



## MOHAMMAD AL HAWJRI

Born in Al Bureij refugee camp in 1976, Mohammed Hawajri's works explore themes of war, exile, and resistance. A founding member of the Eltiqa Group, a collective formed for the confluence of contemporary art, Hawajri uses different configurations of graphics, photography, and color to depict his poignant messages.

Cacti occupy a significant position in the Palestinian geography. Palestinian farmers use it as a fence and enclosure for their properties. It still grows very beautifully in many Palestinian villages against many occasional annexations by the Israeli occupation starting from Al-Nakba (or the catastrophe) until today.

Hawajri has developed his own ideation of the cactus – something akin to the human head. Its strong fortitude to survive within extremely sordid environments, and to stay persistent in the ground, typifies life in Gaza. Inspirational and conducive to creative art, the cactus motif is a recurring one in his works.

Its hard shape and appearance contradict its interior component storing water and blooming with flowers and fruits. Despite its fragile structure, the cactus has sharp nails as defensive power to any assault. Drawing inspiration from this plant for its exclusiveness in the life of Palestinians and for the nature of its existence, Hawajri attempts to articulate his affection toward this plant, and therefore his people, through his visual art.

Cactus themes take a very dear place in the artist's studio as he tries to highlight every possible potential of this plant. As much as it is an authentic figure, it occupies many contemporary artworks as a dominant theme. However, Israeli efforts try to attribute the cactus as a symbol of their identity as many Israeli artists try to include cactus as marketing their ideological Zionism to suggest their right to the land of Palestine.

Most Palestinian artists have shared with Hawajri their belief of the cactus being a representation of Palestinians in their patience and long term of determination (the word for cactus and patience are of the same root in the Arabic language). The artist considers the cactus as an eye-witness to the many Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and will always form one of its rich geographical components. Cacti continue to bloom in Palestine as they patiently await Palestinian farmers to cultivate their land with love. These are the borders of cactus as signified through Hawajri's artworks.

Born in 1976, Al Bureij Refugee Camp, Palestine

Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

### Education & Work

- 1999 – 2001**      Student of the artist Marwan Qassab Bashi  
Summer Academy at Darat al Funun (Khalid Shoman Foundation - Amman Jordan)
- 2009**              Co-founder and board member of Eltiqa Group for Contemporary Art in Gaza Strip



### **Solo Exhibitions (Selected)**

- 2017** "SURVIVING (AYSHEEN)", Banksy Walled Off Hotel Gallery, Bethlehem, Palestine
- 2015** Retrospective Exhibition, Al Markhiya Gallery, Doha, Qatar  
"Red Carpet", Supported by the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013** "Guernica -Gaza", Supported by Consulate General of France in Jerusalem and the Danish Fund for Culture and Development in Palestine
- 2012** Artist in Residence Exhibition, The Khalid Shoman Foundation Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan  
"M43", Qalandiya International, Curated by Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art Jerusalem Palestine
- 2011** "Animal Farm", Touring exhibition, Supported by A.M Qattan Foundation in Ramallah and the French Consulate General in Jerusalem, French Cultural Centres of Palestine: Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, Al Nasra, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah
- 2010 -2011** "Cactus Borders", Supported by the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2009** "Return from Paris", Touring exhibition, French Cultural Centres of Palestine: Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, Al Nasra, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah
- 2007** "Spirt & Perfumes", Touring exhibition, French Cultural Centres of Palestine: Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, Al Nasra, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah
- 2002** Zara Gallery Hayat Amman Hotel, Amman, Jordan  
"Tree Story Project", A.M Qattan Foundation, Ramallah, Palestine
- 2001** "Black Dreadlock", Sakakini Culture Center, Ramallah, Palestine
- 2000** French Culture Center, Gaza, Palestine  
"Animal Bones", A.M Qattan Foundation, Ramallah, Palestine
- 1999** "New Faces", French Culture Center, Gaza, Palestine

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2025** "ELTIQA", Art Jameel, Dubai, UAE
- 2024** "Works from the Fann Collection", Fann À Porter, Dubai, UAE



"Gaza, l'Art Comme Poumon", Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Salle GamMAH, Geneva, Switzerland  
"Water like Tears, Flour like Soil", Dar Jacir for Art and Research, ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai, UAE  
"Made Present" - Alserkal Art Foundation Project Space, Dubai, UAE  
"This is Not An Exhibition", Palestinian Museum, Ramallah, Palestine

