

الطريق بأصحابه



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A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION BY
MAJD KURDIEH

6 - 26 JUNE 2023

AS-SAFIR NEWSPAPER BUILDING
BEIRUT, LEBANON

مجد كراية
2023

ما زلت أتذكر بوضوح مجد كرده وهو يمسك عن قرب لوحاته وهو آت لمقابلتنا - أنا وعائلتي - في مقهى في جبيل ، في عام ٢٠١٤.

كان هذا اللقاء السريالي عندما أعجبت بالفصاعين ، وعصابة الفراشة المخيفة جدًا و قصصهم ، وانضمت إلى العصابة. عرفت حينها أنني قد اكتشفت فنانًا عظيمًا ، فيلسوفًا ، وراويًا. فنانا يفتخر جاليري Fann À Porter بتمثيله منذ ذلك الحين.

"الطريق بأصحابه مش بتراه" لوحتي المفضلة ومن أوائل الأعمال الفنية التي امتلكتها، و منها استوحينا عنوان هذا المعرض الإستيعادي .

اليوم في لبنان ، حيث التقينا لأول مرة ، وبالتعاون مع ZAAT ، مع أصدقائنا أعضاء العصابة الجدد، نحتفل برحلة نجاح عمرها ١٠ سنوات ، في مبنى جريدة السفير في بيروت ، لنواصل الرحلة ، و ما زلنا نؤمن أن "الطريق بأصحابه".

غادة قناش
جاليري فن آيورتيه
مؤسس

I can still remember vividly Majd Kurdieh holding closely his paintings and coming to meet us - my family and I - at a cafe in Jbeil, back in 2014. It was at that surreal encounter when I first admired the Fasaeen, *The Very Scary Butterfly Gang* and their stories, and I joined the Gang. I knew I discovered a great artist, a philosopher, and a storyteller, that my gallery Fann À Porter proudly represented ever since.

"The Journey is defined by the companionship" "الطريق بأصحابه مش بتراه" was my favorite painting and one of the first artworks I owned. It was our inspiration for the title of this retrospective exhibition.

Today, here we are celebrating a journey of 10 successful years, still believing that "الطريق بأصحابه", in Lebanon where we first met, in collaboration with ZAAT, with good friends, who joined the Gang, to continue the journey, at the prominent Assafir in Beirut.

Ghada Kunash
Gallery Fann À Porter
Founder



2015,
oil on canvas, 47 x 69 cm

About The Exhibition

As whimsical as ever, this retrospective exhibition embodies the journey of Majd Kurdieh's art and his commitment to deliver an understanding of the human experience. It begins with **The Land Needs Ironing** (2014-2016), a series begun in a decade fraught with war. Kurdieh chose his brush as a weapon, depicting peaceful yet powerful messages. Highlighting painful fault lines created by political upheaval, he manages to tend to what remains of innocence, calling on the Samsh and the Fasaeen to lead the way to brighter days.

True to its name, **Stealing Sadness** (2017-2018) depicts *The Very Scary Butterfly Gang* on a mission. Prerequisites of sadness thieves include a light touch and a lighthearted spirit to boot. Though their name may be scary, *The Very Scary Butterfly Gang* only wish to replace sadness, which can often feel as heavy and huge as a whale, with a feather to help you rise above your sorrows and the barriers that separate us as humans. As time goes by, so too does the story of The Gang.

In his series, **Surrender to Love** (2018), Kurdieh's characters are all softness, both figuratively and literally as they've shed their previous outlines and by default, their confines. They are, after all, surrendering to the greatest power, love.

A striking contrast is presented in **Hold Onto The Flower** (2019), an ink on paper series ironically portrayed in black and white. Kurdieh's famous cast of characters have remained the same in name, however, his proclivity for expressing complex realities through simple visuals has evolved through each series as the characters appear technically enhanced on the canvas. Joining their number in Hold Onto The Flower is Mr. Mouse, for whom nothing is impossible, and who raises the Sun Flag in the face of storms.

In his 2020 series, **We Continue To Raise The Flag Of The Sun**, a certain member is featured more prominently: The Cactus. In Arabic, "cactus" and "patience" are the same word and the new Gang member represents this virtue time and again, particularly in the vibrant watercolor scenes.

Majd Kurdieh's 2021 collection **Watermelon Peace**, confronts humanity's increasing restlessness and turmoil with depictions of unwavering love, belief, and the discovery of inner peace. Bursting with light and color, the paintings exude a passionate aesthetic that matches the intensity of the subject matter.

Love is at the forefront in Kurdieh's 2022 series, **One Wound, One Smile**, with two opposing forces emerging as recurring themes: the wound and the smile. As is characteristic of his work, complex human emotions and experiences are rendered discernible through the use of characters and elements. For example, sadness is depicted as being as large as a whale, while sorrow is portrayed as a flood with crashing waves. The wound is a mix of nostalgia, hope, and sorrow. The heart is likened to a fish, finding its place in the vast ocean of this world. Beauty is personified as a woman, and desire as a man. The ultimate prize life has to offer, according to Kurdieh, is love, personified in the characters Fagoon and Fasooneh.

Majd Kurdieh's new series made in 2023 titled **The Wing of the Dream** is a departure from his previous works as it focuses on the depiction of birds in a more realistic manner. The series explores the themes of duality and contradiction, as highlighted in the artist statement. The birds in the paintings are not only meant to represent the freedom of flight but also to symbolize the fragility of life and the fleeting nature of existence. Through his use of color and texture, Kurdieh creates a dream-like atmosphere, blurring the line between reality and imagination.

A fitting conclusion, if only for now, to the continuing story. The concepts of home, love, devotion and sadness ring strong in all his creations. Kurdieh is masterful in his ability to express our realities through the strokes of his brush and the power of his words. As noted by the artist himself, his art and its characters are of this world, not merely a fantasy. If you care to look deeply enough, he offers a portal to a place of hope and togetherness should you wish to experience it.

الدراسات الأولية

Early Studies

This collection of early studies holds immense value and significantly contributes to our understanding of Kurdieh's artistic repertoire, providing unparalleled insight into his creative process.

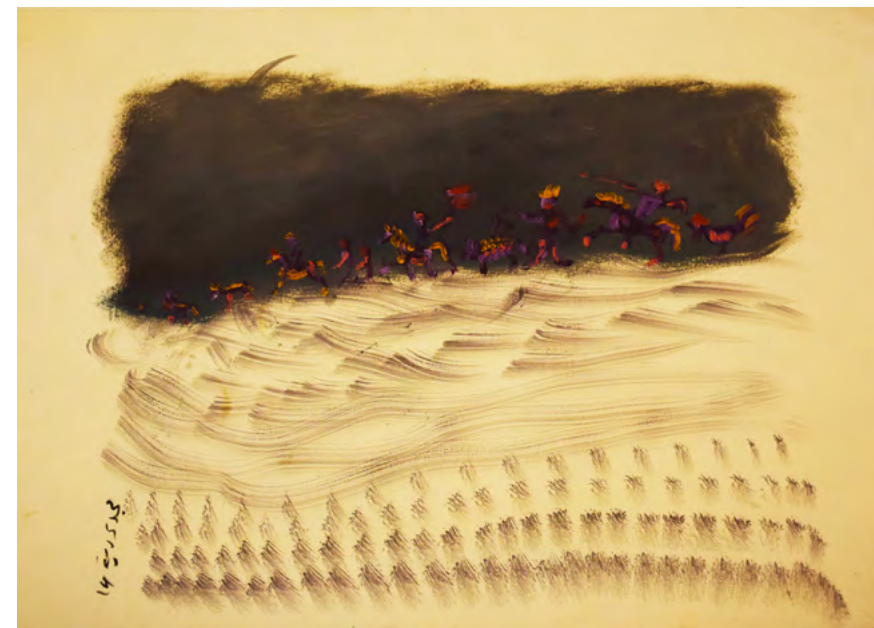
The studies highlight the early stages where the artist's characters come alive, including the original sketch that inspired the idea of a flower as a weapon and the first portrayal of the mouse, symbolizing the courage to defy the impossible.

A sketch of a suitcase showcases exploration of themes related to journey and immigration. The studies also feature a sketch of a cactus and a bird, with the cactus reemerging in 2020 and the bird now assuming the central role in the artist's series in 2023.



مكرمة 2011
حارس الطفولة

2011,
oil on paper, 30 x 21 cm
NOT FOR SALE

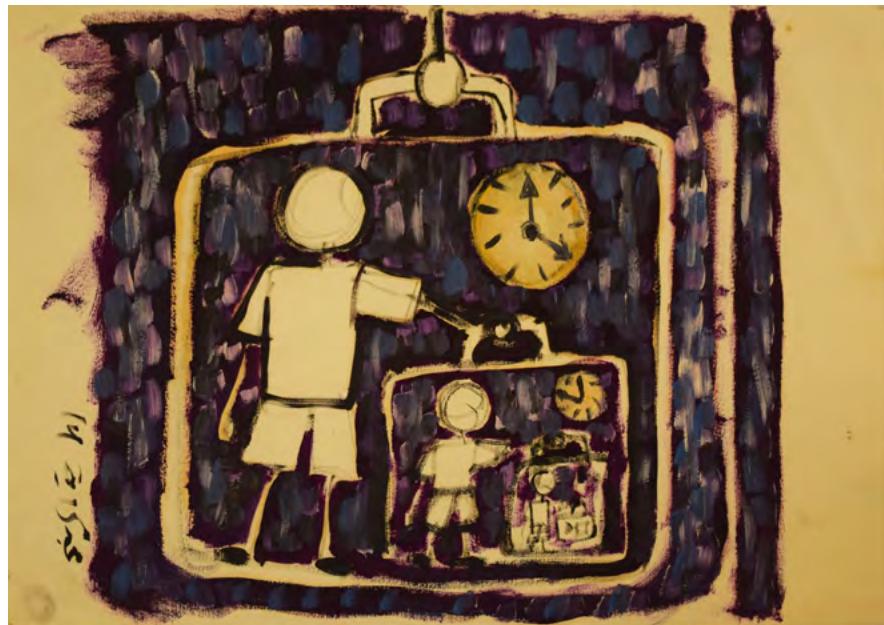


2014,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
NOT FOR SALE

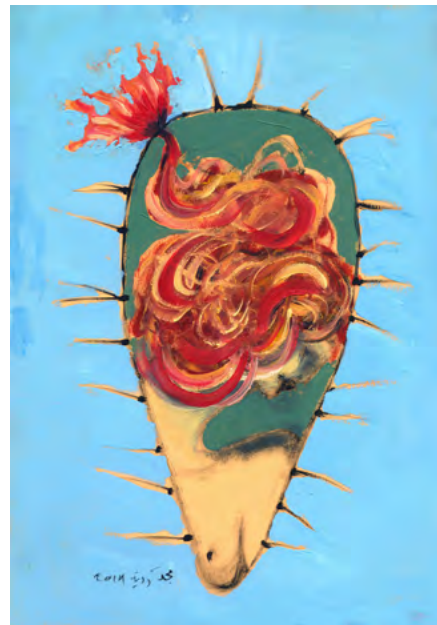


If it were not for thorns,
a flower would not have been
attached to my chest,
if it were not for me
the flower would not have bloomed,
if it were not for spring
neither me nor the flower
would have ever come to be

