

## HANINE (NOSTALGIA)

Ghassan Ghaib with sculptures by Ahmed Al Bahrani

3 to 24 April 2012

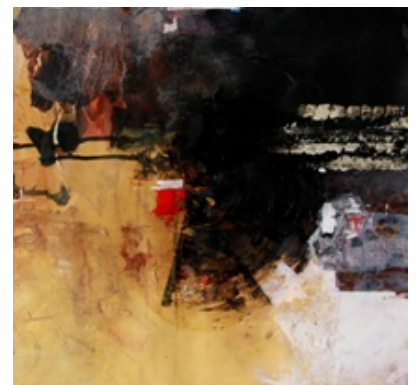
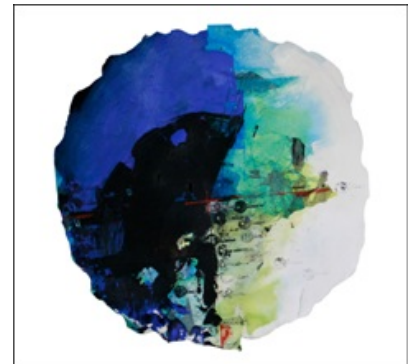
From a generation that has witnessed two wars and carried the effects from reality to art, the latest exhibition by Ghassan Ghaib, 'Hanine' (Nostalgia), coincides with the launch of his book *Wissadat Al Malak/The Angel's Pillow*, an artistic autobiography. With fellow Iraqi artist, sculptor Ahmed Al Bahrani, 'HANINE' is about the constant emotions associated with living in exile from a place that is dear to the heart. The state of 'longing' is a sentimental but powerful force that infiltrates the psyche and creates a framework of creative influence.

### Ghassan Ghaib:

The state of "longing" is an existential state that encourages the meditative process of alleviating pain through art, whether painting or sculpting. I have taken this state as the starting point to evoke the accumulation of feelings, memories and heritage. To me this state is a complex whirlpool that I was born into, and remains until this day the point of reference that I go to retrieve my safety and sanity in a world that continues to threaten both; especially when estranged from home. 'Longing' is a complete state of being that persists with each one of us. The longing for your past, your mother, your childhood, the neighborhood, the river...etc is always with us. My creations can be attributed to many elements - in picture, in reference, in emotion and in entirety so they evoke a high level of imagination and intuition. My work focuses on my sensory and visual relationship with Baghdad, the city which I love and which has been a quarry that I have constantly mined for inspiration.

### Ahmed Al Bahrani:

My friend, Ghassan, invited me to join him in this exhibition about nostalgia - 'Hanine'. I too have a longing for the place we left unwillingly a long time ago, the place our dreams were attached to. In our exile, we flirt with and test our memories till they translate into our artwork, a testament to our persistence in relating to home even if it is not physical but rather the emotional attachment. Today I join the experience with my friend in provoking memories of my childhood home town, the Euphrates, my parents, our house and garden. Memories and places which would not desert me, neither would I desert them. In these memories I sense comfort and safety which were lost the moment I left, being in constant fear of tomorrow, the future and the exile. Art by itself is the only thing to bring stability into my life and this exhibition is one of the results of a wonderful friendship with Ghassan Ghaieb, the artist and the man, and we hope for an exhibition to be remembered.





[Exhibition Review from Jordan Times](#)

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