

Madé van Krimpen
presents
Turning Notes

Raafat Ballan
Yara Saïd
Mazen Al Ashkar



25.03 – 29.04.2023

Prinsengracht 615 H
Amsterdam

“Turning Notes”

25.03 – 29.04.23

“Turning Notes” is an exhibition that features the work of three artist friends who share a passion for art and studied at Damascus University of Fine Art. The exhibition showcases the paintings of Raafat Ballan, whose brushstrokes convey powerful emotions and narratives. You will also be able to immerse yourself in the captivating sound and video work by Yara Saïd and Mazen Al Ashkar, which harmoniously combine with the paintings to create a sensory experience.

The three artists have seamlessly blended different disciplines of art, including painting, sound, and mixed media, to create a vibrant dialogue that celebrates memories, friendship, and creativity.

madevankrimpen.com



Raafat Ballan

Raafat Ballan (1990, Syria) is a painter based in Utrecht.

“My art explores complex subjects, creating realistic yet strange images that capture a split second before emotion and judgment. I approach each piece without preconceptions, allowing the paint and brush to guide me. My smaller works focus on light and line, while larger canvases involve building up many layers to reveal the frailty of human life. My characters stand unaware of being seen, bursting out of my brush to convey my own impression of their story.”

Raafat Ballan’s art highlights social and political urgencies, aiming to combat desensitization to images of suffering. He studied painting at Damascus University before relocating to Lebanon, Turkey, and eventually the Netherlands. His portraits often depict family settings and intersect to create a larger body of work. Ballan’s style draws from both modern Western masters like Francis Bacon and Syrian diaspora artists like Marwan Kassab-Bachi.

Education

2009 - 2014 Faculty of Fine Arts, Drawing and oil paintings, Damascus University, Syria
2005 - 2008 Technical School, A s ’ Suwayda, Syria

Selected exhibitions

2022 - When the nights become canvas, Galerie SANAA, Utrecht, NL
2022 - Home is where art is, Kunsthal Rotterdam, NL
2022 - Kunstrai, Amsterdam
2022 - Egypt INT’L Art fair, Cairo, Egypt
2021 - Art In Isolationz, Middle East Institute, Washington, USA
2020 - SEE - SAW, Just Shout #4, Galerie 21, Hamburg, Germany
2019 - Stages of Life, GalerieSANAA, Group exhibition, Utrecht, NL
2018 - Give us the Museum, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Group exhibition, NL



