

THE PRANK

W A E L D A R W E S H



artsawa

**THE PRANK
WAEEL DARWESH**

ART SAWA

2015

THE PRANK

“The Prank “is a solo exhibition focusing on the creative process of the artist as he explores few philosophical questions in his work.

Wael Darwesh creates preliminary drawings where he plays with lines, colors, and geometric forms moving on to what become semi abstract paintings constructed from his of mind.

The “PRANK” by WAEL DARWESH is the exploration that each individual - not society or religion - is solely responsible for giving meaning to life and living it passionately and sincerely.

The Existentialism, the search for the meaning of happiness, in our human and daily lives and the constant questioning if life is really worth living, has been permanently recurrent in his works.

Should we consider life “spontaneously”, as it comes? Or there is it some kind of a mirage with instantaneous pleasures that will fade quickly?

Wael says, “We are always standing in the middle of the road trying to ascertain where the truth is. We may compromise to reach half way and end with incomplete dreams.”

Wael ‘s latest body of works “The Prank “reflects constantly this state of mind, this questioning by the dramatic expression in the works, the “mise en scene”, a set up for the human figures and the selected colors of his palette as well.

Wael Darwesh is an Egyptian painter whom participated amongst other international art events to The 55th Venice Biennale, Maldives Pavilion, and Venice, Italy in 2013



THE PRANK |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 129 cm



LAST HOPE |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 129 cm



THE JOURNEY
2015
Acrylic on Canvas & pastel, oil, paper
140 x 300 cm



FRESH RED HEART |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 129 cm



THE PINK DREAM |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 129 cm



CONTINUOUS DANCE |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
250 x 98 cm



THE RED TELEPHONE |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
230 x 190 cm



SECRET MESSAGE |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
230 x 190 cm



INCEPTION
2015
Acrylic on canvas
250 x 98 cm



THE LAST LESSON NOT STARTED |
2015
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 129 cm



Wael Darwesh

Born in Cairo in 1975, lives and works in Cairo, Egypt.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Disappearance... Continued, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2013 Collective View, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2012 Vivid Memory, Safarkhan gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2012 Egyptian art, Egyptian Embassy, Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2012 Egyptian art Egyptian Embassy, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 2012 Witness, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
- 2011 Gallery Museum, Lendava, Slovenia.
- 2010 Shrouded Memories, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE .
- 2008 El Gezera Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 2003-2006-2007-2009 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2002 Center of Arts, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 AMEN, A Prayer for the World, CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art, Cairo Opera House, Egypt
- 2014 AMEN, A Prayer for the World, CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art, National Cathedral, Washington D.C, USA
- 2014 AMEN, A Prayer for the World, CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, USA
- 2014 Art14 London, Booth E10, Olympia, Kinsington, London.
- 2013 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 2013 Christie's Auction Dubai, UAE.
- 2013 Syri-Arts Exhibition & Auction, Beirut Exhibition Center, Lebanon.
- 2013 The 55th Venice Biennale, Maldives Pavilion, Venice, Italy.
- 2013 Art 13 LONDON, Art Sawa, at Olympia, London, UK .
- 2012 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 2012 3th Art Residency, "THE OLD SCHOOL", Gorna Lipnitsa village, Bulgaria.
- 2012 Ayyam Auction, Dubai, UAE.
- 2011 10th International Fine Arts Colony, Monošter /Szentgotthárd, Hungary.

2011 Cankiri Karatekin University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Ankara, Turkey.
2011 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa, Abu Dhabi UAE.
2010 Commissary of the Egyptian Pavilion, III Biennale of Art Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador.
2010 Arab Cultural week - Johannesburg & Pretoria, South Africa.
2010 15th Lind Art International Young Artists Fine Arts Colony, Gallery-Museum Lendava, Slovenia.
2010 Black & White-El Gezera Art Center, Cairo, Egypt.
2010 Land of the Hyper real, Memorial Jose, Revolution Square, Havana, Cuba.
2009 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Art Sawa, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2009 Darklight Film Festival, Dublin, Ireland.
2009 Dublin Electronic Arts Festival: D.E.A.F., Ireland.
2009 Undercurrent Contemporary Egyptian Art, Art Sawa, Dubai UAE.
2009 Al Markayah gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2008 Cairo International Biennial 11-, Cairo Opera House, Egypt.
2008 Creative Expressions, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE.
2008 Art Paris-Abu Dhabi, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2008 Art Sawa Opening show, Dubai, UAE.
2008 Örebro International Video Art Festival, Sweden.
2008 Secrets Project, Darat Al Funoun, Amman, Jordan.
2008 From Athens to Marseille to Cairo, Marseille, France.
2007 What is happening today? Cairo Opera House, Egypt
2007 The days of the Egyptian culture in India, New Delhi, India.
2007 The Present out of the Past Millennia, Kunst museum Bonn, Germany.
2005 Contemporary Egyptian Painting, Egyptian Academy in Rome, Italy.
2005 Imagining the Book I, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt.
2007 Imagining the Book II, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt.
2005 Art and Soul, Cairo Opera House Gallery, Egypt.
2002 6th International Ceramics Biennial, Cairo opera house & Palace of arts Cairo, Egypt.
2002 Arab Visual Artists' Exhibition, Taha Hussein Museum, Cairo, Egypt.
2001 Arab Visual Artists' Exhibition, Taha Hussein Museum, Cairo, Egypt.

