

# A Presentation of Contemporary Sudanese Artists

## Aurora Art & Culture Biennale 2024

Organised by Dara Art Gallery



Curated by

Yafil Mubarak



Presented Artists

Rashid Diab

Mohamed A. Otaybi

Yasmeen Abdalah

Dar Al Naim

Eltayeb Dawelbait

Khalid Abdelrahman

Mutaz Elemam

## A Thank You from Sudan

The Aurora Art Culture Biennale director approached Dara Art Gallery to reach out to Sudanese artists and organise a much-deserved representation in this year's biennial. Due to the ongoing war in Sudan, there are multiple hardships the artists must endure, and the opportunity to exhibit is ever more difficult. In this spirit, the Biennale granted us the space to exhibit the works of these artists to ensure we are a part of this celebration of cultures. We are deeply grateful for the Biennale team and the Nanar Foundation's efforts to include Sudan in this year's presentation.

The presentation received indispensable logistical support for shipping, framing, representation, and the platform for a roundtable discussion regarding Sudanese Contemporary Art and the Diaspora. The official sponsor for this presentation is the Dara Art Gallery and we thank the Almas Art Foundation for their sponsorship in shipping the artworks. This event would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts mentioned above.



Dara Art Gallery  
Est. 1999

Dara Art Gallery is the earliest gallery in Sudan fully dedicated and purposed for contemporary art. The aim was to homage, archive, catalogue and curate exhibitions of the professional artists the country had to offer.

We have enjoyed the likes of Ibrahim El-Salahi, Ahmed Shibrain, Rashid Diab, Hussein Gamaan, Yassir Abu-El-Haram , Mohamed Otaybi. The gallery also exhibited abroad in fairs in Lebanon and Tunis with more to come soon.

The gallery was going through a renaissance since early 2019, incorporating new ideas and artists. Unfortunately, due to the destruction of Khartoum because of the current war, now it remains as a virtual gallery based in Madrid yet still offers its curatorial and managerial services.

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ALMAS ART  
FOUNDATION

Almas Art Foundation is a London based non-profit organisation that is committed to celebrating the invaluable contributions made by African and African diaspora artists to modern and contemporary visual arts.

Almas aims to present and create an awareness for the practices of established and mid-career artists through a programme of publications, exhibitions and films, documenting these artists' practices for a new generation of African artists, scholars and the wider international art community.

Almas aims to foster collaborations with emerging artists, creative practitioners, curators and writers to support the arts ecosystem in Africa and facilitate residencies through partnerships with universities, institutions and independent initiatives.

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## Rashid Diab

Dr. Rashid Diab (b.1957) is a painter, printmaker, and art theoretician. Since the 70s, he has exhibited internationally and has been collected by museums, national libraries, and other private entities. At the end of the 70s, he was awarded a scholarship to study in Spain. There, he completed his studies and achieved licences in painting and etching. In 1991, he completed his thesis on Traditional and Contemporary Sudanese Art (painting). In 1999, he founded Dara Art Gallery in Khartoum and soon after established the Rashid Diab Arts Centre, a non-profit organization, in 2005. His art was recently exhibited in Kenya, Lebanon, Portugal and Spain.

Rashid Diab's art can be understood as a hardened study of light, colour and the geographical spacing of Sudan. An inquiry into the fauna that roams the Nile. With deep knowledge of colour, he pays homage to the imperative role of Sudanese women in society. Their portrayal in migration, sometimes huddled as an abstract monad of ideas, conglomerate into a busy visage, an open window to his country's cultural spectrum. Since the beginning of the war, Diab fled Sudan to once again settle in Spain.