2014,
oil on paper, 32 x 44 cm
NOT FOR SALE



2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
NOT FOR SALE



2014,
oil on paper, 30 x 21 cm
NOT FOR SALE



2014,
oil on paper, 30 x 21 cm
NOT FOR SALE



2014,
oil on paper, 30 x 21 cm
NOT FOR SALE

الأرض لازمها

كوي

Land Needs Ironing

2014 - 2016



بجذوریہ ۱۴

In our story there is no “ Once upon a time...” because the protagonists live amongst us now, they lived in the long past as well, and they will be living in the future that is hiding behind the Samsh... Oh, I almost forgot to explain, “Samsh” is different from “Shams” (the sun) because this one is always smiling no matter how gloomy the clouds were... she rises and sets on her own timing, she does not follow the rules, and she is very generous; she feeds Al Fasaeen from her light whenever they run out of chocolate.

You will wonder now who are “Al Faseen” and what is this weird name?!, well it is an adjective not a name. Al Fasaeen consider names, countries, colors and all what categorizes people into cages. They love to run in the wilderness, and they don’t have hands except when they want to carry “The Rose” or hold a friend’s hand. They don’t like houses and walls; they dream of an open window hanging high up in the open air.

I did not create or invent them, however, I discovered them just like when scientists discover new species of birds in unknown jungles. If they would allow me to write about them in the book of nature, I would have said: “They are beings that love the light that immerses everything equally.” ...

They are smaller than a cherry blossom and bigger than the world, so I called them “Fasaeen”, small in size but large in meaning. When I saw them for the first time sneaking into my studio to transform my sadness into chocolate, they were carrying “The Donkey” on their back... he is the philosopher of the gang and a dangerous thinker. However, he gets tired very fast so they have to carry him for the rest of the road. To be honest, he became like that only after he fell in love with “The Butterfly”, who is the symbol of The Gang. She loves fire and she is not afraid to get burnt by hope. She can stand on “The Rose” without bothering it. “The Rose” is the very scary weapon of The Gang which “The Monster” is very scared of; and the poor monster is not mean, however, he took that role so that the story would continue.

In the story there is also a brave “Mouse”. He leaves a big space in-spite of his small size. He stays awake carrying The Rose sword to protect the dreams from “The Thorns”. “The Thorns” sometimes transform into barbed wires. However, just like all frontiers they are just meaningless lines...

The master of them all in our story is “The Owl”, who can see in the darkness beyond lines and shapes, so he sees sometimes a heart of a “Bird“ inside “ The Wolf “, and “ the Wolf” my friends is a wolf whose tail is a tree. He is very strong, and he eats the ugly thoughts and bites on his dream so it doesn’t run away from him. Sometimes, the gang hangs a swing on his tail, and this swing is very well tied that it can carry “ The Elephant “: “The Elephant” is one of “The Gang”... he became very big because he is so giving and because he does not listen to anyone and loves to ride “ the Snail” with “ The Gang” so that time passes as slow as “ The Snail”...

There are many other characters that you will get to know, but this page does not have space for more than what I mentioned so far...

That was a simple introduction of “The Gang” ... but you will ask what is the name of this gang?!

It is “The Very Scary Butterfly Gang That Steals the Sorrows of the Neighbors“...

Majd Kurdieh

في قصتنا لا يوجد كان يا مكان لأن أبطالها يعيشون بيننا الآن وعاشوا في الماضي البعيد والمستقبل المختبئ خلف الشمس... صحيح الشمس تختلف عن الشمس لأنها دائماً الابتسام مهما عَست الغيوم في وجهها...تَشْرُقُ وتغيبُ حسب مزاجها فلا ساعة تحكّمها، وهي كريمةٌ جدن، تُطعِمُ الفصاعين من ضوءها كلما نفذت الشوكولاتة، وستقولون من هم الفصاعين وما هذا الاسم الغريب، إنها صفة وليست إسمًا، الفصاعين يعتبرون الاسماء والبلدان والألوان وكل ما يقسم البشر أقفاصاً، يُحبون الركض في البراري ولا يملكون أيدٍ إلا ليحملوا وردة أو يمسكوا يدَ صديق، لا يحبون البيوت والجدران، يحلمون بشباكٍ مفتوحٍ معلقٍ في الهواء.

أنا لم أبتكرها أو اخترعها...لكنني اكتشفتها كما يكتشف العلماء أنواع طيور جديدة في غاباتٍ مجهولة...ولو سمحوا لي بوضعها في كتب الطبيعة لقلت عنها:

«أنها كائناتٌ تحب الضوء الذي يغمر كل شيءٍ بالتساوي».

أنهم أصغر من زهر اللوز وأكبر من العالم، فقلت إنهم فصاعين، أي الصغار في الحجم الكبار في المعنى، وحين رأيتهم لأول مرة يتسللون لمرسمي حتى يحولوا أحزاني لشوكولاتة كانوا يحملون على ظهرهم الحمار...وهو فيلسوف العصابة ومفكرها الخطير، لكنه يتعب بسرعة فيحملوه لبقية الطريق، وللصراحة لم يكن متعباً إلا بعد أن أحب الفراشة، والفراشة رمز العصابة تحب النار ولا تخاف من أن يحرقها الأمل وتستطيع أن تقف على الوردة دون أن تُزعجها، والوردة سلاح العصابة المخيف جدن، تخاف منه كل الوحوش، والوحش المسكين ليس شريرا ولكنه أخذ دور الشرير حتى تستمر الحكاية.

وفي الحكاية أيضا فأرٌ شجاع يترك فراغاً كبيراً رغم حجمه الصغير ويسهر حاملاً سيف الوردة حتى يحرس الأحلام من الشوك، والشوكُ يتحولُ أحياناَ لأسلاكٍ شائكةٍ ولكنه ككل الحدود مجموعة خطوطٍ لا معنى لها...

وسيد المعاني في حكايتنا هو اليوم الذي يُبصر في العتم ليرى ما وراء الخطوط والاشكال، فيرى أحيانا أن بداخل الذئب قلب عصفور، والذئب يا أصدقائي هو الذئب الذي ذيله شجرة، قويٌ جدن يأكل الأفكار القبيحة وبعض على حلمه جيداً حتى لا يهرب منه، وفي بعض الأحيان ينصب الأصدقاء أرجوحة على ذيله، وهذه الأرجوحة متينة جدن لدرجة أنها تحمل الفيل، والفيل من أفراد العصابة أصبح كبيراً جدن لأنه يعطي كل شيء ولا يستمع لكلام أحد ويحب أن يركب على الحلزون مع أفراد العصابة حتى يمشي الوقت ببطء الحلزون...

وهناك شخصيات كثيرة ستعرفون عنها لكن الورقة لم تعد تتسع لأكثر من ذلك....

هذا تعريفٌ بسيطٌ بالعصابة...ستقولون ما اسم هذه العصابة؟

إنها عصابة الفراشة المخيفة جدن التي تسرق أحزان بيت الجيران...

مجد كوردية



Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
NOT FOR SALE



[What's the most delicious thing in the world?
*Your eyes painted with chocolate..]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



[I can draw everything from
a pin to an elephant, but I need your help,
God, to draw a smile in her heart.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



[Smile brighter until it lights up the sun.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



[Light up the world, even if the bill will be high.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2014,
oil on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 680



[- Who's honking this early in the morning?
* Check the very fast airplane.
- Does it run on solar energy?
* No
- On the power of chocolate then?
* On the power of sorrow
- Where are you going to stop?
* When the sorrows end, it will stop by itself
- Do you know how to drive?
* Fasouneh knows how, I just honk]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- I'm going to tell you a secret,
but you can't tell anyone.
* Don't worry, your secret is in a chocolate box.
Tell me...
- I...]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[* What are you selling?
- Hope
* But the cart is empty
- You have to believe it to see it
* So, it's a lie
- No... if you cook it the right way,
it becomes reality
* Give me a kilogram
- That'll be a thousand kisses]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- Have you become a Greek philosopher?
* No... I'm trying to tempt you.]
("Greek" and "tempt" are almost the same
word in Arabic, the difference being one letter.
Pronunciation is very similar.)

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Oh sun, we're hungry. Feed us some light.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Your smile is the flower of my heart.
It makes me fly.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



- ارفع ايديك واستسلم فوزن أنت محاصر
* استسلمت
- عطيتنا كل أجزائك
* ما عندي أجزان
لحنا الجرماعنا أجزان
- إنت ولدت حجر؟
أو صدرت حجر لاناك بدون أجزان؟
* ما يعرف لانه الجرم ما بيذكر شي
- الأجزان دأفن من الذاكرة.