- 2023** "Reality Show", Fann À Porter, Dubai, UAE
- 2022** Sakima Museum, Okinawa, Japan
- 2021** Gallery Ishiwatari, Yokohama, Japan
- 2019** "Exchange Exhibition to support painters of Palestine and Gaza", Hirosegawa Art Exhibition in Maebashi City, Japan  
Gallery Ishiwatari, Yokohama, Japan  
Sagamihara Citizens Gallery, Sagamihara City Chuo-ku Sagamihara, Japan  
Center for Cultural Studies, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
Center for Cultural Studies at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan  
"Painting for Peace in Gaza: Palestinian Heart Art Project (PHAP)", Touring exhibition, Supported by Yoko Kamijo, Hiroshi Ishiwatari, Keiko Imai, Yoko Kamijima, Sachi Sawada, Midori Shimizu, HIKARI, Shigeru Fukuyama, Shuko Murakami, Japan  
"AHANG", Touring exhibition by Orbit, Curated by Mehreen Hashmi in Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan  
"Assassination, Yasser Arafat Museum, Ramallah, Palestine
- 2018** "Living in the Mediterranean (Habitar el Meditemineo)", Curated by Professor Pedro Azara, Institut Valencia d' Art Modern - Centre Julio Gonzalez, Valencia, Spain
- 2017** "Memory Metamorphosis", Gallery of the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK  
"A SIGHT OF DISJUNCTION", Manjam, Haifa Culture Lab, Haifa, Palestine  
"DE ORIENT 2.0", Pulchri Studio Den Haag - The Hague - The Netherlands .
- 2016** "Memory Metamorphosis", The Hagop Kevorkian Center, NewYork, USA  
"Qalandiya International", ELTIQA Gallery, Gaza, Palestine
- 2015** "Bridge to Palestine", Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014** "Junctures", Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah, Palestine  
"GAZA: Photography, Video & Drawing", Curated by Bibiana Macedo and Emma K Freeman, P21 Gallery, London, UK



Art Palestine International, Curated by Mary Evangelista and Maymanah Farhat, White Box Art Center, New York, USA

“Windows to Gaza”, Curated by Felim Egan, RHA Gallagher Gallery, Dublin Ireland

Art14 London, Olympia Grand, London, UK

“Contemporary Art from Palestine” Curated by Samar Martha, Gallery One, Ramallah, Palestine

“Fragile Hands”, Curated by Shaheen Merali, University of Applied Arts Gallery, Vienna, Austria

“Refraction - Moving images on Palestine”, Curated by Shaheen Merali, P21 Gallery, London, UK

**2012** “Freedom: Inspirations of Mahmoud Darwish in Europia”, Espace Galerie, Paris, France

**2011** “Arab Short Film Festival”, Curated by Alaa Younis, Goethe-Institute, Cairo, Egypt

“The Jerusalem Show”, Curated by Jack Persekian - Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem, Palestine

“PALESTINE PROJECTION VIDEOS”, Curated by Galerie Talmart, Le Jasmin l'Emportera, Theatre Jean-Vilar, Vitry-Sur-Seine, Paris, France

“Le Monde Au Fond De L'assiette”, Association De Developpement Culturel et Artistque des Cotes Darmor, France

“Young Artists”, Museum of Art at Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine

**2010** “Palestine, Creativity in All its States”, Curated by Mona Khazindar, Bahrain National Museum, Manama, Bahrain

“The Jerusalem Show” Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem, Palestine

Proche Orient Festival, City of Lily-Rose, France

“Palestine Toujours”, Gallery Arcima, Paris, France

Dubai International Video Art Biennial, Dubai, UAE

“Visual Stories”, ELTIQA Artist's House, Gaza, Palestine

“GAZART”, ELTIQA Artist's House, Gaza, Palestine

Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE

“ELTIQA in Ramallah”, Sakakini Cultural Center, Ramallah, Palestine

**2009** “Palestine, Creativity in All Its States”, Curated by Mona Khazindar, Institute du Monde Arab, Paris, France

“Autumn of ELTIQA”, Toulouse, France

“White Night”, French Cultural Centre, Oran, Algeria

“White Night”, French Cultural Centre, Gaza, Palestine

“Summer of ELTIQA”, Palestinian Red Crescent, Gaza, Palestine

“Other Shadow of the City”, Palestinian Art Court, Jerusalem, Palestine

“The Jerusalem Show”, Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem, Palestine