Raafat Ballan

'Sound and stillness', 2023

**Oil on canvas
125x160 cm**

**€5.900,-
(incl 9% VAT)**

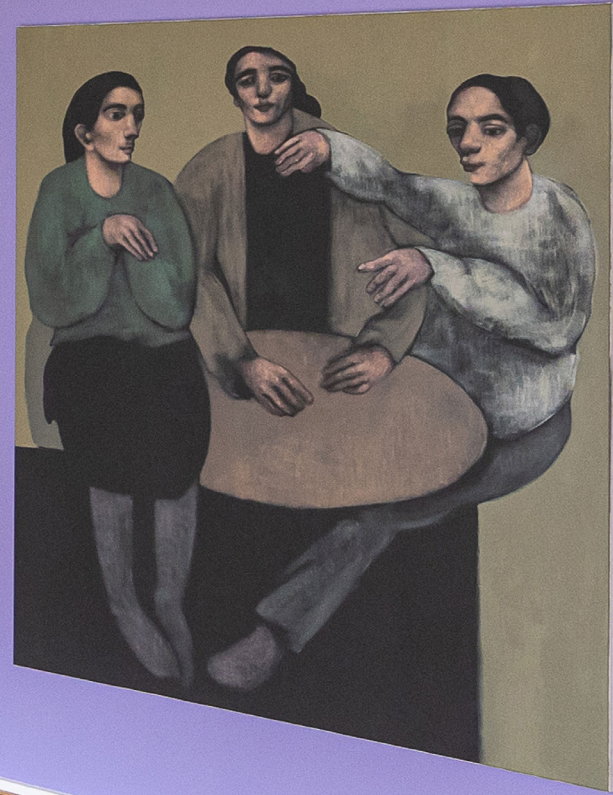


Raafat Ballan

Untitled, 2023

**Oil on canvas
90 x 125 cm**

**€4.500,-
(incl 9% VAT)**





Raafat Ballan

'Turning notes', 2023

**Oil on canvas
120 x160 cm**

**€5.900,-
(incl 9% VAT)**



Raafat Ballan

'Performer', 2023

**Oil on canvas
120 x160 cm**

**€5.900,-
(incl 9% VAT)**





Raafat Ballan