- Hands up in surrender. You have been captured
* I surrender
- Give us all of your sorrows
* I don't have any. We stones
do not have sorrows
- Were you born a stone, or did you
become one because you have no sorrows?
* I don't know because stones
don't remember anything
- Sorrows always come from memories.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[On his way to the heavens,
he stumbled on every star
and was showered with its light.
And after a thousand stars
he became a moon.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- *Shhh... There's a knock on the door
But I don't have a house to have a door
- I think this is your heart... open up for it.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Darkness is a sorcerer that transforms a tree
into a monster. Burn to reveal the universe.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[We immigrate to each others hearts,
with empty suitcases and big dreams.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 50 x 35 cm
USD 680



[* Allô... Do you remember
the black and white days?
- Of course I do]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- What is this?
* The World
I painted it in chocolate to become sweeter.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Fortunate person is he who
comes back home in the evening and finds a
friend behind every door.]
- Assi Alrahbani

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[The grass is the lands' fur...
pet it so it calms down]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Bow for the light to come through]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[3 teaspoons of sunshine, 3 tears from a traveling bird, and 3 smiles of Fasoona - the recipe to prepare chocolate.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Wherever you go, don't be scared.
You are your own sun.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Hold onto he who is holding the flower.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[The wing is the broom of the sky.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- Why are you sitting at the edge of the story
* So it leans towards the flower]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[* Are you sleeping?
- No, I am looking for a dream
that can take what's going to happen.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Love her with her rain and her flowers.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 35 x 25 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 35 x 25 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- Your smile is the only land
that has smiled to me
* You are my smile.]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- I'm thirsty... Give me a bit of earth to drink]

Land Needs Ironing series, 2015,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



Land Needs Ironing series, 2016,
oil on paper, 40 x 25 cm
USD 680

مطلوب
منطوق عين
سرقة الأحرار
عصابة الفراشة
المخيفة جدن

#سرقةالأحزان
#StealingSadness

2017 - 2018



بدأتُ بالكتابةِ فِتحوَلتِ الأفكارُ لعصافيرِ طارثٍ لَمَّا سمعتُ صَوْتِ المُصوِّرِ، فكيفَ أصِفُ لكم العصفورَ دُونَ وضعِهِ في قفصٍ؟ وكيفَ أهدتُكم عن جناحيهِ وأنا لا أعرفُ سيرَ الطيرانِ؟

كُلُّ ما في الأمرِ أني أخذتُ علبَةَ الألوانِ وتسلَّلتُ في غفلةِ الكبارِ لأخربِشَ على الجدرانِ والأبوابِ، وأصرخُ بالفارقِ بين الأشياءِ والمخلوقاتِ.

عصابة الفراشة المخيفة جدن، غريبة كاسمها، كيف تكون الفراشة مخيفة؟

هل جرّبت يوماً حملَ فراشة؟ أما خفت أن تكسرَ جناحها بأصابعك العملاقة؟

حين تُخيفك هشاشة الفراشة لن تكثرَ بزئير الوحوش، ستكون مشغولاً بالدفاع عن حق البشرية بالاحتفاظ بإنسانيتها، هذه ليست إحدى الحروبِ الدونكيشوتية، إنها حروبٌ طاحنة صامتة رُغمَ خلوها من السيوفِ والبنادقِ، أحياناً تكون بين الانسانِ ونفسه....

وأحياناً تأخذُ شكلَ لوحاتٍ تقول: لا تنسوا انسانيتكم.

سرقة الأحزان مهمة هذه العصابة الدائمة الابتسام، رُبما كانت ابتسامة فرحٍ أو غضبٍ أو تحدٍّ، لكن بالتأكيد ليست ابتسامة لامبالاة، اللامبالاة هي التركيبة المسمومة التي تُحوّلنا لوحوش.

مغامرةٌ فيها حزنٌ بحجمِ حوتٍ، وكونٌ يغسلُ نجومه بدمعةٍ، وفيلٌ طارَ حينَ امتلكَ قلبَ فراشةٍ، وفيها أيضاً... لن أفسدَ عليكم مُتعةَ الحضورِ... أتمنى لكم شهيةً طيبةً والسلام

سرقة الأحزان تشبه السرقة لحدّ كبير، اللص يحتاج ليدٍ خفيفةٍ، وسارقُ الحزنِ يحتاجُ لروحٍ خفيفةٍ لا يشعرُ بها أحدٌ وهي تدخلُ من النوافذِ، وتنفذُ من تحتِ الأبوابِ المغلقة.

حين تسرقُ الأحزانَ، أنت لا تُعطي الفرحة، لكنك تسقي القلوب لينبت منها الفرحة، فالفرحة الذي ينبت خارج القلب يبقى خارجه.

حين تسرقُ أحزان الآخرين أنت لا تُساعدهم بل العكس، إنهم يغرسون ريشةً في جناحك لتحلّق أعلى وترى الحياة من بعيدٍ وقد تجرّدت من الحواجز التي تفصل بين انسانٍ وآخر وبين الانسان وحلمه

ولأن الأحوال على كوكب الأرض كما تعلمون، وبسبب تراكم الأحزان التي غطت الطرقات والبحار والجبال، لذا تعلن عصابة الفراشة المخيفة جدن ما يلي:

مطلوب متطوعين خفيفي الأرواح، حالمين بأرضٍ أقل قسوة، لا يشبهون أحداً سوى أنفسهم، للانضمام للعصابة أو لتنضم العصابة إليهم.

I started writing, and thoughts turned into birds that flew when they heard the voice of the photographer. How can I describe a bird to you without putting it in a cage? How can I tell you about its wings when I do not know the secret of flight?

The only thing is that I took the color box and slipped into the adults' negligence to scribble on the walls and doors, and shout the difference between things and creatures.

The Very Scary Butterfly Gang is so weird, as strange as its name, how is a butterfly scary?

Have you ever tried holding a butterfly? Weren't you afraid to break its wing with your giant fingers?

When the fragility of a butterfly scares you, you will not care about the roar of beasts. You will be busy defending the right of humanity to preserve its humanity. This is not one of the Don Quixote wars. They are grinding, silent wars, although they are devoid of swords and guns. Sometimes they are between a person and himself..

Sometimes it takes the form of paintings that say: Do not forget your humanity.

Stealing sorrows is the task of this ever-smiling gang. Perhaps it was a smile of joy, anger or defiance, but certainly not a smile of indifference. Indifference is the poisonous formula that turns us into monsters.

An adventure with sadness the size of a whale, a universe that washes its stars with a tear, and an elephant that flew when it had the heart of a butterfly, and in it also... I will not spoil the pleasure of attending... I wish you a good appetite
Peace

Stealing sorrows is very much like stealing. The thief needs a light hand, and the thief of grief needs a light spirit that no one can feel as it enters through windows and enters from under closed doors.

When you steal sorrows, you do not give joy, but you water the hearts so that joy springs from them, for the joy that grows outside the heart remains outside it. When you steal the sorrows of others, you do not help them, on the contrary, they plant a feather in your wing so that you can fly higher and see life from afar, stripped of the barriers that separate one person from another and between one person and his dream.

And because the conditions on the planet, as you know, and because of the accumulation of sorrows that covered the roads, seas, and mountains, The Very Scary Butterfly Gang announces the following:

Light-hearted volunteers, dreaming of a less harsh land, who look like no one but themselves, are required to join the gang or for the gang to join them.

Majd Kurdieh

مجد كوردية



Sender: Myself.
 Sent to: Myself.
 Address: You.
 Country: You.
 City: You.
 Street: the 2nd streak of your hair on the right.
 Building: The one in my memory
 House: each land or star you reside in
 Telephone: the size of your shoes
 The Message: Marhaba... Do not forget that you love her....

#StealingSadness series, 2017, oil on canvas, 144 x 200 cm
 USD 4,900



[I grow up wherever the wind plants me.
* I will follow the wind, maybe we meet.]

#StealingSadness series, 2017,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



#StealingSadness series, 2017,
oil on paper, 35 x 50 cm
USD 680



[You are the mirror of what you like]

#StealingSadness series, 2017,
oil on paper, 59x 44 cm
USD 800



[We are standing on the snail so the kiss
can be very slow and last for longer.]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on canvas, 50 x 70 cm
USD 1,200



[Can we enter your dream, we brought flowers]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on canvas, 50 x 70 cm
USD 1,200



[And you appear and I realize it is a dream]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[Can you close your eyes...
it's a silent movie and your eyes say too much]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on canvas, 50 x 70 cm
USD 1,200



[Im not exhausted of my heavy burden,
I'm only exhausted from what I cannot endure]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[Allô... Yes... Perfect...
the line is cutting... great...
im good, I only miss you...
no, im very well]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 52 cm
USD 800



[A smile can do a lot,
if time steals it call
“The Very Scary Butterfly Gang”
*P.S Tel: 1 watermelon 2 flowers
10 kisses 1 wink]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on paper, 48 x 53 cm
USD 680



[And you appear and I realize it is a dream]

#StealingSadness series, 2018,
oil on paper, 48 x 55 cm
USD 800

استسلم للمحبة
Surrender To Love

2018 - 2019



The house flew, we were overwhelmed by longing, the night was long, I sank and my heart lived, the titles of some of the works of this exhibition.

Color appears at the expense of the line, which has completely faded, as if the characters were freed from their chains when they surrendered to love. This difficult surrender requires tremendous courage to admit that we will be defeated again and again unless we surrender to love.

Majd Kurdieh

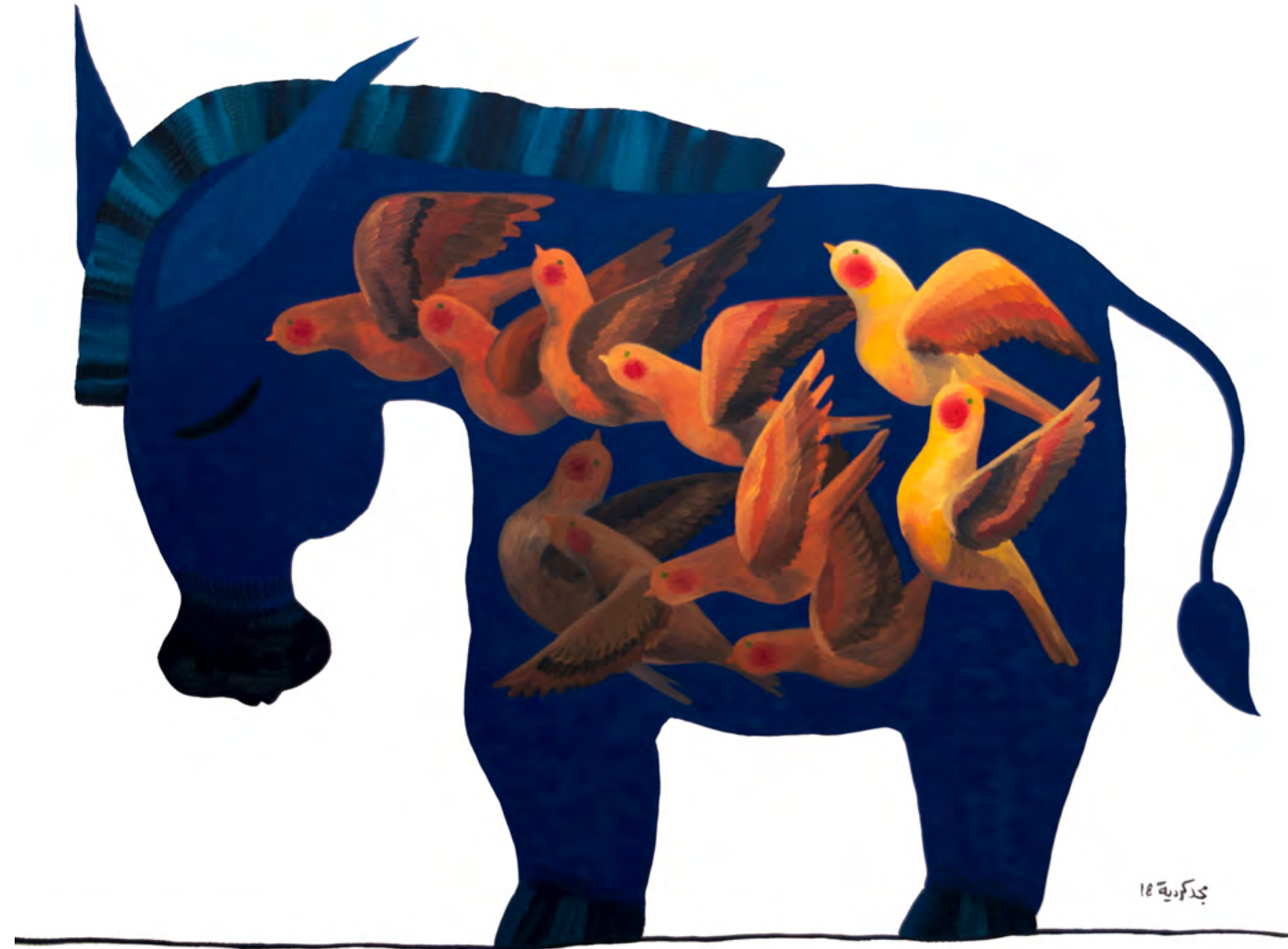
طار البيت وغبلنا الشوق وطال الليل وغرقت وعاش قلبي، عناوين بعض أعمال هذا المعرض.

