In Living Colour features a collection that covers a diverse group of artists from the Palestinian mosaic - from across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and inside the Green Line. The exhibition includes the work of many of Palestine’s most renowned and established artists including Suleiman Mansour, Ibrahim Nubani and Tayseer Barakat, as well as burgeoning artists such as Basil Nabulsi, Rima Al Mozaen and Bashar Al Hroub. The paintings are reflective of Palestinian artistic and cultural diversity and were carefully selected by a committee comprised of Mazen Qupty, Ibrahim Nubani, Suleiman Mansour and Ehab Shanti.
an exhibition of Palestinian art

In Living Colour

Curator: Ehab Shanti
Assistant Curator: Dania Darwish
Design and Print: Al Nasher Advertising Agency

United Nations Development Programme
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
4A Yakubi St. P.O.Box: 51359 Jerusalem
Tel: (972) 2 6268290
Fax: (972) 2 6268227
www.papp.undp.org

Supported by: Mercato, Dubai

معرض الفن التشطيبي الفلسطيني an exhibition of Palestinian art
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched its Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) in 1978, following the passing of a UN General Assembly resolution in support of the economic and social development of Palestinians. With this objective in mind, UNDP/PAPP has since implemented hundreds of projects throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, funded by a number of international donors. Initial funding was provided by UNDP and its five bilateral donors: Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands and the United States of America. Since then, UNDP/PAPP has expanded and has now received a total of $500 million from countries around the world.
UNDP/PAPP’s Support to Palestinian Culture

For over 25 years, UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) has been a leading partner in the development of the Palestinian people. A central pillar of this partnership has been UNDP/PAPP’s support to the Palestinian people’s vibrant culture. From support to ensembles and organisations such as the internationally acclaimed El-Funoun dance troupe, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and the Jerusalem Music Festival, support to artists through auctions and workshops, and the over $25 million toward the restoration and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage, UNDP/PAPP has consistently shown its commitment to Palestinian culture.

This support is reflective of UNDP/PAPP’s strong belief in the intrinsic relationship between culture and human development. During the inauguration of the Ramallah Cultural Palace – a state-of-the-art theatre and cultural complex constructed and managed through assistance from UNDP/PAPP – Mr. Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of UNDP, made this clear in his address by saying:

“The Ramallah Cultural Palace stands as a symbol for culture which is indeed at the very heart of human development, and especially human development in Palestine…I say this because it is culture which sets apart the human race from all others; it is culture that can inspire; it is culture which can preserve the past; it is culture that is constantly changing and expanding; it is culture that can be shared with others across the world; and it is culture that brings hope.”
Palestinian Art Court (PAC) – Al Hoash

In December 2004, a group of 21 Palestinians from across Palestine, gathered in Jerusalem and decided to establish the Palestinian Art Court (PAC) – Al Hoash. This was the first meeting of PAC’s General Assembly and was initiated by Mr. Mazen Qupty and his wife Yvette.

PAC’s creation was motivated by the urgent need to revive and develop the state of art and culture in Palestine and to highlight the civilized and cultured face of the Palestinian people. Concerned by the continued attempts to dehumanize the Palestinian people and the aspersions cast on their contribution to the development of art, music, literature and other cultural forms, the Assembly decided to establish Al Hoash to act as a mechanism for presenting and nurturing Palestinian culture. Given Jerusalem’s inherent significance to the Palestinians and the continued attempts to deny its Arab identity, through Al Hoash the Assembly aims to preserve and develop artistic and creative life in the city, including the establishment of an art museum.

Al Hoash’s projects will include artistic research; providing support to promising and gifted young artists; managing, serving and promoting the work of artists; creating art-related websites; cooperating with international artists; choosing Palestinian artists to represent Palestine internationally; participating in the establishment of museums and exhibits; and above all preserving, promoting and developing Palestinian art. Al Hoash will provide a permanent venue for Palestinian visual art and create a common space for artists, art collectors and Palestinian art enthusiasts.
Al Nasher Advertising Agency

Al Nasher is an integrated marketing and communications company, specializing in advertising, brand and event management, communications and design. Established in the West Bank city of Ramallah in 1995, the company also maintains branches in Amman and Dubai. Al Nasher is proud to be associated with this exhibition of Palestinian art, which serves to highlight Palestine’s rich cultural heritage. With the funds raised by the sale of the artworks, the Al Hoash art gallery will provide an ideal venue in Jerusalem in which to house and catalogue Palestinian art.

