

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE FROM THE ARAB WORLD
VISUAL ART / LITERATURE / FILM / MUSIC / FOOD

the
mosaic
rooms



For immediate release:
14 May 2013

YAYA12

22 June - 16 August 2013

Private view Saturday 22 June 2013, 12-3pm

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



Jumana Manna, still from *A Sketch of Manners*, 2012

The Mosaic Rooms showcases a selection of work from the 2012 A. M. Qattan Foundation's Young Artist of the Year Award (YAYA12) for the first time in the UK.

The biennial award – organised by the Foundation's Culture and Arts Programme in the Occupied West Bank city of Ramallah – is open to young artists under 30 of Palestinian descent, from any part of the world. From this year's ten finalists the first, second and third prize award winners were selected by a jury of internationally renowned artists and writers- Negar Azimi, Nicola Gray, Khaled Hourani, Rula Halawani and Marco Nereo Rotelli.

The 2012 exhibition took place across multiple sites in Ramallah, and also Gaza, within Qalandiya International (QI) - a biennial event that seeks to promote Palestine as a place that celebrates and nurtures contemporary arts. The exhibition featured installations, sculptures, video works and performances. London audiences will now have the chance to see the prize-winning works, as well as pieces by three of the other finalist artists.

This year's first prize was awarded to multimedia artist **Jumana Manna** for her video installation *A Sketch of Manners*. This work was inspired by an archival photograph taken in 1942 at the last known masquerade party in Palestine. The video recreates an unconventional bon vivant aspect of Palestinian urban life before 1948. It is also a multilayered work that reflects on the history of photography, notions of modernity within the region, and the role of artifice and farce in society.

Dirar Kalash will perform his sound art piece, *Stonified Voice*, which was given the second prize. His work is based on everyday life as a phenomenon, which is then subjected to live processing, composition and decomposition in a unique live sonic performance.

In **Mirna Bamieh's** two channel video installation, *This Mined Land of Ours*, the artist extracts from online videos filmed on mobile phones the outline of individuals who dared to cross the border between Syria and the Occupied Golan Heights on Nakba remembrance day in 2011. Nakba or catastrophe in Arabic, refers to the expulsion and dispossession of over 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland in 1948. Bamieh was awarded joint third prize for this piece, which reflects her artistic concerns with political landscapes, liminal spaces, and the construction of collective memory.

The exhibition will also include work by **Majd Abdel Hamid**, **Shada Safadi** and **Omar Joseph Nasser Khoury**, and is curated by **Yazan Khalili** and **Reem Shilleh**. Khalili is a Palestinian artist and curator who has contributed work to numerous group shows internationally.



YAYA12 is proud to be part of **Shubbak 2013: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture**.
22 June - 6 July 2013.

Related Events

YAYA12 Launch Party, Saturday 22nd June 2013, 12-3pm

Join us at the Mosaic Rooms to celebrate the opening and meet the artists and curator Yazan Khalili. Drinks and nibbles will be served. The event will feature a live sound performance by second prizewinning artist, Dirar Kalash.

Curator's Talk, Saturday 29th June 2013, 12pm

Yazan Khalili, curator of the Young Artist Award exhibition discusses the works featured, and the experience of presenting the artists in multiple venues throughout Ramallah, and also in Gaza, last year; and this year at The Mosaic Rooms in London, with curator and jury member Nicola Gray.

Notes to editors

- The curator, Yazan Khalili and artists Jumana Manna, Dirar Kalash, Omar Joseph Nasser Khoury, and Mirna Bamieh will be in London and available for interview via The Mosaic Rooms. Contact Rosa or Rachael on 020 7370 9990 or email press@mosaicrooms.org.
- Images from the exhibition are available via The Mosaic Rooms.
- Follow the exhibition on twitter #YAYA12
- Visit the Young Artist Blog here: <http://youngartist2012.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/blog-post.html>
- The exhibition will be open Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, free entry. There will be a special Sunday opening of the exhibition on 11 August, 12-5pm.
- The Young Artist of the Year award is a biennial programme organised by the A.M. Qattan Foundation that encourages, supports and promotes young Palestinian artists. Initiated in 2000 under the auspices of Foundation's Culture and Arts Programme (CAP), it has been organised since then on a biennial basis. Find out more: <http://youngartist2012.blogspot.co.uk/p/yaya-history.html>
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent arts space in west London, deliver a high quality, contemporary and progressive cultural programme from the Arab world 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
- Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture. 22 June - 6 July 2013. A festival held every two years in London that presents outstanding artists and cultural events from across the Arab world. Shubbak (meaning 'window' in Arabic) offers people everywhere the opportunity to engage with and develop a greater understanding of Arab culture in all its forms. See www.shubbak.co.uk for further information.