يظهر اللون على حساب الخط الذي تلاشى تماماً وكأن الشخصيات انعتقت من قيدها حين استسلمت للمحبة، هذا الإستسلام الصعب، يحتاج شجاعةً هائلةً لنعترف أننا سننهزم مراراً وتكراراً ما لم نستسلم للمحبة.

مجد كوردية



[Put the sun "Samsh" to dry]
Surrender To Love series,
2018, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm
USD 3,400



[I may have no wings, but flocks of birds flutter inside me,]
Surrender To Love series,
2018, oil on canvas, 100 x 125 cm
USD 3,400



[An ethereal soul]
Surrender To Love series,
2018, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm
USD 3,400



[I've drowned, but my heart lives]
Surrender To Love series,
2019, oil on canvas, 200 x 130 cm
USD 4,900



Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



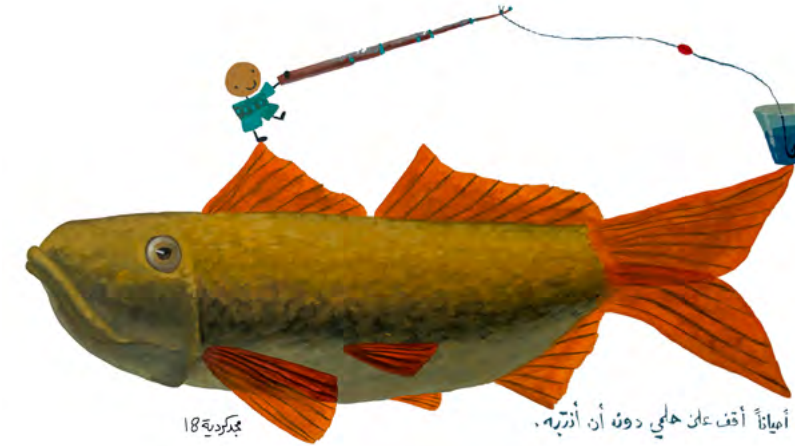
[Your smile is a refuge]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[* Why are you always carrying a pouch?
- I could remember you in any second
and travel to the moon.]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[Sometimes I step on my dream
without paying attention]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[They prescribed patience for me.]
(cactus in Arabic is "Saber"
and it also means patience.)

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[I knitted for you peace out of wool,
so surrender to my warmth.]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[How to prepare all the sweetest desserts:
We prepare: You.
End of Recipe.]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 48 x 53 cm
USD 680



Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 37x 70 cm
USD 900



Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 48 x 52 cm
USD 680



[- How many flowers is your weight?
* A bouquet]

Surrender To Love series, 2018,
oil on paper, 50 x 45 cm
USD 800



[May you always be safe O mother O mare.]

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 32 x 29 cm
USD 680



[- Why are you sleeping with one eye open?
* Im winking at you in my dream.]

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 50 cm
USD 800



Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[You are the memory]

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[Beauty takes me to the beautiful one]
- Mahmood Darwish

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[During storm, we take the memory as a shelter]

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[You are the insight]

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900



[I see the sky there at our hands' reach.]
- Mahmood Darwish

Surrender To Love series, 2019,
oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
USD 900

تَمَسِّك بِالْوَرْدَةِ
Hold Onto The Flower

2019 - 2020



I discovered four new recipes as I was looking into the works; a recipe for a burnt dish; a recipe for a tasteful life; a recipe for a seasoned universe; and a recipe for palatable bitter memories. It was an awakening; as if I bumped my head against a starry sky as I jumped out of bed; and it suddenly hit me; it was nostalgia; a yearning for the lovely smell of my granny's cooking, as she hummed a song audible only to her wooden spoon.

The works are like old music videos; when they play on TV, even though they are in monochrome, we see them in bright colors emanating from the old flames of our memories, that we thought had faded.

In this adventure, Mr. Elephant who has a fish for a heart, engages in a long discussion with his heart, then he just lets go of the world and holds on to a flower.

The new collection features a new character; Mr. Mouse to whom nothing is impossible. Mr. Mouse raises the Sun Flag in the face of the storm.

Fasooneh is depicted in multiple works; in one painting, she's selling smiles in return for kisses; in another, she is facing up to Mr. Monster so that the Gang may hide in the shade of her hair or inside her eyes; and in one of the paintings, she's dressed as a fireman, fighting the fire raging in Fagoon's heart.

Fagoon plays multiple roles in the new collection; sometimes he's a wizard, turning things into birds; a gypsy; a fisherman, waiting for the river to come his way; or a horseman, riding his horse and reciting classical Arabic poetry.

The "Hold on to the Flower" collection includes ninety-nine stories, as for the hundredth, it's yours to tell.

Majd Kurdieh

تفاجأت بأربع وصفاتٍ للطبخ وأنا ألقُبُ الأعمالَ، وصفة للطبخة المخروقة ووصفة وطبخ الحياة ووصفة تتبيل الكون ووصفة لأكل الذكريات المُرّة، وكم كان نائماً فاستيقظ وقفز فارتطم رأسه بالنجوم وهو يصيح: إنّه الحنين، وما الحنين إلّا رائحة مطبخ الجدّة وهي تغني بصوت خافت لا يسمعه سوى ملعقتها الخشبية.

كالأغاني القديمة حين تظهر فجأة على شاشة التلفاز، رماديّة تلوّنها قلوبنا، رمادٌ تشعله ذاكرتنا وترسم له خطوط نار.

في هذه المغامرة الأستاذ فيل الذي قلبه سمكة يتحاور طويلاً مع قلبه وفي آخر الأمر يفلت العالم ويتمسك بوردة.

وشخصيّة جديدة هي الأستار فأر الذي لا يعرف المستحيل يرفع راية السمّش في وجه العاصفة.

فصعونة وهي تبيع الابتسامات بالقبلات أحياناً وأحياناً تقف في مواجهة الأستاذ وحش لتحتمي العصابة في ظلال شعرها وأحياناً تختبئ داخل عينيها أو ترتدي ثياب الإطفاء لتحارب النار في قلب فصعون.

فصعون وهو ساحرٌ يحوّل الأشياء لعصافير ثم يصير عجريّاً وصياد سمك ينتظر النهرَ ليمرّ بحانبه، وأحياناً يمتطي فرساً ويتغنّى ببيتٍ للمتنبي.

مجموعة تمسك بالوردة تسع وتسعون قصة. والقصة المئة هي قصتكم فاكتبوها.

مجد كورديه



Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 25 x 30 cm
USD 315



[Is this "Your Eyes" station?
*Yes Sir
- A ticket please for my days that are gone]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 25 x 30 cm
USD 315



[Please do not enter the phase
of the fractured cochlea.]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 25 x 30 cm
USD 315



[Sometimes love is a bird that picks on your
window, you open for him so he flies away.]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 460



[I am not the Elephant whose heart is a fish,
 can I ask a question?
 * Please do.
 -where can I run away from my heart?]
 Ma'moun Shinnawi

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
 USD 460



[I waited for you a whale of time.]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
 USD 460



[I am walking, my heart is swimming
 and we are both dreaming about flying]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
 USD 460



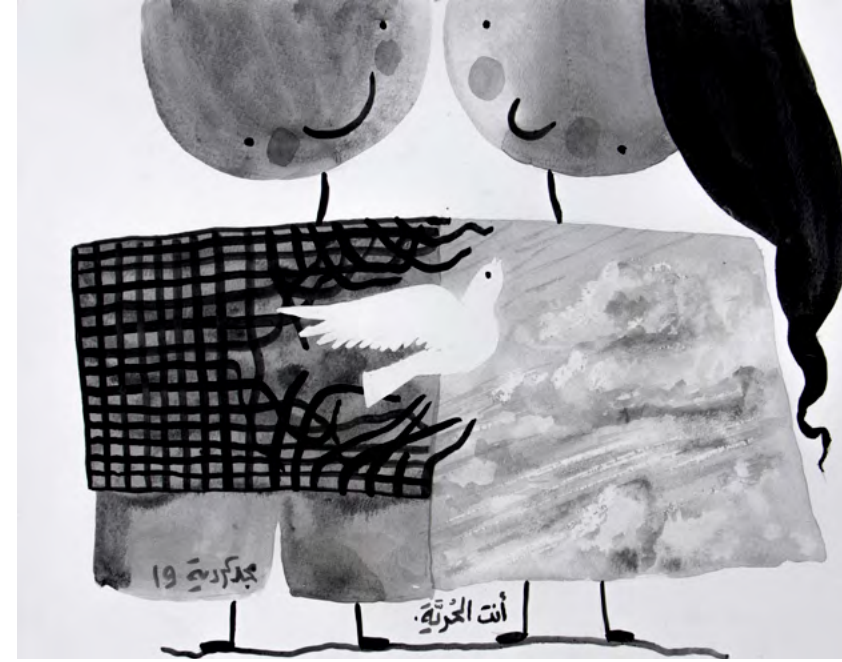
[- I have send you a whale and you did not see it.
 * I was sleeping.]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 25 x 30 cm
 USD 315