Untitled, 2023

**Oil on canvas
110 x 140 cm**

**€5.250,-
(incl 9% VAT)**



Raafat Ballan

Untitled, 2023

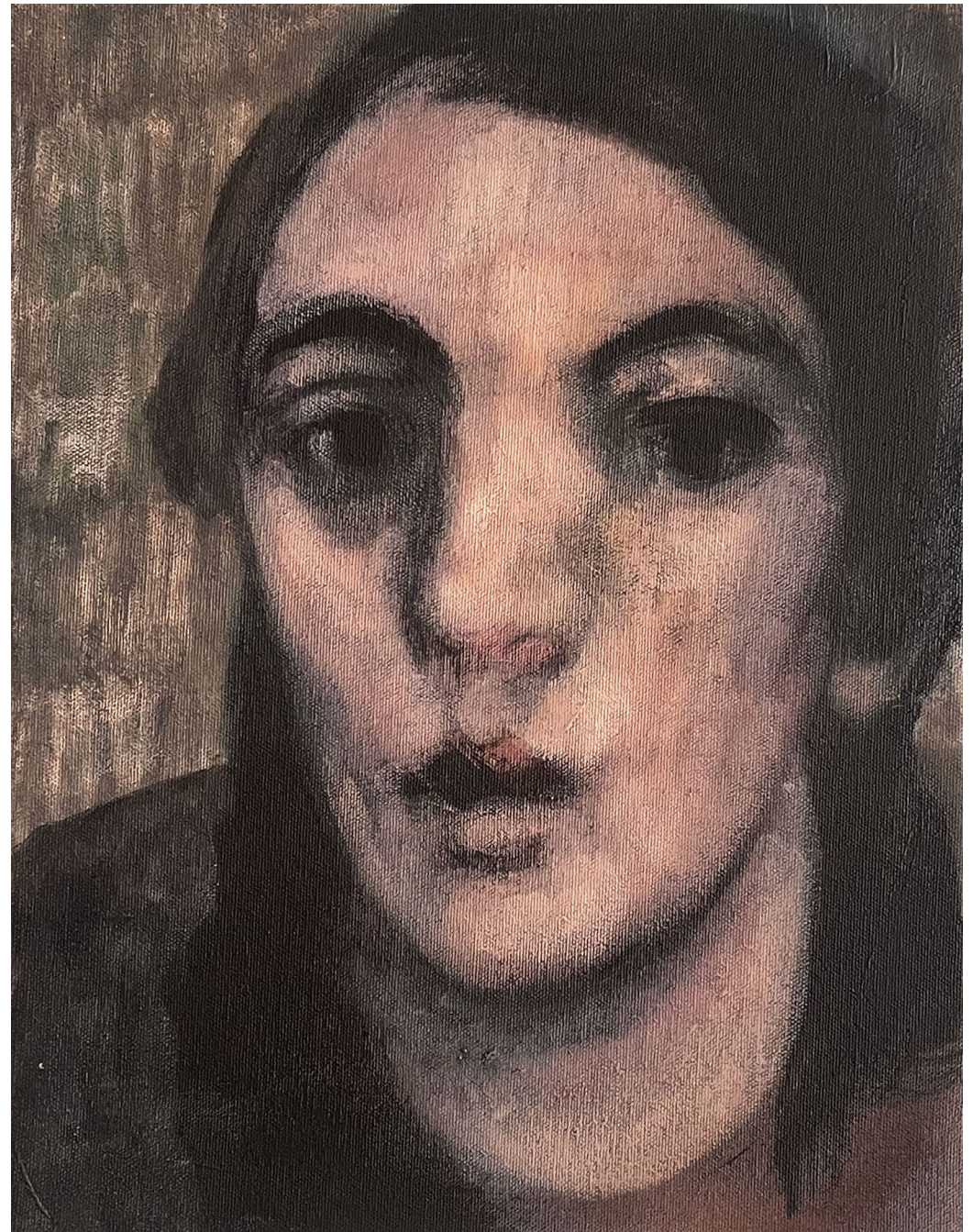
**Oil on canvas
70 x 90 cm**

**€3.400,-
(incl 9% VAT)**



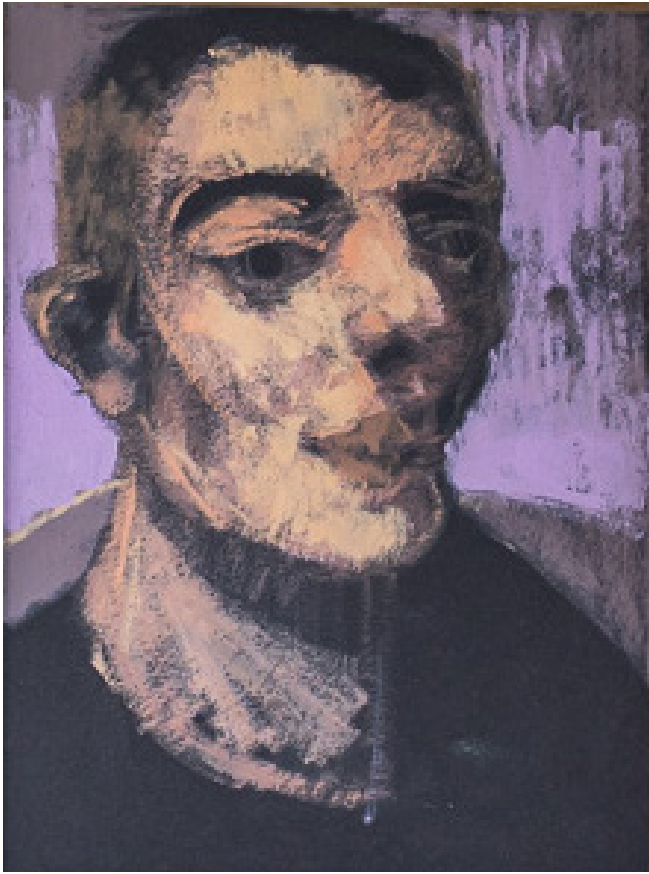


Portrait #1, oil on canvas, 30x40 cm, €1.500,- 2023



Portrait #2, oil on canvas, 30x40 cm, €1.500,- 2023





1.

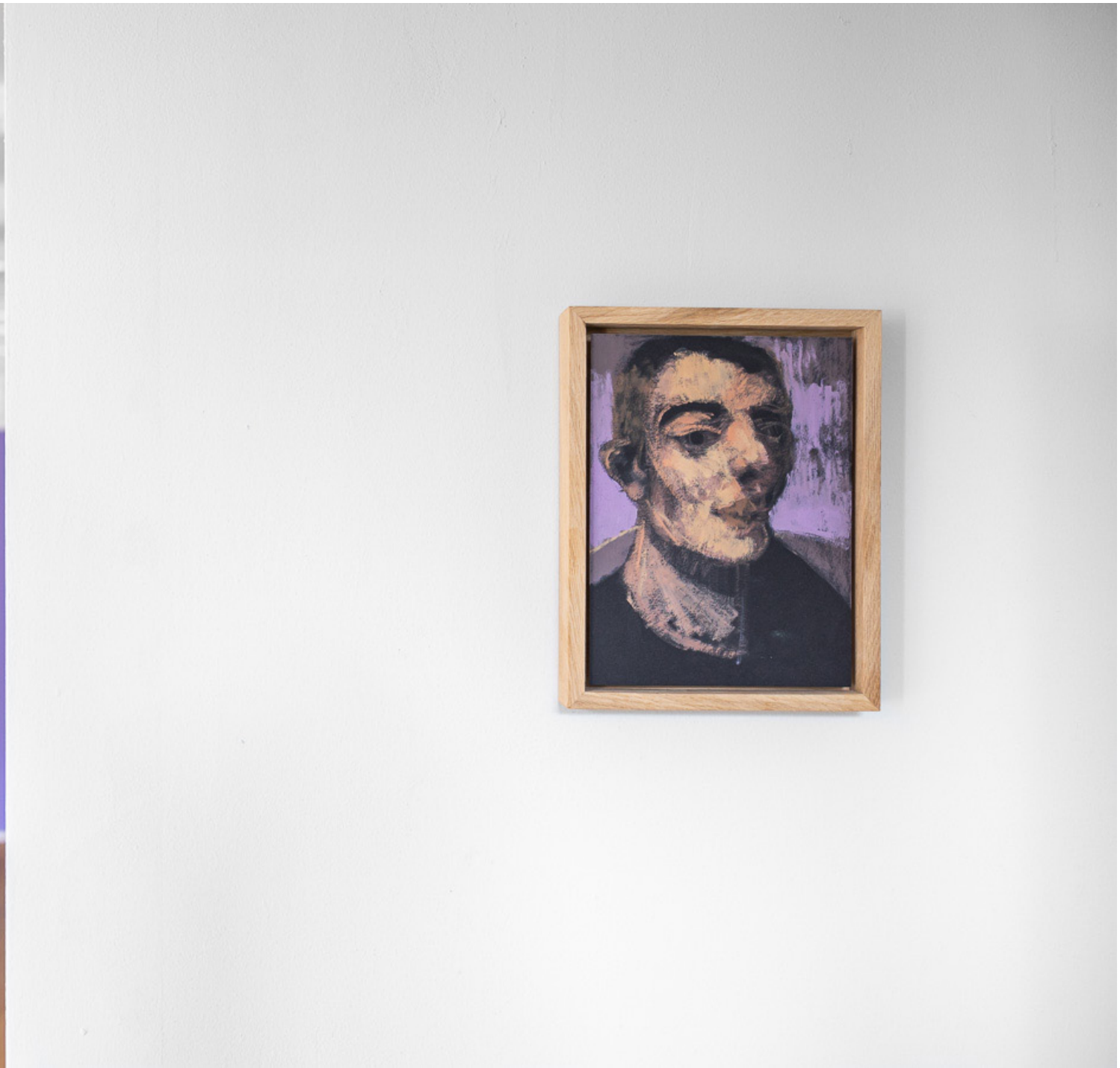
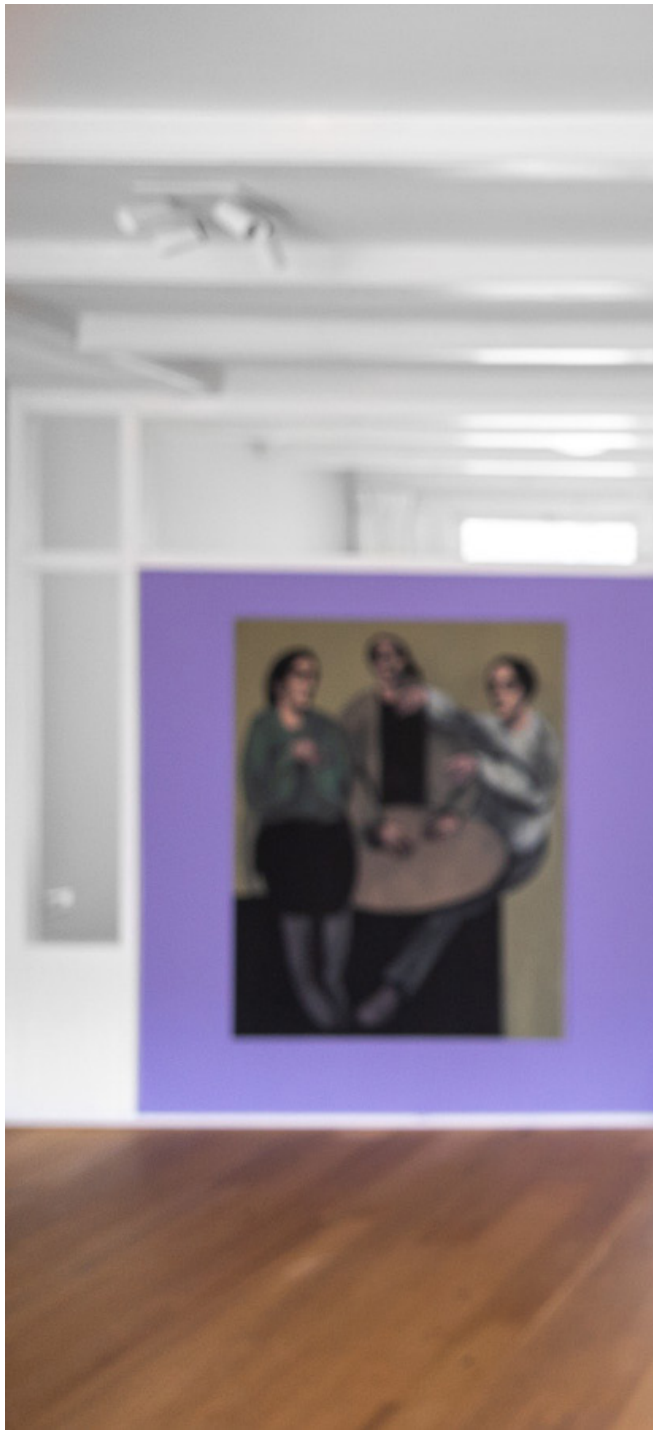


