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Ahmad Canaan

The Plougher, Israel, 2009

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Steel, 200x250x60 cm

Artist's donation to Museum on the Seam



The works of Ahmad Canaan, born in the village of Tamra in the Galilee, are rich with symbols and leitmotifs relating to the landscape and culture of the country. Canaan is interested in man and in his

connection to his homeland landscapes.

His search focuses on images from the cultural tradition of his people. His works express not only the connection to the land and the roots embedded in it, but also the link between past and present.

He uses images and metaphors originating from Canaanite art, through which he tries to return to the roots from which he grew and to mediate between the ancient pagan and mythological tradition and the present reality in the region.

The modern Canaanite movement in the 1940's sought to find a renewed ideological and cultural link between the people that lived here in the 2nd millennium B.C., and the people who live here today.

Canaan's works can be interpreted as an attempt to create with images taken from an ancient-new culture, and as part of a wider movement based on tradition, to have an impact on the current political thought in the country.

In the images of the orange tree, the knight and the various ploughs, Canaan connects to the land, much like other contemporary writers and creative artists, whose central themes are narratives based on tradition, that serve us today.

The plough that contains within it a man and links him to the steel pointed sharply downward is a version created by the artist and donated to the Museum especially for exhibition Nature Nation.