[Put your hand on my chest to put out the fire,
water is not capable of putting off the flames.]
Poetry by Ibn Nabata Al Masri

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm
USD 460



[You are the freedom]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 460



[I discovered my smile in you]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm
USD 460



Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm
USD 460



[Oh sleepy one, may you never suffer of love,
 you have exhausted yourself in love, have a rest.]
 Poetry by Ahmad Shawqi

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 460



[Knock knock, open up your heart
 *Who is it?
 - I am the Whale of sadness
 *Sorry, they stole the key]

Hold Onto The Flower series, 2019,
 ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 460

We Will Continue To Raise The Flag Of The Sun

2020 - 2021



The first water works, as water has a lightness with which it flies over the highest walls and sneaks under the most barred doors. In this group, there is a lot of talk about sadness in the character of the whale that joined the gang recently. These sorrows overlook us from among the clouds, Mr. Mouse, who does not know the impossible, to tell us that behind these thick clouds is Samsh (the sun), and of course there is The King of the Watermelon, who whenever he bids farewell to worries, he receives new ones, but he always focuses his eyes on a small flower in a field of cacti, and Fagoon and Fasooneh jump between verses of poetry, to tell us in their own way that love is sometimes a form of storm, and sometimes the sun shines, but the storm does not leave our heart, just like what happened with Professor Elephant, whose heart is a fish and his heart storms, but always, no matter how intense the storm, he clings to the flag of the sun while it flutters, waiting for awakening.

Majd Kurdieh

أولى الأعمال المائية ، إذ أن للماء خفةً يطير بها فوق أعلى الأسوار ويتسلل تحت أمنع الأبواب ، ففي هذه المجموعة يكثر الحديث عن الحزن في شخصية الحوت التي انضمت للعصابة مؤخراً ، ستشاهدونه بربطة عنق وبثياب المهرجين ، وستنبت له أجنحة أسطورية لتعبر بنا العمر كله ، ورغم كل هذه الأحزان يطل علينا من بين الغيوم الأستاذ فأر الذي لا يعرف المستحيل ليخبرنا أن خلف هذه الغيوم الكثيفة سمش ، وطبعاً هنالك ملك البطيخ الذي كلما ودّع هموماً استقبل هموماً جديدة لكنه دائماً يركز أنظاره على زهرة صغيرة في حقلٍ من الصبار ، وفصعون وفصعونة يقفزون بين أبيات الشعر ليقولوا لنا بطريقتهم أن الحب أحياناً شكلاً من أشكال العاصفة، وأحياناً تشرق الشمس لكن العاصفة لا تغادر قلبنا كما حدث مع الأستاذ فيل الذي قلبه سمكة وعاصفته القلبية ، لكن دائماً مهما اشتدت العاصفة يبقى متمسكاً براية الشمس وهي تخفق بانتظار الصحو.

مجد كورديه



بجدة كريمة 20

أهزائي المضحكة

[My humorous sorrows]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm

USD 550



أهزائي
المشاهدين
الأعزاء
صباح المساء
مؤدكم الآن
مع مسلسلكم المفضل
«حوت خلف فراشة»
من بطولة الأستاذ هوت
وباقى الأبطال لم يتسرعوا معنا
في الشاشة
لكتمهم يمارسون بطولاتهم
من بجدة . بجدة كريمة 20

[My dearest dear viewers,
good morning & good evening.
You are now scheduled to watch your favorite
show (A Whale Behind A Butterfly) starring Mr.
Whale and the remaining cast who did not fit on
the screen. Fear not, they perform from afar.]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm

USD 550



[With you, every place is friendly]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[- We interrupt the show “Love in the Time of Mulykheeya,” to broadcast breaking news: The King of the Watermelon has bid goodbye to his worr-
* We interrupt the breaking news to broadcast even more urgent news: The King of the Watermelon has welcomed new worries.]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[I have been covered by the shadow of his wings]
- Abu Nuwas

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[How did you transform the butterfly into a whale and the whale into a butterfly, you enchantress?]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



مجدد ربيع 20
لأننا قد الشوق، وليلالي الشوق، مرسى
عزيز

[I am not up to longing or nights filled with it]
- Mursi Aziz

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



هناك هدوءٌ صافٍ وتساؤمٌ يبعثُ على التفاضل وزحامٌ وحيدٌ وعملةٌ مضبنة
كان نعلم من قناة بطيخة مراسلنا الذي لا يعرف شيئاً الأستاذ فيل الذي قلبه سمكة
في بيتي وجاشر من داخل قلبه.
مجدد ربيع 20

[There is a noisy quiet, an optimistic pessimism, a
lonely crowd, and a bright darkness.
We present to you your anchor who knows
nothing: Mr. Elephant with a fish for a heart
coming to you live from inside his heart]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 28 x 40 cm
USD 600



- ألو
* وشش وشش وشش
- هل تسمعني؟
* وشش وشش
وشش وشش
- لا تدع
شيئاً
يسوس
بيننا.

[- Hello
* Wshwshwshwsh
- Do you hear me?
* Wshwshwshwsh
- Don't let anything obfuscate our call.]

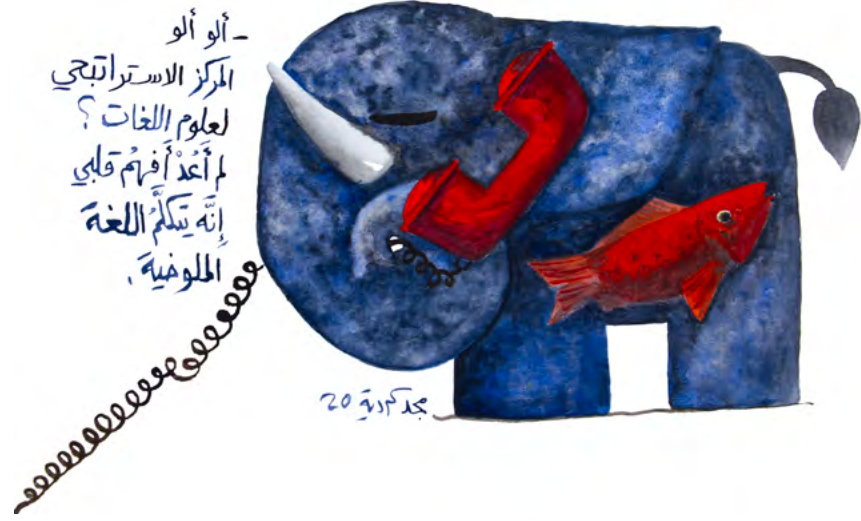
We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



إلى متى يا قلبي
تشعلك وردة
ولا يطفئك بحر
مجدد ربيع 20

[Until when, my heart, will you remain ignited
by a rose that even a sea cannot extinguish.]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[- Hello, hello
Is this the Language Learning Institute? I no
longer understand my heart since it began
speaking nonsense]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[Top left corner: Available with Friends
On the detergent box:
Watermelon Brand
Bottom Line: Watermelon powder with
superpower granules that wash away even the
toughest stains of sadness on the heart]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[When you are with me, I do not want to blink
for fear I would miss a moment of you]
- Ahmed Shafeeq Kamel

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[And if the days are void of joy,
don't lose your wonder my heart]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[I am flooded by the light of your love,
so I say: there is no torment in love]
- Ahmed Rami

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 23 x 30 cm
USD 550



[My heart, I beg you
*No
-With regards to...
*No
-And the...
*The heart does not negotiate]

(On the paper): My heart is entrusted with
protecting your house, enemies dream to
approach it]
We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[- A cactus
* A flower
- A cactus flower
* A flower
- Ok, a flower
* A cactus.

Etc etc etc...]
We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[The heart took a bow and became a flower.]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[Don't complicate it]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



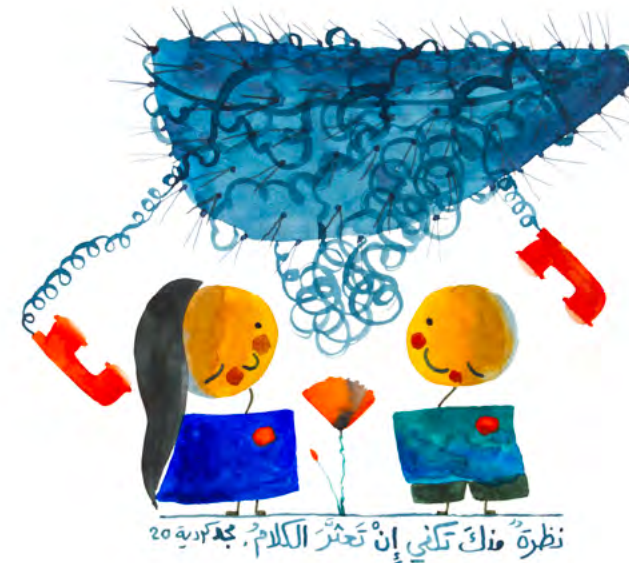
[If I could for see the unknown,
I wouldn't be more certain]
– Imam Ali

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 28 x 38 cm
USD 550



[Sign: Watermelon sandwiches
- I would like watermelon sandwiches with extra
watermelon as fast as possible, quickly and
immediately and without seeds.
* O Mr. Cactus, lend us your patience,
if you please.
("Cactus" and "patience"
are the same word in Arabic)]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[One glance from you is enough to make up
for a muddled conversation]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[His morning began with your light]
- Ahmed Kamel

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



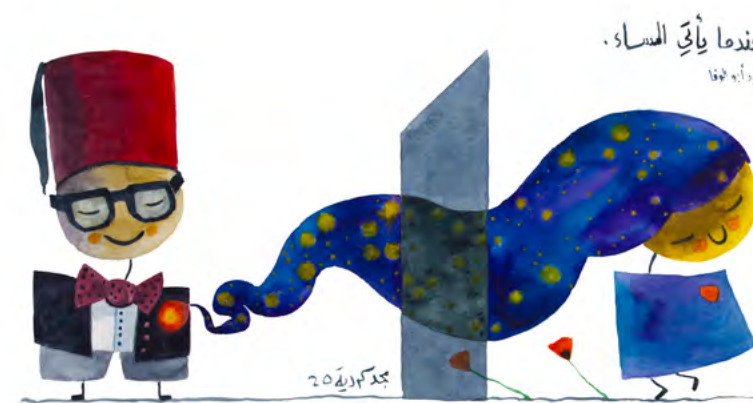
[I love to love you for it is without restrictions]
- Mahmoud Darwish