“Product of Society”, Video Installation, Le 104 Cent Quatre, Paris, France

“Outstanding in the Past”, Performance, Le 104 Cent Quatre, Paris, France



- International Theatre Festival Art Therapy, Slovakia  
Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival, Kassel, Germany  
“Art Rest”, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Gaza, Palestine  
“ELTIQA”, Galerie Brigitte Graffault, Montauban, France  
“Traces Of War”, Touring exhibition, French Cultural Centers of Palestine: Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, Al Nasra, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah
- 2008**
- “In/Scene”, Palestinian Art Court, Al Hoash, Jerusalem, Palestine  
XIII Biennale of young artists from Europe and the Mediterranean- Bary Italy . The Jerusalem Show Al MAMAL  
“Waves of Emotions”, CAM Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, Bescara, Italy  
Foundation For Contemporary Art, Jerusalem  
“Eltiqa”, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France  
“Occupy the Space”, Mosaic Room, London, UK
- 2007**
- “Gaza Seasons”, Arab Library, Geneva, Switzerland  
“The White Night”, French Cultural Institute, Gaza, Palestine  
“Eltiqa”, Touring exhibition, Albi, Toulouse, France  
“Gaza shooed pieces, Albi, Toulouse, Rodez, France
- 2006**
- “The White Night”, French Cultural Institute, Gaza, Palestine  
“From Sands to Gray”, Exhibition workshop with Swiss artist, Elian Beytrison , Gaza, Palestine  
“Occupy the Space”, Mosaic Room, London, UK
- 2005**
- “10 Artists from Palestine” Touring exhibition in 10 French cities, France  
“Palestinian Artists”, Manior Museum, Margtini, Switzerland  
“Art Contemporary”, Palestinian International Academy of Arts, Oslo, Norway  
“Art Contemporary”, Palestinian International Academy of Arts, Gaza
- 2003**
- “6 Artists”, French Culture Centers of Palestine: Nablus, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Gaza, Palestine  
Proof Gallery, Studio 1.1, London, UK  
“I Remember 1948”, Sydney, Australia
- 2002**
- “Winter 2002”, French Cultural Center, Gaza, Palestine  
Gaza International Book Festival, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2001**
- “Exhibition for the Students of Marwan Qassab Bachi”, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan  
“Arabic Jerusalem”, Jordanian Artists Union, Amman, Jordan .  
“We Will Be”, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Gaza, Palestine  
The 4th Al Sharjah Biennale, Sharjah, UAE  
September Harvesting Exhibition Art and Crafts Village - Gaza .



“A Nakba Memorial”, Joint Mural Painting, Gaza, Palestine

**2000**

Gallery de la Crenetle, Louzan, Switzerland

“In the Shadow of the Intifada Exhibition”, Art and Crafts Village, Gaza, Palestine

**1999-2001**

Summer Arts Academy Exhibition, Darat Al Funun , Amman, Jordan

**1999**

Young Artists Exhibition, Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, Ramallah, Palestine

“Horizons”, YMCA, Gaza, Palestine

“Jerusalem is a Bridge for Return”, Mural, Gaza, Palestine

“Creation of Palestinian Memory”, Gaza, Palestine

**1998**

“Free Colors”, Holst Cultural Center, Gaza, Palestine

Young Arabs Festival XIX, Alexandria, Egypt

**1997-1998**

Friendship of UN-Japan Exhibition, UNRUA, Gaza, Palestine

“Palestine Spring Festival”, Marseille, France

### **Residencies**

Nuovalcona Foundation Residency, Venice, Italy, 2014

Darat Al-Funun Residency, Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan, 2012

Cite International des Artists Residency, Al Mansouria Foundation, Paris, France, 2012

Cite International des Artists Residency, Al Mansouria Foundation, Paris, France, 2008 – 2009

“Waves of Emotions”, International Painting Symposium of Mediterranean Art, CAM Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, Bescara, Italy, 2008

### **Awards**

ARTAQ Awards, Angers, Paris, France, 2010

Summer Academy Awards - Amman, Jordan 2008-2009

3° International Art Prize "Arte Laguna" Roma, Italy, 2008

Young Artists Competition, A.M Qattan Foundation – Ramallah, Palestine 2000

### **Collections**

Museum of the Arab World Institute, Paris, France

The Khaled Shoman collections at Darat Al-Funun, Amman, Jordan

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain



Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais (ECAV), Sierre, Switzerland  
The Casoria Contemporary Art Museum (CAM), Naples, Italy  
The Jordan National Gallery, Amman, Jordan  
Bank of Palestine Collection, Ramallah, Palestine  
Dar El-Nimer for Arts & Culture, Beirut, Lebanon

**Public Art, Commissions, & Art Fairs**

Art Cairo with Fann A Porter, 2025  
Sharjah Biennial - 16th Edition, 2025  
Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial, 2024 – 2025  
19th Asian Art Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2022  
Documenta 15, Kassel, Germany, 2022  
Beirut Art Fair with Seen Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon, 2019  
Beirut Art Fair with Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon, 2013  
CI Contemporary Istanbul with Mark Hachem Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey, 2013