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Artist Statement

In my previous work, people are dominant, especially how political events and the effect of war determine their lives. In this new series, I concentrate on the memories of places and homes that no longer exist, except in the memories and imagination of those who left them behind.

This new collection represents explorations and contrasts having to do with leaving and belonging, expressed in the quality of paint I use and the narrative threads I create. Using glazes, colors, calligraphic expressions and symbols, my work resolves thoughts and impressions, about my own life as well as the collective spirit of the past and present. I travel to a place in my memory where impressions dance in my head, images that go back to a time and place that is free of the turmoil of today.

Beirut, a city of deep contrasts, is a continuous source of inspiration in my work. I am fascinated by the vitality and diversity of everyday life. The present atmosphere, charged with threats of unrest and uncertainty about the future, merges with my own memories of Iraq, a country which I have returned to and left many times.

Remembering places from my own history, which no longer exist except by being recreated in my imagination, is a creative and defiant act that attempts to reconcile my past and present.

However far from the shore I travel, I have to create a narrative that connects the starting point and destination. The continuing conflict between freedom and boundaries, unrest, migration and the uprooting of people is a prominent theme in my work. This echoes my own experience of lost places and times, and the unspoken silence that I hear and want to

make real in these works.

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