2000 5th International Ceramics Biennial, Cairo Opera House & Akhenaton Galleries, Cairo, Egypt.
1998-2003 Annual Salons of Miniatures, Akhenaton Galleries, Cairo, Egypt.
1998-2004 Annual Salons of Young Artists, Akhenaton Galleries, Cairo, Egypt.

AWARDS & PRIZES

2010 1st prize, 15th Lind Art International Young Artists Fine Arts colony.
2003 Grand prize, 13th Salon of Young Artists, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt.
2002 5th International Ceramics Biennial, Cairo Opera House & Akhenaton Galleries, Cairo, Egypt.
2000 Jury Prize, the All-Egyptian Artists Exhibition- Cairo Opera House-Cairo-Egypt.
1999 Jury Prize, 11th Salon of Young Artists, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt.
1998 1st prize, 10th Salon of Young Artists Akhenaton Galleries, Cairo, Egypt.

ART RESIDENCIES

2012 3th Art Residency "the old school"- Gorna Lipnitsa village, Bulgaria.
2011 10th International Fine Arts Colony -Monošter / Szentgotthárd, Hungary.
2011 Cankiri karatekin university, faculty of fine arts - summer academy-Ankara - Turkey.
2010 15th Lind Art International Young Artists Fine Arts colony, Gallery-Museum Lendava, Slovenia.

EDUCATION

2008 PhD, Contemporary Painting Philosophy, Faculty of Art Education, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.
2003 MFA, Painting and drawing department, Faculty of art Education, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.
1998 BA, Helwan University, Faculty of art Education, Cairo, Egypt.



Questions & Answers

How were you first exposed to Art?

I grew up in a family Artists: my father graduated of the Faculty of Fine Arts in 1961 and he was director of the Department of Fine art & books printing in the very well known and one of oldest as well, daily newspapers in the Middle East, Al-Ahram newspaper.

At home, the walls of our house were filled by his collection of paintings We had a large library with all publications of Al-Ahram, and a house full of all kind of fine art materials, colors and papers to practice drawing and coloring...

My childhood is also full of memories, our visits to the Al-Ahram Foundation, for him to supervise the output of technical books and for me observing the printing machines and the book industry.

Tell us about your educational background, as well as your personal background?

I was born in the province of Giza in 1975 and my family is originally from southern Egypt, the Qena province, about 600 km from Cairo, near of the province of Luxor. My high results in philosophy and social studies and my artistic potential oriented me to the Faculty of Art Education in 1993 that were 5 years study that I really enjoyed.

Thanks to my outstanding results during my education, I was appointed in 1998 as Teaching Assistant for Drawing & Painting and selected for the Master Degree from 1998 to 2003 that led to my Doctorate in 2008 and granted me with the position of Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Art Education Helwan University.

What was your first exhibition and where?

During my childhood I was always drawing and painting and whenever I finished one of my paintings, I gave it as gift to my friends... I end up participating in many school shows. Later on, at my final year of the Faculty of Art Education, I firstly exhibited in the Hall of the Faculty Art Education, and as soon I have graduated, the Arts Center in Cairo, in 2002 proposed my first exhibition with a portfolio of 64 paintings.

What is the inspiration behind your Work?

The “PRANK” is the exploration that each individual - not society or religion - is solely responsible for giving meaning to life and living it passionately and sincerely.

The Existentialism, the search for the meaning of happiness, in our human and daily lives and the constant questioning if life is really worth living, has been permanently recurrent in my works.

Should we consider life “spontaneously”, as it comes? Or there is it some kind of a mirage with instantaneous pleasures that will fade quickly?

We are always standing in the middle of the road trying to ascertain where the truth is. We may compromise to reach half way and end with incomplete dreams.

What are the messages you convey through your art?

The message that I want to achieve in my career through my art is my very personal vision of my surroundings and events and things through a different lens.

I aim to develop new techniques for my expression of my art where I’m submerged by its paradoxes, I’m always searching for the meaning of absolute beauty, looking for my comfort and my-satisfaction. My statement is that we are all on a journey carrying a set of relationships and always

standing the middle of the truth, choose the half-solutions, dream a half dream and look for a half hope.

How did you select the works for this exhibition?

I decide first the basic and main idea, which I will be developing in my new body of works; generally it ‘s linked to circumstances of my daily reality.

The emotional honesty and sincerity are a very important part in my artistic expression. The large collection of the paintings will hold the different interpretations and variations of the main idea.

The process begins with my sketches illustrating my ideas that evolve in my mind permanently till I reach the best expression and composition. It is like an explosion in the canvas where I leave the emotions operate freely to achieve a total freedom in my emotions, which leads secondly to mathematical and color configurations settings. I finalize by using lines to achieve the color transparencies.

How do you envision you future of art on? If so how will it be accomplished?

On the personal side I usually work by seeking to develop the technical and the stylistic of artistic techniques as well the conceptual idea itself.



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