**Rashid Diab**

*Within Blue*

2016

Acrylic on canvas

119 x 240cm

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**Rashid Diab**  
*Secret Garden*  
2016  
Acrylic on canvas  
119 x 240cm



**Rashid Diab**  
*Out of Focus Series*  
 2018  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 78 x 78 cm





**Rashid Diab**

*Life Prevails*

2023

Acrylic on canvas

89 x 124 cm

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## Mohamed A. Otaybi

Mohamed A. Otaybi (b. 1948) is one of the most influential painters that lived in Sudan throughout his career. Active since the dynamic period of the 70s, he has constantly contributed to debates about cultural heritage and visual identity. These gave way to his approximation to Africanism, Islam, Arabism and Sudanese themes of identity seen throughout his paintings. His works are included worldwide in museums and private collections. He has been exhibited internationally, most recently in Egypt, Kenya and London.

Otaybi uses architectural structures, decorative motifs, and calligraphic forms to echo the questions around cultural heritage he finds important. His work has mastered the hue of Sudanese life, nature, music, and heritage. The colours he uses are grounded with floral aspects. His stroke not hyper defined, bringing us to an enchanting and dreamlike vision.



**Mohamed A. Otaybi**

*Desert & Jungle*

2023

Acrylic on canvas

78 x 78 cm



**Mohamed A. Otaybi**

*Girl with Flowers*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

78 x 78 cm





**Mohamed A. Otaybi**

*Couples I & Couples II*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

78 x 78 cm



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## Yasmeen Abdalah

Yasmeen Abdalah (b. 1992) graduated with a BA in painting from the Sudan University College of Fine and Applied Arts in 2014. She quickly developed her own style and has been consistent in building a robust body of work. Since then, she has received wide acclaim in Sudan and exhibited internationally in collectives in Egypt, the UK, Portugal, Spain, and Germany.

Yasmeen's work explores the emotional links between poetry and painting by creating symbolic dichotomies, a delicate equilibrium to express the interconnections between nature and art, place and time, light and shadow and human feelings. It's a reflection of her inner world, yet is open for interpretation. Her unique forms and incandescent lighting create a new climate for the observer to direct their attention and engage their creativity.





**Yasmeen Abdalah**

*To the enemy who drinks tea in our hut*  
2022

Acrylic on canvas  
158 x 168 cm

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**Yasmeen Abdalah**

*There is no secret in my body at night except what I waited for  
and what I lost*

2022

Acrylic on canvas

88 x 100 cm



**Yasmeen Abdalah**

*The doors of the place where we don't belong to*

2022

Acrylic on canvas

88 x 100 cm

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**Yasmeen Abdalah**

*The red seats*

2022

Acrylic on canvas

158 x 168 cm

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## Dar Al Naim

Dar Al Naim (b. 1988) is a Sudanese-Spanish multidisciplinary artist living and working in the Canary Islands. Her work constantly delves into uncomfortable encounters with the truth, posing philosophical questions and creating dialogues. Dar Al Naim has recently exhibited in Morocco, Spain, and Germany. She regularly exhibits, publishes, and participates in residencies around Europe and Africa.

Dar Al Naim's work explores the human condition, dealing with the depth of oppressing emotions carried by survivors of war, migration, and injustice. She specifically focuses on bringing to light the voice of the unheard, responding to questions of loss, homelessness, and cultural, social, and personal identity through meticulous and highly empathic hand-pressed prints, ink drawings, and multilayered mixed-media paintings.