Mercato

The organizers of this event would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Mercato for their generous offer of the use of the venue for the exhibition. Mercato is the first themed mall in the United Arab Emirates and the Middle East.
Born in Haifa in 1942, Palestinian artist Abed Abadi belongs to the pioneering generation of post-1948 visual artists. Abdi graduated from the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts in 1972 after studying graphic design and mural painting. Following his graduation he worked as a graphic designer for a number of Arabic language publications and was awarded the Young Artist’s Award at the Berlin International Youth Festival. Abdi was commissioned to produce a sculpture to commemorate the Palestinian Land Day massacre of 1976 and also completed the memorial sculpture for the Galilean municipality of Shefa Amer in 1984. Abdi has painted a number of murals in Haifa, Nazareth, and Jaffa and has exhibited internationally in both solo and group exhibitions in countries including Qatar, Belgium, Bulgaria, Japan, Germany and Greece.

عبد عبادي
Farid Abu Shakra, was born in 1963 in Um El Fahem. He completed his education at the Kalisher School in Jaffa. In addition to teaching and producing art, Abu Shakra currently works as an interior designer and co-manages an art gallery he constructed with his brothers in Um El-Fahem.
Tamam Al Akhal was born in the Palestinian city of Jaffa in 1935, but after 1948 was forced to move to Beirut, Lebanon. Her education was completed at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Cairo and in 1954 she took part in an exhibition in Cairo with Ismail Shammout, which was inaugurated by then-President Jamal Abdul-Nasser. Al Akhal has worked as an art teacher over the course of her career, as well as produced many works of art that have appeared in exhibitions throughout the Arab world and internationally.

تامام الأكحل

Tamam Al-Akhal
Born in the village of Kharas near Hebron in 1978, Bashar graduated with a BA in fine art from Al Najah University in Nablus in 2001. His first exhibition, entitled Ofoq, was shown at the A.M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah. In 2004, Bashar’s work was exhibited in Japan, Lebanon and Morocco at the International Festival of Rabat. Bashar also participated in the 2003 UNDP/PAPP Art Auction, as well as To Rafah, an auction to raise money for the besieged southern Gaza city held in 2004.
Jawad El Malhi was born in Jerusalem in 1969 and is considered to be one of Palestine’s foremost artists. He studied painting in Jerusalem and the West Bank and has shown his work in many local and international exhibitions in Ramallah, Jerusalem, France, Japan, the United States, Germany and Sweden.
Born in Gaza in 1943, Al Mughani obtained his BA in décor arts from the University of Alexandria. He has contributed to the establishment of various art institutions throughout Palestine, including the Al Najah University Faculty of Fine Arts. Over the course of his artistic career, Al Mughani has produced many works of art and has participated in various group and solo exhibitions both locally and internationally.
Nabil Anani was born in Imwas, Al Latroun in 1943 and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University. Anani is a founding member of the Union of Palestinian Artists and member of many cultural centers. With the late Palestinian artist, Isam Badr, Anani co-authored a book entitled “Palestinian Fine Arts in the Occupied Territories” in 1984. He has participated in many group exhibitions in countries including the United States, England, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Japan, Russia and Norway. His work has also been displayed in solo exhibitions, including at the YMCA and Al Hakawati Theater in Jerusalem, as well as the Arts and Crafts Village, Gaza.

نبيل عناني
Born in 1959, Gazan artist Tayseer Barakat currently lives and works in Ramallah. One of Palestine’s most established artists, his diverse body of work has been exhibited both in Palestine and internationally. He studied oil painting at Alexandria University and has been member of the Palestinian Artists’ Union since 1984, in addition to being a founding member of many cultural centers in Palestine. He has taken part in international group and solo exhibitions in countries including Spain, the United States, Germany, Italy and France. Known for his work with both wood and ink, Barakat is a member of the New Vision art group that pioneered the use of local mediums such as straw, clay, henna and leather in the 1980’s. He is also a founding member of the Jerusalem Wasiti Art Centre, and in 1998 he founded the Ziryab Café and Art Gallery in Ramallah.
Tayseer Barakat
Hazem Harb was born in 1980 in the Gaza Strip and graduated with a diploma in illustration in 2004. In 2003, he held his first solo exhibition, which toured major Italian cities including Rome, Florence, Venice and Turin. His second solo exhibition, entitled Asis wa Akasis, was held at the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre in Ramallah in 2003. His latest exhibition, Al Khuruj, was held at the French Cultural Center in Gaza City in 2004. Harb has also participated in numerous group exhibitions both internationally and locally, one of which, Al Ana wa Al Akhar, was held at the Egyptian Cultural Center in Paris.
Mohammedawajri