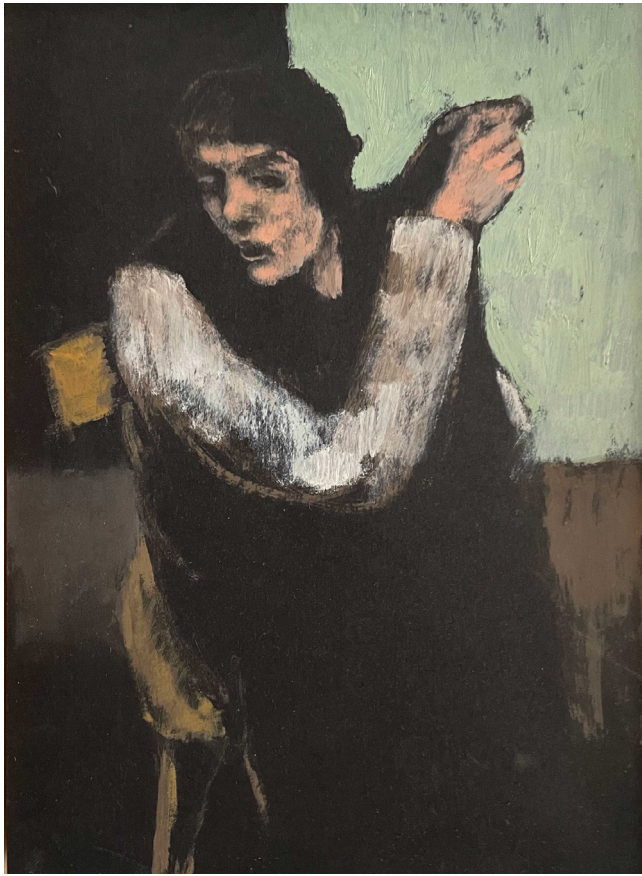
2.



