



EXHIBITION REVIEW

The Seasonal State by Usama Said

Curated by Maha Alsharif & Noura Abla
Gallery One
27 July 2015 at 7:00 pm

The Seasonal State abstractly involves the viewer in the timeless struggle between the infinite hope of a people and the all-too-often oppressive power that ties them down. This selection of sketches and oil paintings by Usama Said is inspired by the seasonal nature of his work, whilst the precarious state of being in his homeland, Palestine, acts as a backdrop. *The Seasonal State* links beautiful memories of a now-distant land with the shocking reality of life as it occurs today.

Said was born in 1957 in the small town of Nahef, located between the Lower and Upper Galilee. In the early 1980s he collected his family's history via stories handed down by his grandfather and images of the region's natural landscapes and left for Germany. Said started his artistic career with a degree in fine arts in Berlin. After graduating with high honours from Hochschule der Künste, he was granted several scholarships, awards, and residencies that encouraged and expanded his artistry whilst allowing his stay in Germany to last 16 years. Having painted for years while abroad with only memories of Palestine, Said was struck by the painful reality of Palestinian life upon his return.

As a result of his discoveries, Said's work portrays the different faces of nature. However, upon closer examination, viewers will find several layers of colour, which present themes of memory and forgetfulness; identity and alienation; illusion and reality. The contrasting themes shown in the exhibited works all bear ties that form a collective idea presented as *The Seasonal State*.

Maha Alsharif obtained her bachelor's degree in art, design and media in 2012 from Richmond University in London. Interested in art management, Maha recently completed a MA in art business at Sotheby's Institute of Art, where she focused her research on cultural policy in the Arab world. Maha now lives and works in Dubai.

Noura Abla is a student at the Zurich University of the Arts in Switzerland, where she specializes in art theory. In her studies, she focuses on the connection between art and politics, as well as intercultural issues. She currently lives in Zurich and works between Egypt and Switzerland.

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Usama Said

Solo exhibition
"The Seasonal State"
at Gallery One
27 July - 27 August 2015
Preview: 27 July, 7-9 pm

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Opening hours: Sat - Thu, from 12 am - 8 pm