Born in 1976 in Boureij refugee camp, Gaza, Hawajri is regarded as one of Palestine’s most promising, young artists. In 1997, Hawajri participated in the Palestinian Spring Cultural events in Marseilles and Paris, France, and was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the Arab League in 1998. For two consecutive years (1999-2000) Hawajri was nominated by the Sakakini Centre to participate in the Summer Academy for Young Arab Artists at Amman’s Darat al Funoun, under the direction of Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi. In 2000, he was short listed for the first Abdel-Mohsin Qattan Foundation Artist of the Year, Ramallah.

Hawajri currently works as one of the supervisors of the Visual Arts Programme at the Red Crescent Society in Gaza City.
Mohammed Hawajri
Ibrahim Hijazi was born in Tamra and received his BA from the Bezalel Academy of Art, Jerusalem in 1977, before becoming a civil engineer in 1987. He worked as an engineer on a number of projects, as well as instructed in several schools and colleges. Hijazi has participated in many solo and group exhibitions in cities including Tamra, Nazareth, Haifa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, London and Paris.
Khaled Hourani was born in Hebron in 1965 and graduated with a BA in history from Hebron University. Over the course of his artistic career, he has participated in a number of group and solo exhibitions in Jerusalem, Gaza, Ramallah and Hebron, as well as internationally. Hourani was selected by the Swiss arts foundation, Pro-Helvetia, to spend six months in Geneva as a resident artist and also participated in the 6th Annual Cairo Bienniale. Hourani works at the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, and founded the Matall Gallery in Ramallah.
Ahmad Kana’an was born in 1965 in Tamra, Western Galilee, where he currently lives and works. He studied sculpture at the Bezalel Academy of Art, Jerusalem from 1985-1989, and stained glass at The Arts Centre, Jerusalem in 1991. His solo exhibitions include Ploughs at the Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem (1989) and Mashatih at the Municipality Gallery, Nazareth (1992). His group exhibitions have included Alone at the Arts Centre, Salt Lake City, Utah (1992), Nine Artists from Jerusalem, in St. Petersburg, Russia (1993), and Encounter at the Artists’ Museum in Lodz, Poland (1995).

احداث كانة

Born in Gaza City in 1971, Basel Magusi completed a course in fine art at the YMCA, Gaza City in 1995. Magusi now teaches art at the Jabalia Rehabilitation Center in the northern Gaza Strip. His only solo exhibition, entitled A Moment of Faith was shown at the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center in Ramallah. In 2003, Magusi was nominated by the A.M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah and received the Charles Isbry Grant for Palestinian Art. Over the years he has participated in numerous local and international exhibitions. In 2000, 2001 and 2003, he attended the September Academy for Fine Arts (the Khaled Shoman Association for Arts) and in 2002 he participated in the Marwan Qassab Bashi Students’ Exhibition at the Dareet Al Funun, Jordan.
Born in Birzeit, Palestine in 1947, Suleiman Mansour lives and works in Jerusalem. He studied fine art at Bezalel Academy of Art in Jerusalem from 1967 to 1970, and has been involved in the Palestinian art scene since the 1970’s. One of Palestine’s most celebrated artists; he was one of the first Palestinian artists to move away from painting and started experimenting in non-traditional mediums. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions in various countries including Japan, Russia, Norway, the United States, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, and Egypt, where he won the grand prize at the 1998 Cairo Bienniale for his work entitled, I Ismail. Mansour also teaches art, and is the author of two books on Palestinian folklore. He is a founding member of the Al-Wasiti Art Center in Jerusalem, where he currently serves as the director.
Renowned Palestinian artist, Ibrahim Muzzayen was born in Rafah in the Gaza Strip in 1961. Along with the late Palestinian poet, Hussein Al Barghouti, Muzzayen held his first solo exhibition in Akka in 1993. Since then, he has exhibited widely throughout Palestine, as well internationally, including an exhibition at UNESCO headquarters in Paris earlier this year. He is widely known for his installation work, but also paints and is a playwright.

Ibrahim Muzzayen

Esteemed Palestinian artist, Ibrahim Muzzayen was born in Rafah in the Gaza Strip in 1961. Along with the late Palestinian poet, Hussein Al Barghouti, Muzzayen held his first solo exhibition in Akka in 1993. Since then, he has exhibited widely throughout Palestine, as well internationally, including an exhibition at UNESCO headquarters in Paris earlier this year. He is widely known for his installation work, but also paints and is a playwright.