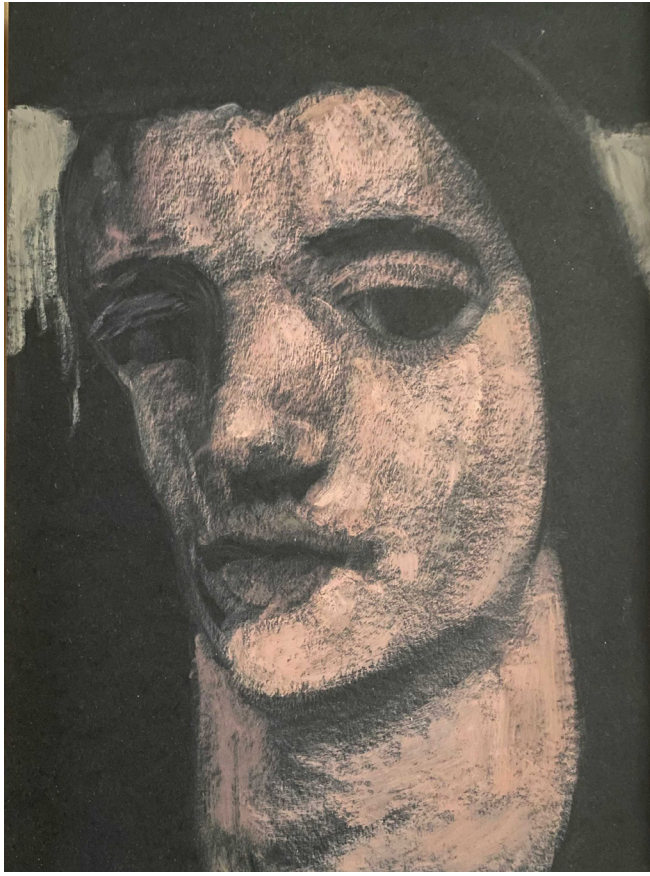
3.

1, 2, 3 Oil on paper, handmade wooden frame, 18x24 cm, €840, 2023

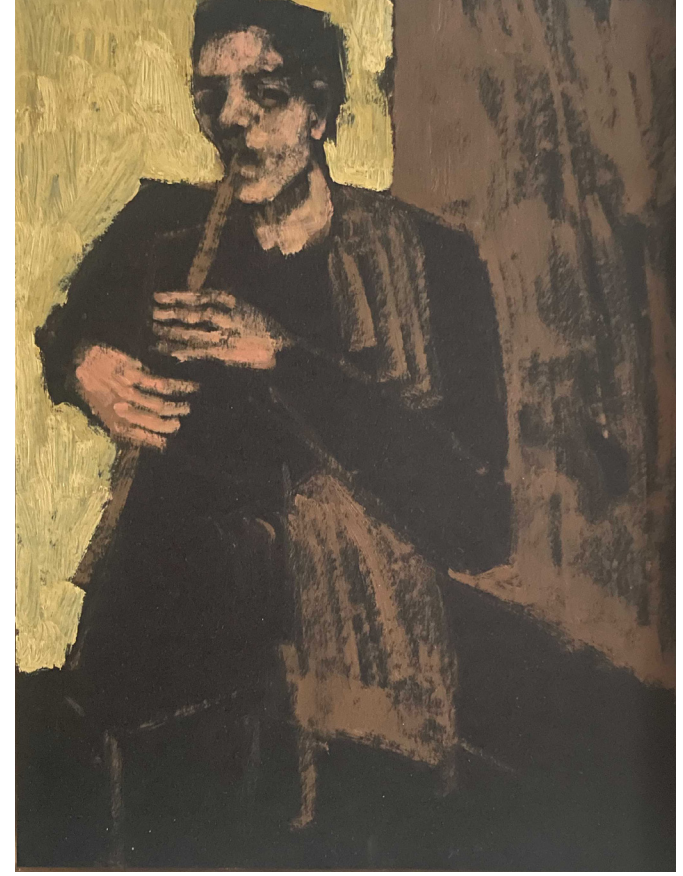




4.



5.



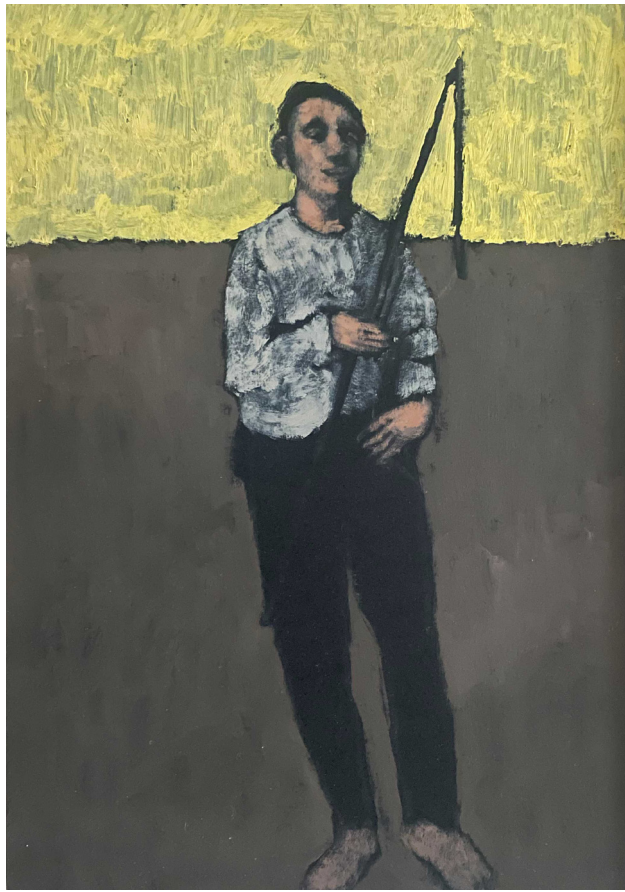
6.

