as physically underdeveloped creatures or half-human beasts, preferring to paint feelings. He often uses his work to portray the marginalised and unhappy, leading to dramatic use of colour and highly arresting imagery.

Examples of this technique can be seen in the works due to be featured in the exhibition. In one, an ink on canvas, a sea of black faces are featured against a white background; next to each face Yazigi has left a blank space for the subject to write their feelings at the time of painting. Accompanying the work is a document listing Yazigi's first impressions of each person. In another work, a bronze sculpture entitled 'King Che', Yazigi gives his own interpretation of Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara, portraying him as a dreamer with an innocent, upturned smiling face. A short film by Fadi about the writer Elias Khoury will also be shown on a loop throughout the exhibition.

Fadi Yazigi was born in Syria in 1966. He studied sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Art in Damascus, graduating in 1988. He now works as a full time artist, using various techniques including painting, sculpture and reliefs. His work has been shown internationally through exhibitions and art fairs and has been sold to collectors all over world. His artworks are also sold in Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses between London and Dubai.

Fadi will give an artist's talk at the Mosaic Rooms on 8th October at 12noon.

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Notes to editors

- Fadi Yazigi is available for interview via Colman Getty
- Images are available via Colman Getty
- Entry to the exhibition is free
- The Mosaic Rooms are open from 11am – 6pm Monday to Friday and from 11am to 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