Ibrahim Muzzayen

أبراهيم مزيين

Born in Damascus in 1977, Rima Al Mozaen graduated with a BA in Education (fine arts) from Arafat University in Gaza in 1999. Her work has been shown in a number of solo exhibitions including Dakla, at the Arts and Crafts Village, Gaza (2002) and Taamulat Lawniya, at the Palestinian Heritage Center, Bethlehem. She has also participated in group exhibitions including Shahada bil Alwan, at the Rashad Al Shawwa Center, Gaza (2002) and 2×12, an exhibition held at the Arts and Crafts Village, Gaza (2002).
Ibrahim Nubani was born in the Galilee in 1961 and received his BA from the Bezalel Academy of Art, Jerusalem in 1984. He is best known for geometric works and has exhibited his solo collections both locally and internationally. Selected group exhibitions include the 1986 Venice Biennale and From the Galilee to Jerusalem at the Al-Wasiti Art Center in Jerusalem (1995).
Painter and sculptor Khalil Rayyan was born in Damoun, but lives and works in Tamra. He spent his youth in a refugee camp within the Green Line, which heavily influenced much of his early work. One of the recurring subjects of his later paintings is the city of Al Quds, as well as scenes of his destroyed village of Damoun.
Palestinian artist Osama Said was born in the Galilee village of Negev in 1957, but moved to Germany for a period of 18 years, which had an immense impact on his work. He graduated with honours from the Berlin Academy and over the years has exhibited widely in countries including Germany, France, Belgium and Morocco. Said’s work is predominantly canvas based, but he also produces installations and is currently working on art-related projects in the Galilee.
Shareef Sarhan

Born in the Gaza Strip in 1976, Shareef Sarhan was awarded a Diploma in Art from ICS University in the USA. Sarhan has participated in numerous art workshops and exhibitions over the span of his career. Between 2001 and 2003, he attended Jordan’s Daaret Al Funun academy under the supervision of the German-Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi. His work has also been shown in a number of local and international group exhibitions. In 2003 and 2004 he participated in Windows from Gaza, a group exhibition of Gazan artists that was exhibited in Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah. His work has also been shown in international group exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Brazil.
Ismail Shammout is regarded as one of Palestine’s most prolific and talented artists. Born in 1930 in Lod, Palestine, he grew up in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. After completing his art education at the College of Fine Arts in Cairo, Shammout held his first exhibition in Gaza in 1953, which was followed by many exhibitions throughout the Arab world and internationally. In 1969, he was appointed as the first Secretary General of the Union of Palestinian Artists and in 1971, became the first Secretary General of the Union of Arab Artists. Shammout currently resides in Amman, Jordan where he lives with his wife, artist Tamam Al Akhal.
Zuhdi Kadry was born in 1972 and studied graphic art at the Kubansky University in Krasnodar, Russia. In 1997, he enrolled at the Saint Petersburg State Academy of Art and Design, where he achieved the qualification of mural artist. In 2002, he won a grant from the Russian Academy of Science and Ministry of Education in recognition of his work. Since 1998, Kadry has participated in a number of exhibitions and projects in Saint Petersburg, where he still resides. Kadry's artwork includes mosaics, oil paintings and frescoes.
Juhainah Qandalaft was born in Jerusalem and brought up in Haifa and Nazareth. She graduated from the Fine Arts Academy in 1985 and continued her art studies at the University of Haifa. Qandalaft is a member of Ibda - the League of Arab Artists, and has participated in many solo and group exhibitions in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa, Cairo and the United Kingdom.
06 Abed Abadi  
08 Farid Abu Shakra  
10 Tamam Al Akhal  
12 Bashar Al-Hroub  
14 Jawad Al-Malhi  
16 Kamel Al-Mughani  
18 Nabil Anani  
20 Asad Azi  
22 Tayseer Barakat  
24 Hazem Harb  
26 Mohamad Hawajri  
28 Ibrahim Hijazi  
30 Khaled Hourani  
32 Ahmad Kana’an  
34 Basel Magusi  
36 Suleiman Mansour  
38 Ibrahim Muzayyen  
40 Rima Al Mozaen  
42 Ibrahim Nubani  
44 Khalil Rayyan  
46 Usama Said  
48 Shareef Sarhan  
50 Ismail Shammout  
52 Zuhdi Kadry  
54 Juhainah Qandalaft