4, 5, 6 Oil on paper, handmade wooden frame, 18x24 cm, €840, 2023





7.



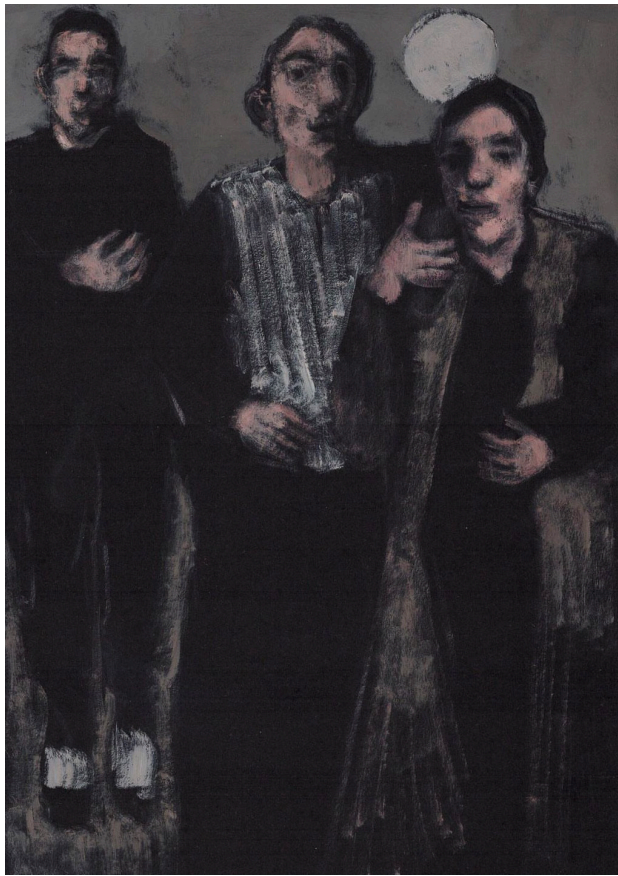
8.



9.

7, 8, 9 Oil on paper, handmade wooden frame, 21x29 cm, €990,-, 2023





10.