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



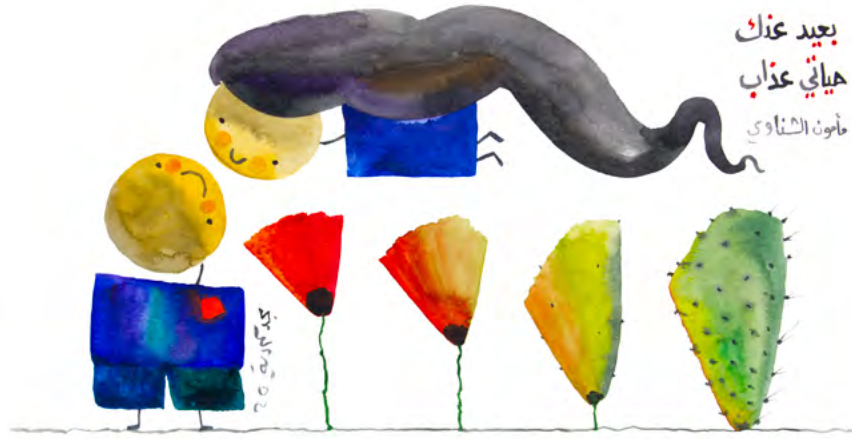
[The recipe: I sprinkle a bit of you onto life,
so it becomes flavorful]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[When evening arrives]
- Mahmoud Abu Al-Wafa

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[Far from you, my life is torture]
- Ma'amoun Al Shanawi

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[Agent Watermelon-7
* Yes, our King
- We have to spy on Mr. Monster to uncover his despicable actions
* No need, he broadcasts them on TV
- Are you sure?
* And he even has a show titled "The Filthy Accomplishments"
- Really?
* Trust me]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[We are guests of the butterfly]
- Mahmoud Darwish

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[You're the song I play again and again and again.
And every time, I discover a verse that becomes my favorite]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[My yesterday love
And my love right now
And my tomorrow love
And until the end of time]
- Ahmed Shafeeq Kamel

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[With you, I have made peace
with my days and forgiven time]
- Ahmad Shafiq Kamel

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 23 x 23 cm
USD 400



[She penetrates deep, distant and sublime]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[If this dream is not enough, then let me
remain heroically wakeful at the door of exile]
- Mahmoud Darwish

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[Do not awaken the memory]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[My strange heart,
you fit in a flower
but not in the abyss.]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[Even patience needs patience]
- Ma'amoun Shinnawi

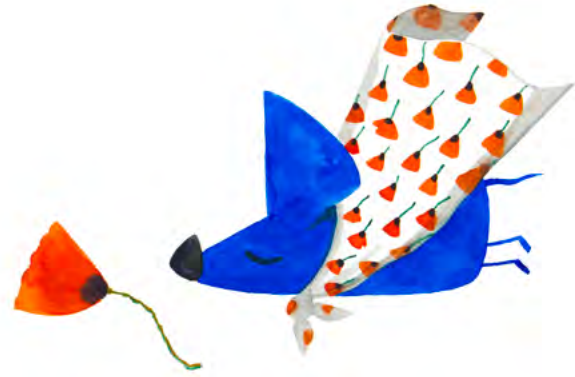
("Cactus" and "patience"
are the same word in Arabic)

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



[- O Mr. Elephant, do not worry,
we are all in this together
* Really?
- Trust me]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



قوتِي الحارقة أَنِي أَحِبُّكَ .
بجدانية 20

[Loving you is my superpower]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



أخاف للحمير الجري . أحمد شوقي كامل . بجدانية 20

[I fear the time is running away]
- Ahmad Shaqeeq Kamel

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550



- أصابك عشق أم رصيت بأرهم؟
* أجاب بالتفصيل أو ملخص؟
- بالتفصيل
* في الجالين لا أعرف .
- عن جد؟ * زليبقولك .

[- Were you struck by love or by arrows?
* Should I answer in detail or in short?
- In detail
* Either way, I do not know
- Really?
* Trust me]

We Will Continue To
Raise The Flag Of The Sun series, 2020,
watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm
USD 550

سلام بطيخي
Watermelon Peace

2021 - 2022

يا ملكنا هل انتهيت من صناعة
المركبة الخظيرة التي ستأخذنا
الى هناك الذي لم يعد موجوداً؟
* طبعاً طبعاً!
- يعيش ملك البطيخ يعيش.



- This is Mr. Mouse who knows nothing of the impossible coming to you from Mulukhiyah Radio Station in an exclusive interview with the gang on the occasion of the Watermelon Peace exhibition.

- Mr. Elephant with a fish for a heart, tell us about yourself.

* Ms. Butterfly will tell you everything about me.

- But she just flew away.

* Then all there is to know about me flew away with her.

- We move on to Fasoun and Fasounh so they can tell us about their stories in this exhibition.

* This is not an exhibition, it's a gathering of friends. We exchange glances and memories, and they tell us: oh, how we resemble you! But they are much prettier than us. We hope they don't notice when we steal their whale-sized sorrows.

- And here is Mr. Whale of sorrow. Answer my questions if you please.

How, why, from where, until when and is it as you expected?

* These questions make one sad. Let's fly over them.

- We also had the chance to interview the King of Watermelon, and here is the dialogue:

Oh, King please tell us about the tactics of the gang in this exhibition.

* There were two goals. I forgot the first one and the second one doesn't matter. What really matters is the love.

- Does love steal sorrows or cause them?

* I don't know.

- And what inspired the name of the exhibition?

* It's what we are missing a watermelon and peace

- Finally, and lastly, we meet with the artist himself to ask him about the splendiferous art.

* Honestly, it's impossi...

- My dear listeners, our program time has come to an end so we will stop here.

We wish you an enjoyable visit and goodbye.



- يحدّثكم من إذاعة ملوخيّة الأستاذ فأر الذي لا يعرف المستجيب في لقاء حصري مع أفراد العصابة

بمناسبة معرض «سلام بطيحي»



- أستاذ فيل الذي قلبه سحكة حدّثنا عن نفسك

* الأنسة فراشة تحبّك كل شيء عني.



- لكنّها طارت الآن.

* إذا كل ما أعرّفه عني طار معها.

- ننقلك إلى فصعون وفصعونة ليخبرونا عن وصصهم في هذا المعرض

* هذا ليس معرضاً لكنّه لقاء بين أصدقاء، تبادل معهم النظرات والذكريات

فيقولون لنا: كم تشبهتم! لكن في الحقيقة إنهم أجمل منا بكثير، ونأمل ألاّ يشعروا بنا

ونحن نسرق أحزانهم فهي بجم الحوت.



- وهاهو الأستاذ حوت الحزن، جاوبني على أسئلتي لو سمحت:

كيف ولماذا ومن أين وإلى متى وهل ياترى كذلك كما تتوقّع؟

* هذه أسئلة تبحث على الحزن دعنا نظير فوقها.



- وقد سنحت لنا الفرصة بلقاء ملك البطيخ وكان الحوار التالي:

أخبرنا يا ملكنا عن استراتيجيات العصابة التكتيكية في هذا المعرض

* هناك هدفان، الأول نسيته و الثاني غير مهم، مايرم حقاً هو المحبة.

- وهل الحب يسرق الأحزان أم يصنعها؟

* لا أعرف.

- ومن أين استوحيت اسم المعرض؟

* ممّا ينقصنا، بطيخة و سلام.



- وأخيراً وأخيراً نلتقي بالرّسام لنسأله عن الارهاصات التشكيلية

* في الحقيقة من المستح...

- أعزائي المستمعين نلتقي بهذا القدر نظراً لانتهاؤ وقت البرنامج

ونتمنى لكم زيارة ممتعة والسلام.



[Emergency landing on the cactus because of a defect in the watermelon jet engines.]

(“Cactus” and “patience” are the same word in Arabic)

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on canvas, 35 x 50 cm
USD 980



[Cactus or hope?]

(“Cactus” and “patience” are same word in Arabic).

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Countries have become a cloud with a whale in it and you are inside that whale. But I know nothing of the impossible my sweet rose.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on canvas, 35 x 50 cm
USD 980



[- How did your sorrow fit behind a butterfly?
* Just like the universe fits in a word.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



ألو ألو
 من معي؟
 أهلاً آنسة
 أحزان شلوكحية،
 للأسف
 مشغول
 ولا وقت عندي
 فأننا مع
 وردتي العسل،

[Hello, hello, who is it?
 Hello Ms. Shlulakhia Sadness.
 I'm sorry, I'm busy
 because I am with my sweet rose.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
 oil on paper, 35 x 45 cm
 USD 680



كيف وجدتني
 في هذا
 العالم،
 يا وردتي
 العسل!