10, Oil on paper, handmade wooden frame, 21x29 cm, €990,-, 2023



Yara Saïd

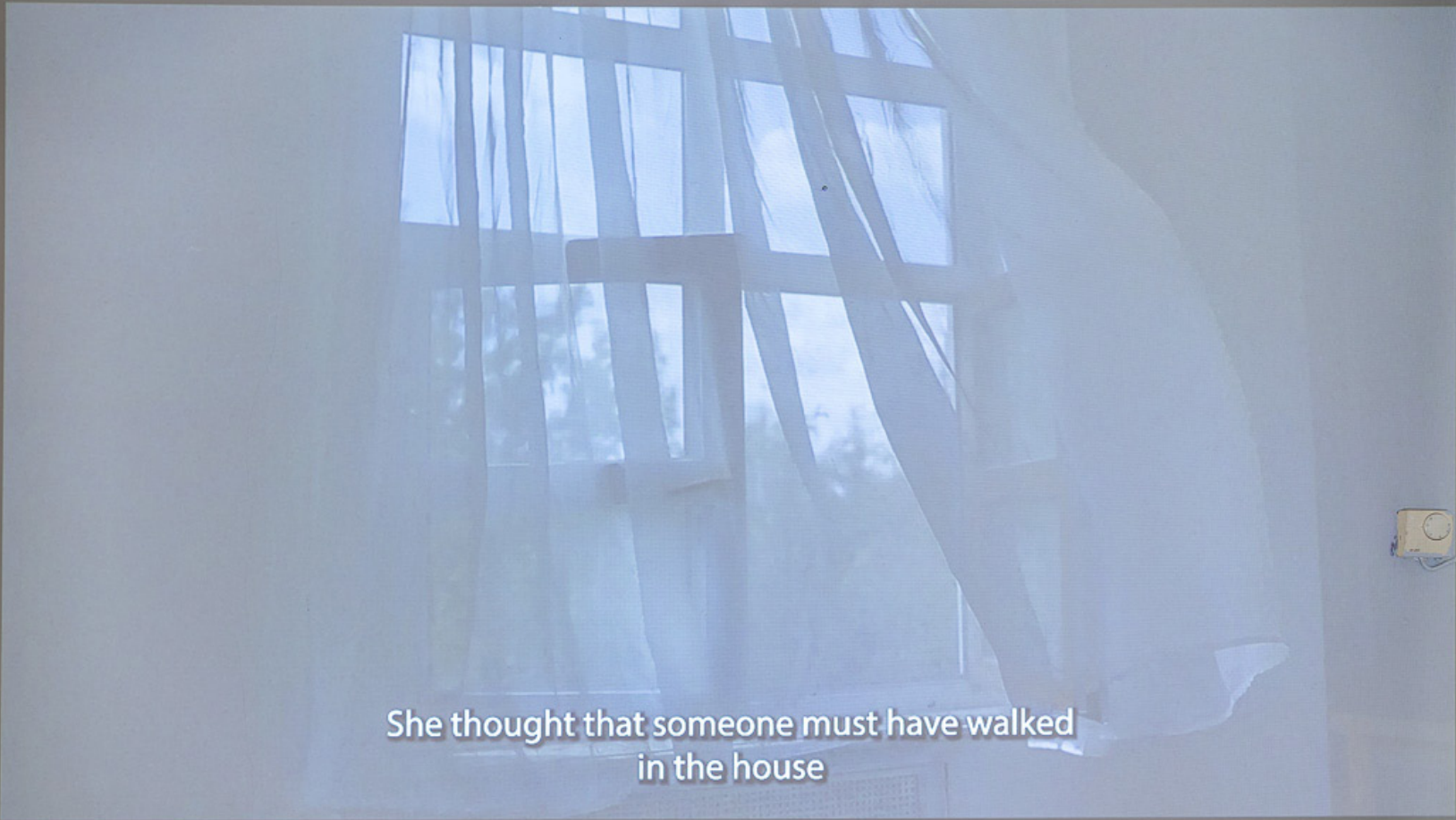
Yara Saïd (1991, Syria) is a multidisciplinary artist, based in Amsterdam. She translates her environment through sound and explores daily encounters, identity politics, and aesthetics of representation. Yara values hospitality and is interested in documenting urban noise and researching emotional frequencies. She examines how sound can be used for both terror and liberation and offers a female perspective on global injustice.

Saïd - also known as Noise Diva - transcends preconceptions and blurs the lines of her art through different mediums such as video, sound, painting, performance, installations, writing, DJing, and music production.

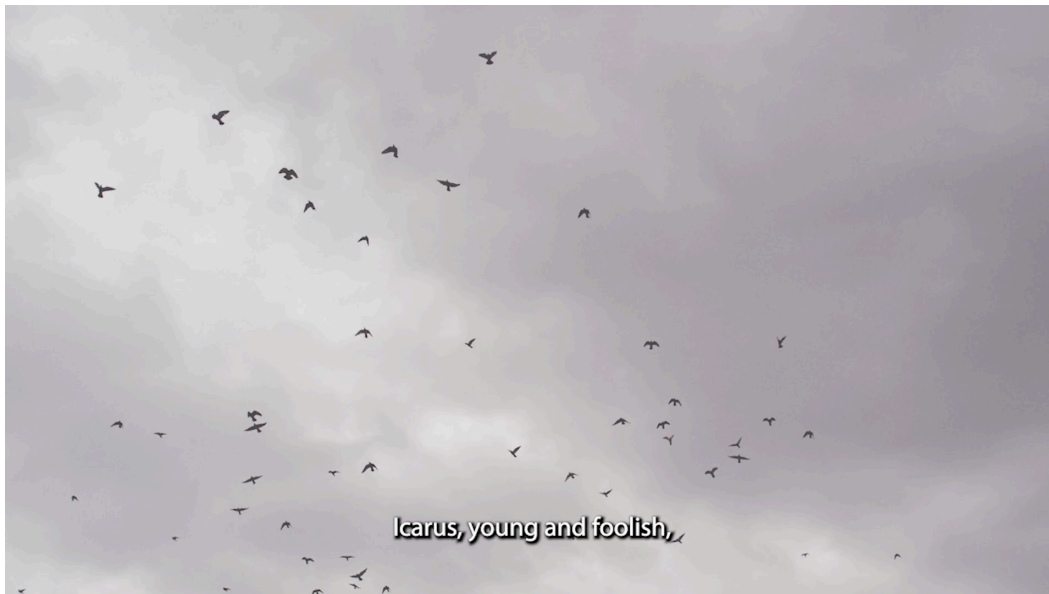
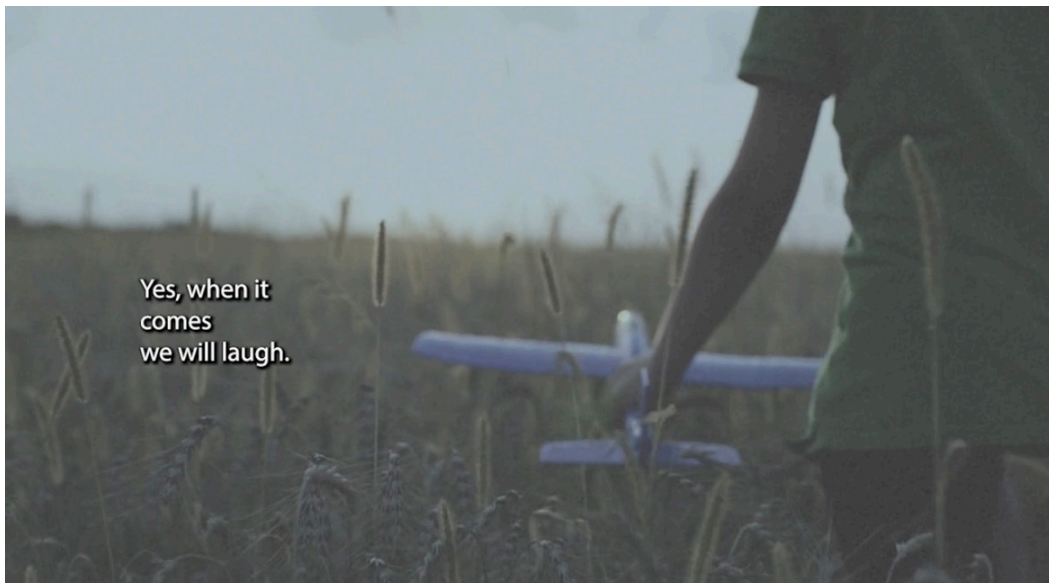
Yara received a golden design award at Lyonesse design festival (2017), was nominated by the Design Museum for Beazley Designs of the Year (2017) and by European Design (2018) with the refugee Nation flag for Amnesty International, which marked the participation of the first-ever refugee team in the 2016 Olympics.