[How did I find you in this world,
 my sweet rose?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
 oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
 USD 680



أنا غريب
 وأنت
 أنتها
 العالم
 الغريب
 فلماذا
 لم
 نصبح
 يوماً
 أصدقاء
 ؟
 مجددة 21

[I am strange like you, strange world.
 So why did we never become friends?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
 oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
 USD 680



أنت جميلة لطيران العصافير دونما خوف يا وردتي العسل،
 مجددة 21

[Oh my sweet rose,
 the birds flying fearlessly are under your spell.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
 oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
 USD 680



[Simply you and I my sweet rose]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[I surrender to your storm my sweet rose]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[Thank you Ms. Butterfly
for sweeping up my storms.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



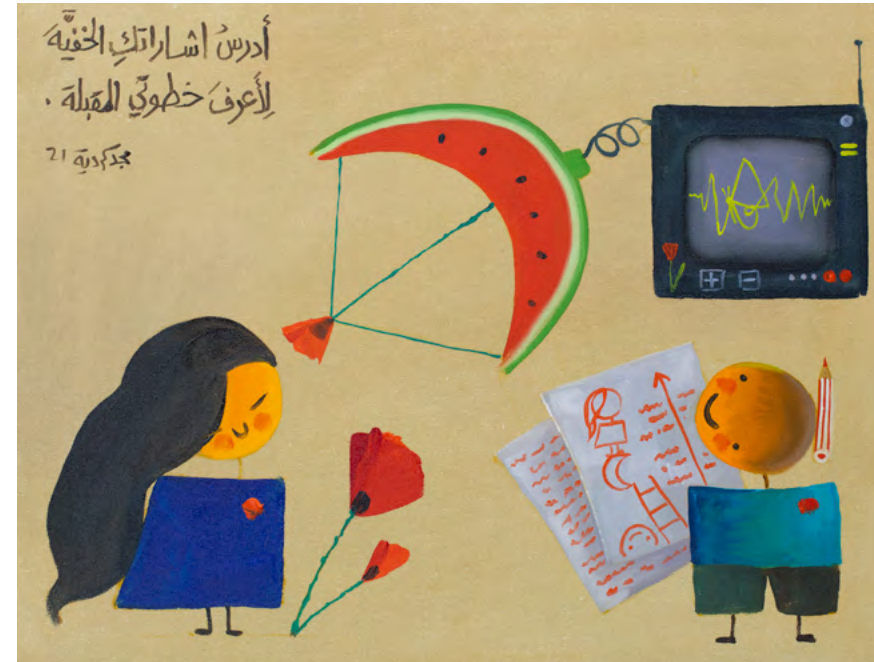
[- Our king, oh King of Watermelon,
what did the butterfly say to you?
*Life becomes harder when they tell you its not
hard, and you are the one not smiling.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[When the fog wraps around me
I ask myself: am I sad or do I just love you?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[I study your hidden signals to understand
what I should do next.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 35 x 45 cm
USD 680



[When I saw you,
I became a sky so the heart could fly.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[The sea is unpredictable yet constant,
while the rocks, proud of their stability,
have drifted with the torrent.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[I always paint you in the best spot on the canvas.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



[- Oh, our king, King of the Watermelon.
What lies at the end of patience?
*The cactus flower.]

(“Cactus” and “patience”
are the same word in Arabic)

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[How can you carry the intolerable with no hands?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm
USD 680



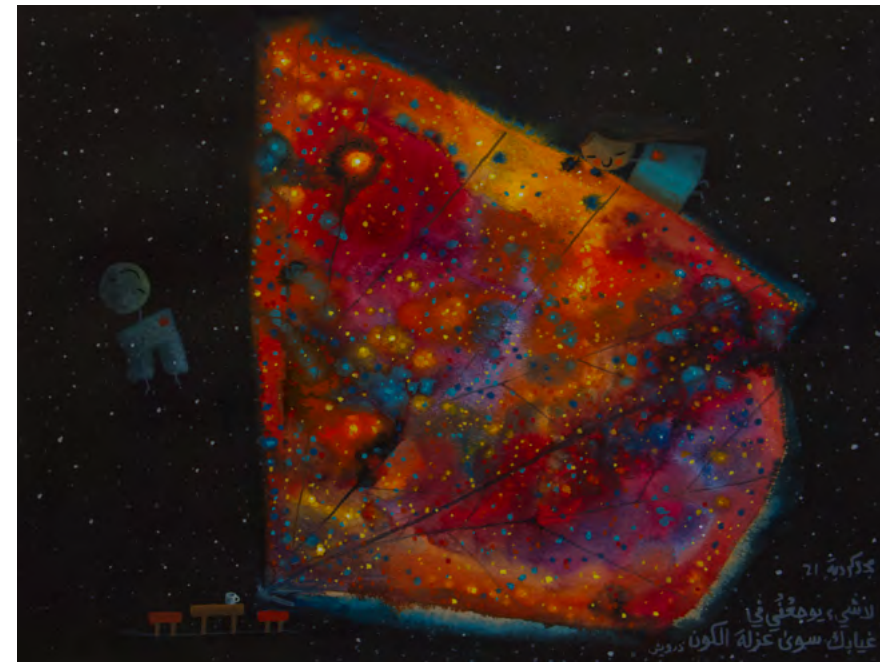
[With you now is King of the Watermelon live from the opening of the Sadness Eating Factory -Our King, tell us about the factory in detail *Honestly, love manufactures sadness and then consumes it. I'm here simply to cut the ribbon. Pass my regards to loved ones everywhere.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[Follow me. The monster's not frightening.
If we're defeated,
it's only because we didn't love enough.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[Nothing pains me in your absence
but the solitude of the universe]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[I'm dressed in a pilot's uniform but,
your hair takes me wherever it wishes.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



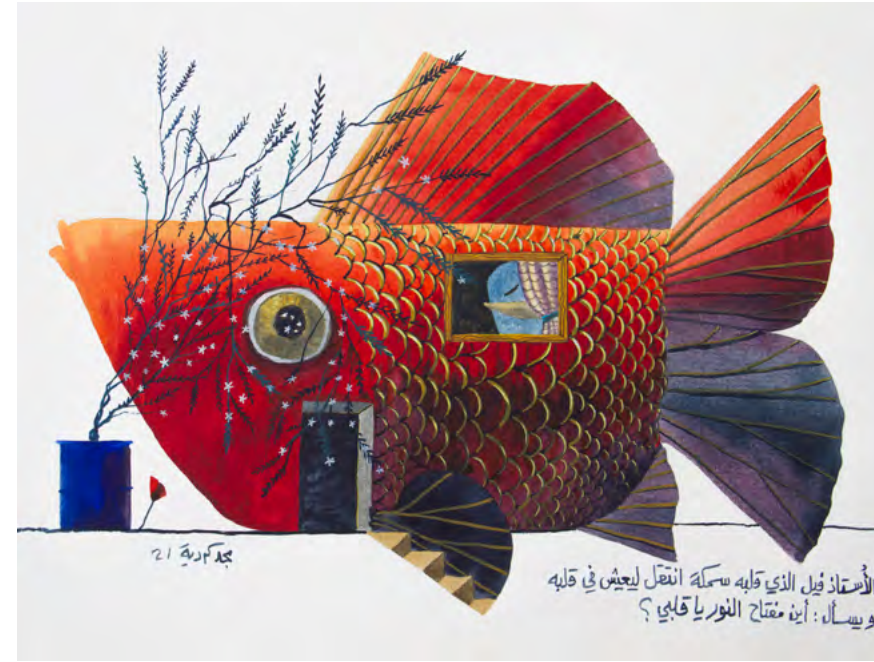
[You've washed my dreams anew.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[How do you give meaning to this scrambled life, you magician?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[The Elephant with a fish for a heart now resides within it and asks: where is the light switch, my heart?]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600



[Oh, Miss butterfly, whenever I begin to drift, the heart carries me back to you.]

Watermelon Peace series, 2021,
watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 cm
USD 600

جرح واحد و الابتسامة واحدة
One Wound, One Smile

2022 - 2023



“While the wound appears clearly in a few paintings, it is silently present in every detail. One of the best known unhealable wounds is hope. Yet, ironically, we smile when we possess it.

Through this flood of hardship, the waves crash, and hope, which could appear as a defect in the brain, is something every living human holds on to — even if it’s only the hope that the sun will rise again.

Sometimes we smile, not because of something great, but because we found a safe haven in the midst of the flood. This smile, which is incomplete as we remember the ones that still crash through the waves, can be made whole only by the other.”

Majd Kurdieh

”يظهر الجرح في اللوحات مرّاتٍ قليلة، لكنّه موجودٌ في كلّ التفاصيلِ دون أن ننتبه، ومن أشهر الجراح التي لا تندمل: الأمل، ومن المفارقة أنّنا نبتسم حين يُصاحبنا الأملُ.

في زحامِ هذه الطوفاناتِ وتلاطمِها قد يبدو الأملُ خللاً في الدماغ، لكنّنا أحياءٌ ومستمرّون فلا يوجد بشريٌّ على قيد الحياة بلا أملٍ حتى لو كان أملاً بأن تشرق الشمسُ في اليوم التالي.

وأحياناً تشرقُ ابتسامتنا لمجرد أنّنا وجدنا ملاذاً في هذا الطوفان، لا لأن أشياء عظيمة حدثت، بل لشعورنا بالأمان، لكنّها ابتسامة ناقصة حين نتذكّر الذين مازالوا يتخبّطون بين الأمواج، إنها ابتسامة لا يكملها إلّا الآخر.

مجد كورديه



[Give me the liquor of love to drink. Let me get drunk on it and forget my worries. For a life without love is like a stream without water. If you are willing, connect with me in the way that lovers do. If not, drive over me in the shadows of the jasmine flower.]

One Wound, One Smile series, 2022, oil on canvas, 140 x 140 cm

USD 4,900



[I see you and I survive death. Your body is a port.] - Mahmoud Darwish
One Wound, One Smile series,
2022, oil on canvas, 140 x 140 cm
USD 4,900



One Wound, One Smile series,
2021, oil on canvas, 35 x 50 cm
USD 980

جناح الحلم The Wing of the Dream

2023



وكل يوم
في حرك
تزيد المنوعات
وكل يوم
بجزء
أكثر
عن
الشيء
فأنت
أنت
مجدانية

مجدانية 23

The paintings of the 2023 series leave the studio early this year to meet the audience, resurrection and abyss and a bird and a wound and a city and a rose, contradictory words when written on the same line, but they live with each other on a daily basis, either in the city where we get lost in its crowds or in the city that has been lost in our memory, either in the bird hiding behind the window or in the bird that combs its wings with our hearts, in the wing that has become a dream or in the dreams that flew with the birds, in the butterfly that kept us away from the abyss, or in the butterfly that has become an abyss.

Majd Kurdieh

بشائر لوحات ٢٠٢٣ تخرج مبكراً من المرسم هذه السنة لتقابل الجمهور، قيامة وهاوية وعصفور وجرح ومدينة ووردة، كلمات متناقضة حين نكتبها على ذات السطر، لكنها تعيش مع بعضها كل يوم، إما في المدينة التي نضيع في زحامها أو في المدينة التي ضاعت في ذاكرتنا، إما في العصفور المختبئ خلف النافذة أو في العصفور الذي يمشط جناحيه بقلوبنا، في الجناح الذي صار حلماً أو في الأحلام التي طارت مع العصافير، في الفراشة التي أبعدتنا عن الهاوية، أو في الفراشة التي صارت هاوية.

مجد كوردية



[In Loving you, everyday the taboos increase, and everyday I love you more than the previous one] - Ahmad Fouad Najm

The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 130 x 90 cm

USD 4,000



[My love O city so beautiful so sad] - Ahmad Fouad Najm
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 130 x 90 cm
USD 4,000



[How do you fly away with an elephant like me to the moon, O miss butterfly]
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500



[You see it a butterfly, and I see it an abyss, oh my heart.]
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500



[Even the abyss did not fit us.]
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500



[Nothing hurts me at the door of resurrection] - Mahmoud Darwish
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500



[O wing of dream.]
 The Wing of the Dream series,
 2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
 USD 1,500



[I immigrated to the moon and I found it swinging on your strands.]
 The Wing of the Dream series,
 2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
 USD 1,500



[We take refuge at your fragility, O my sweet flower.]
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500



[Always at the edge of the abyss, the butterfly visits us.]
The Wing of the Dream series,
2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm
USD 1,500

About The Characters



الفصاعين: فصعون وفصعونة، فرسان البطيخ وأعضاء عصابة الفراشة المخيفة جدن، يقفزون بين قصص الحبّ وأبيات الشّعير، يحملون بسماً طيبةً مع طيورها، وبشجرةٍ يجتمعُ تحتها الأصدقاء، لا يملكون شيئاً ولا يملكون أيدياً إلا ليحملوا وردةً أو ليسرقوا حزناً، سرقةُ الأحزان مهمتهم المفضّلة، لذا انتبهوا جيداً على أحزانكم وأنتم تمرّون أمام اللوحات، وانتبهوا أيضاً إن كنتم تحملون قطعة شوكولاتة.

Fasoon & Fasooneh: Knights of the Watermelon and members of the Very Scary Butterfly Gang. They live between stories of love and verses of poetry. They dream of blue skies filled with birds, of a tree with friends gathered under. They have nothing, not even hands unless it is to hold a flower or to steal away sadness - stealing sadness is their preferred duty. Pay close attention to your worries as you pass each painting... Watch out if you carry chocolate too.



ملك البطيخ: الفائق الملوخية وقائد معارك الدفاع عن الشمس، كلّما ودّع هموماً يستقبلُ هموماً جديدةً، يحاولُ الحفاظُ على عزلته لكن دائماً يقتحمها فرسان البطيخ طالبين منه حكمةً، فينثرها أمامهم كما تفعلُ شجرةُ اللوز بأزهارها، وكلّما جاعوا أطعمهم تاجه، ودائماً ينسى خطباته فما في قلبه أكبر مما على الورقة، لكن دائماً يستقبلونه بالهتاف: عاش ملك البطيخ عاش عاش عاش.

The King of the Watermelon: The ultimate mulukhiyah (a representation of all that is good in the world). Leader of all wars in defense of the Sun. Every time he bids goodbye to his worries, new ones are revealed to him. His desire for seclusion is interrupted by the Knights of the Watermelon, always in search of words of wisdom. He offers them these words like fallen fruit from an almond tree in bloom. Whenever they are hungry, he feeds them his crown. And he always forgets his speeches since what is in his heart is so much more than any words on a paper. They always receive him with cheer. Long live the King of the Watermelon. Long live. Long live. Long live.



الفأر الذي لا يعرف المستحيل: هو النُّقطةُ الزرقاءُ الصغيرة التي تُشعُّ في داخلنا وتُبقينا مُتمسِّكينَ بيدِ الحياة، وحينَ تشتدُّ العاصفةُ لا أحدٌ سواهُ يجرؤُ على رفعِ رايةِ السميشِ في وجهها، حُبُّ الصوفيِّ للوردةِ يُعطيهِ قوَّةَ خرافيةً، أليسَ هذا ما يفعله بنا الحبُّ؟

The Mouse that knows nothing of the impossible: He is the shining blue light within each of us, the one that keeps us holding onto life. The Mouse is the only one that dares raise the Sun flag in the face of growing storms. His mystic love for the rose gives him legendary power. Is this not what love does to us all?



الفيل الذي قلبه سمكة: حينَ لا يتوقَّفُ قلبك عن الجدِّ والاحتجاجِ، حينَ يشعرُ أنَّه حبيسٌ داخلَك، وحينَ يختنقُ كلُّما رحلَ خارجك، حينَ يبقى صاحياً ليلاً نهاراً، فاعلم أنَّك الفيلُ الذي قلبه سمكة.

The Elephant with a Fish for a heart: if your heart endlessly argues and protests, if it feels trapped inside you but suffocates every time it manages to free itself from you, if your heart lies awake, day and night, know that you are the Elephant with a Fish for a heart.



الحوّتُ المختبئُ خلف فراشة: هذا الهائلُ والغامضُ كالمساء، يشبهنا حين نحزنُ ونختبئُ خلف تفاصيلنا الصغيرة مقتنعين ألا أحدٌ يرانا، لكننا مكشوفون تماماً كهذه اللوحات أمامكم.

The Whale who hides behind a butterfly: as enormous and mysterious as the evening sky. We resemble him, troubled and hiding behind the details of life, convinced that no one can see. But we are as apparent as these paintings before you.



الصَّبَّارُ: قد يصيرُ بيتاً أو سريراً أو قلباً، قد نتحوّلُ نحنُ لصبَّارٍ، لديه احتمالاتٌ كثيرة، ولكن في كل الأحوال علينا ألا نعتاد وجوده.

The Cactus: It may take on the shape of a house, a bed, or even a heart. We may, ourselves, transform into cacti. It holds many possibilities but, in any case, we should not grow accustomed to its presence.

* “Cactus” & “patience” are the same word in Arabic

About The Artist

Artist Majd Kurdieh's practice incorporates painting, drawing, and literature using recurring figures that stand to tell a story, usually carrying a strong moral and positive reinforcement that the artist projects into the world.

Kurdieh's childlike paintings incorporates strong literary and story-telling techniques. He paints recurring whimsical characters that seem to narrate a story. Over the past four years, the artist has created a 'cast of characters', the two main ones being the Fasaeen (Arabic for 'tiny ones'). The stories told through the representation of these figures are not specific stories that the artist references but rather ones that could apply to any viewer, leaving room for personal interpretation. The Fasaeen, one boy (Fasoon) and one girl (Fasoneh), always smiling despite the fact their world is filled with hardships, are usually accompanied by animal characters.

The group of characters comes together to make what the artist calls *The Very Scary Butterfly Gang*. Using the paradox of a butterfly and it being very scary, Kurdieh touches upon harsh topics with immense gentleness. He explains that 'when the fragility of a butterfly scares you, you become indifferent to the roars of a monster, you will busy yourself defending the rights of people to maintain their humanity'. At the essence of all his work is a strong sense of human protection and need to shed light on basic human rights and needs. The gang carries out small optimistic tasks like removing thorns from the land and replacing them with flowers, or talking to the sun and the moon, where the sun itself rises and sets at its own caprice, projecting a sense of freedom to the viewer.

At first glance, the works seem cartoon-like and simple, however, upon further

investigation, the viewer is drawn into a complex world that the artist has been able to simplify, almost with a childlike innocence. Strongly poetic and very sensitive Kurdieh channels the multilayers of his emotions into creating deeply humane art. The ingenuity of his paintings and drawings relays the artist's candour and sincerely draws attention to issues he feels deserve to be represented truthfully.



Majd Kurdieh has been featured in retrospective exhibitions at As-Safir, Beirut (2023) and at Azad Art Gallery, Cairo (2020). Kurdieh has featured in solo and group exhibitions at MADS Gallery, Milan, Italy (2021); Azad Art Gallery, Cairo (2021; 2020); Egypt Art Fair (2023; 2022; 2021; 2020); BBA Gallery, Berlin (2019), DAR Art (2021, 2022); Fann À Porter, Jordan (2021; 2020, 2019); Fann À Porter, Dubai (2022; 2021; 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016), El-Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo (2019), and Athar Al Farasheh, Aleppo (2011), Sikka Art Fair, Dubai (2018) and Art Bahrain, Manama (2019, 2018). His works are housed in public and private collections in the Middle East and abroad, including HE Dr. Zaki Nusseibeh's private collection and the Atassi Foundation.

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1985, Kurdieh lives and works in Amsheet, Lebanon.

About Fann À Porter®

Fann À Porter is a contemporary art gallery that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists, with locations in Dubai, UAE and Amman, Jordan.

The gallery aims to nurture the burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through quality exhibitions, non-profit events, auctions, and an active community program. The gallery's exhibition program includes ten curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media. Fann À Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, museums, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

By hosting a regular public programming including exhibitions, talks, non-profit initiatives, and by participating in fairs, Fann À Porter has established itself in forefront of the region's exciting arts landscape.

Founded in 2009 by collector Ghada Kunash, the gallery was initially known as Vindemia.art, opened adjacent to and under the umbrella of Vindemia, an antiques and collectibles gallery at Jumeirah Beach Residence, Dubai. In 2010, the gallery partnered with Kempinski Hotel Mall of The Emirates, for a dedicated space for the art. In 2014, under the same trade license of Vindemia Novelties LLC, the art gallery was rebranded to Fann À Porter.

In 2016, Ghada Kunash opened The Workshop Dubai, combining her two ventures – Vindemia and Fann À Porter, a unique community space consisting of a café and design space, providing visitors with a unique artistic and cultural experience.

About ZAAT

ZAAT is a multi-disciplinary platform created to promote and empower artists and designers. By offering a place for collectors to buy, sell and trade work that ranges in styles, movements and eras, ZAAT then reinvests into showcasing and supporting the production of contemporary work. Coming from the Arabic root meaning, one, essence, self, ZAAT upholds the integrity of the art and artists.

Specializing in art from the Arab world, ZAAT is a digital platform that also curates events, advises clients interested in buying new work and consults on currently owned pieces. The platform is continually expanding with new artists and seeks out designers with social narratives and ethical production.

Conceived as a place to connect art enthusiasts and artists together, ZAAT aims to make art more approachable and understandable while supporting artists.

Lara Hajj Salman founded ZAAT out of her enthusiasm and experience in art and design. In 2005, Lara started a furniture and home accessories company, where she began selling to outlets and curating design events in the region and beyond. In 2008, she became the primary consultant for "La Maison de l'Artisan" the national center for Lebanese handicrafts, working with local artisans to create new designs using traditional craftsmanship. In 2017, she wanted to hone her marketing and business skills within the arts and completed a certificate in Arts Management at École Supérieure des affaires (ESA). Working as a consultant with private collections, Lara conceived of ZAAT to promote contemporary Arab artists while providing an open platform for the buying and selling of new and previously owned works.



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