She is also the co-founder and artistic director (2018-2021)

of SALWA|Amsterdam (The Netherlands), a foundation that develops programs for artists with a migrant background, offering an entry point for emerging artists into the Dutch cultural scene.

A projection of a window with light-colored curtains and a wooden chair in front of it. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or night setting. The projection is centered on a dark grey wall. Below the projection, there are two electrical outlets on the wall. To the right of the projection, there is a small yellow device mounted on the wall, possibly a sensor or a small camera.

She thought that someone must have walked
in the house



'Child's play' by Yara Saïd

10:10 minutes

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

€2.500,-

For 'Child's play' Yara draws inspiration from the book 'Women Who Run With The Wolves', using it to break free from her shell and share her emotional wounds with the audience. The film takes us on a nonlinear journey, narrated through the eyes and ears of Yara herself. She explores the effects of sonic terrorism on the body and psyche, revealing the ghost-like possession that occurs in victims.

Although the threat remains invisible, it is clearly present. We can hear Saïd speaking about her relationship with her body as a woman, as the film feels like a dream that slowly turns into a nightmare. This results in a real feminist horror experience, where the prey is being hunted and the hunter is a beautiful man.

Overall, the film offers a unique and thought-provoking perspective on the effects of trauma on the body and psyche, particularly for women. Yara's vulnerability in presenting her emotional scars is a powerful reminder of the importance of self-expression and the healing that can come from it.



Mazen Al Ashkar

Mazen Al Ashkar (1989, Syria) is a multidisciplinary artist, based in Amsterdam. He looks into physical and conceptual structures. His research involves paying attention to the sounds and shapes they produce; voices carrying words between the supernatural and the political, local pipelines streaming global vibrations, and frictions on the highway of industrial connectivity. Processing his material using rearrangement and repurposing among other means to create work that explores otherwise imaginative engagements between its elements.

Graduated from Master Artistic Research at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague in 2021 and from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University in 2013.

Exhibited in Damascus historical castle, Sharjah Art Foundation, Alserkal Avenue Dubai, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Kaaistudio's Brussels, Darat Al Funun Amman, Quartair and 1646 in The Hague and Utrecht Down Under.



“Limbs-أصوأ” (04:40 minutes) 2022.

04:40 minutes

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

€1.500,-

On view during the exhibition

“Limbs-أصوأ” (04:40 minutes) 2022.

An engagement with materials of infrastructure; being the enabler a mode of relations that favours the concrete over the abstract - a concrete that is rooted in real abstraction.

Exploring latent sonic desires in the infrastructure, as an engagement for the interpretation and activation of rupture as a source of imagining other modes of connectivity and exchange.

The video work “Limbs-أصوأ” by Mazen enters into dialogue with Raafat’s painting ‘Performer’.



Madé

van Krimpen

Madé van Krimpen
+31 6 416 44 511
info@madevankrimpen.com

Gallery
Prinsengracht 615 H
1016 HT Amsterdam
Thu—Sat 12 —6pm
madevankrimpen.com