**Dar Al Naim**

*Nubian guard from Wadi Halfa*

2021

Acrylic on canvas

78 x 79 cm

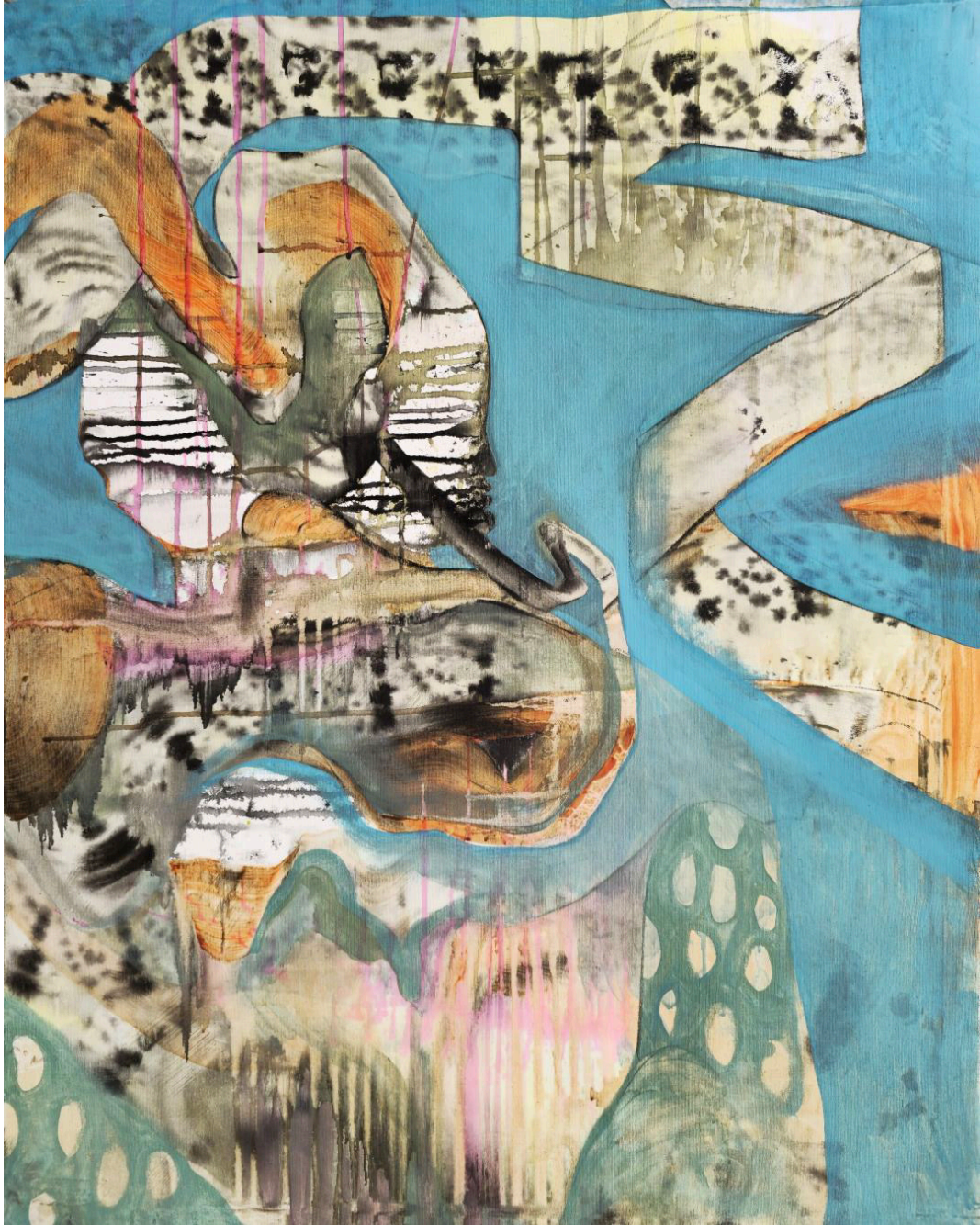


**Dar Al Naim**  
*Nilotic Profile*  
2020  
Mixed media  
60 x 72 cm





**Dar Al Naim**  
*Romance del prisionero*  
2020  
Mixed media  
60 x 72 cm



**Dar Al Naim**

*Nubian Guard from Kassala*

2021

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 74 cm

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**Dar Al Naim**

*Dust*

2021

Acrylic on canvas

74 x 100 cm

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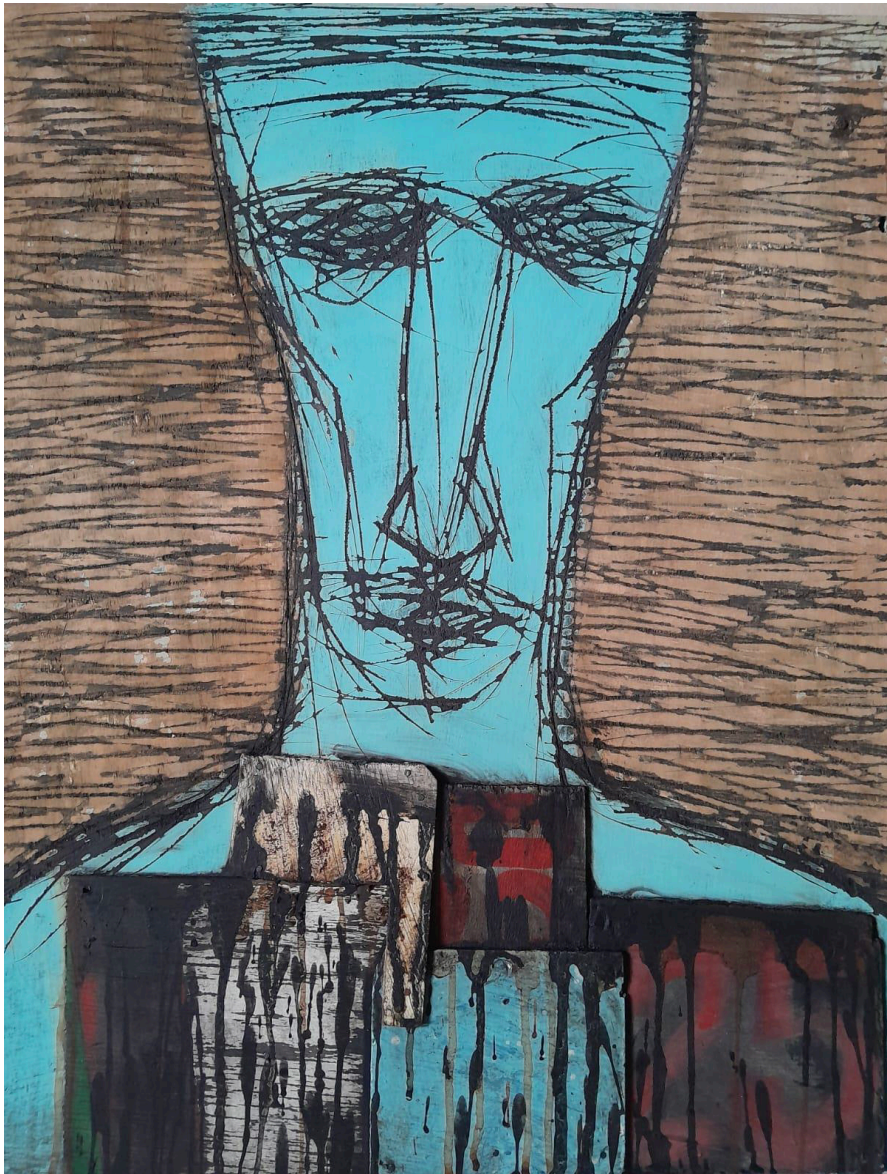


## Eltayeb Dawelbait

Eltayeb Dawelbait (1968.) is a renowned artist at the vanguard in the diaspora for well over a decade now. Growing up in Sudan and studying at the College of Fine and Applied Arts. He has gained widespread acclaim in Sudan and internationally, becoming a great ambassador of Sudanese contemporary art. Especially Kenya, where he has made an important name and found a home. He is collected around the world and exhibits internationally, recently in Kenya, Spain, Portugal and Sudan.

Dawelbait's work is influenced by the great diversity of Sudan, the different cultures and values, by the different narratives of his people yet with a modern approach. His work contains lively colours that encompass solid figures, portraits that bring about the idea of hardened tradition. He invites us to revise Sudanese culture with recycled wooden objects, sculptures, paintings that encompass as well past stories. He also delves into design and installations with ease.





**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Spirit Faces I*

2024

Mixed media on wood

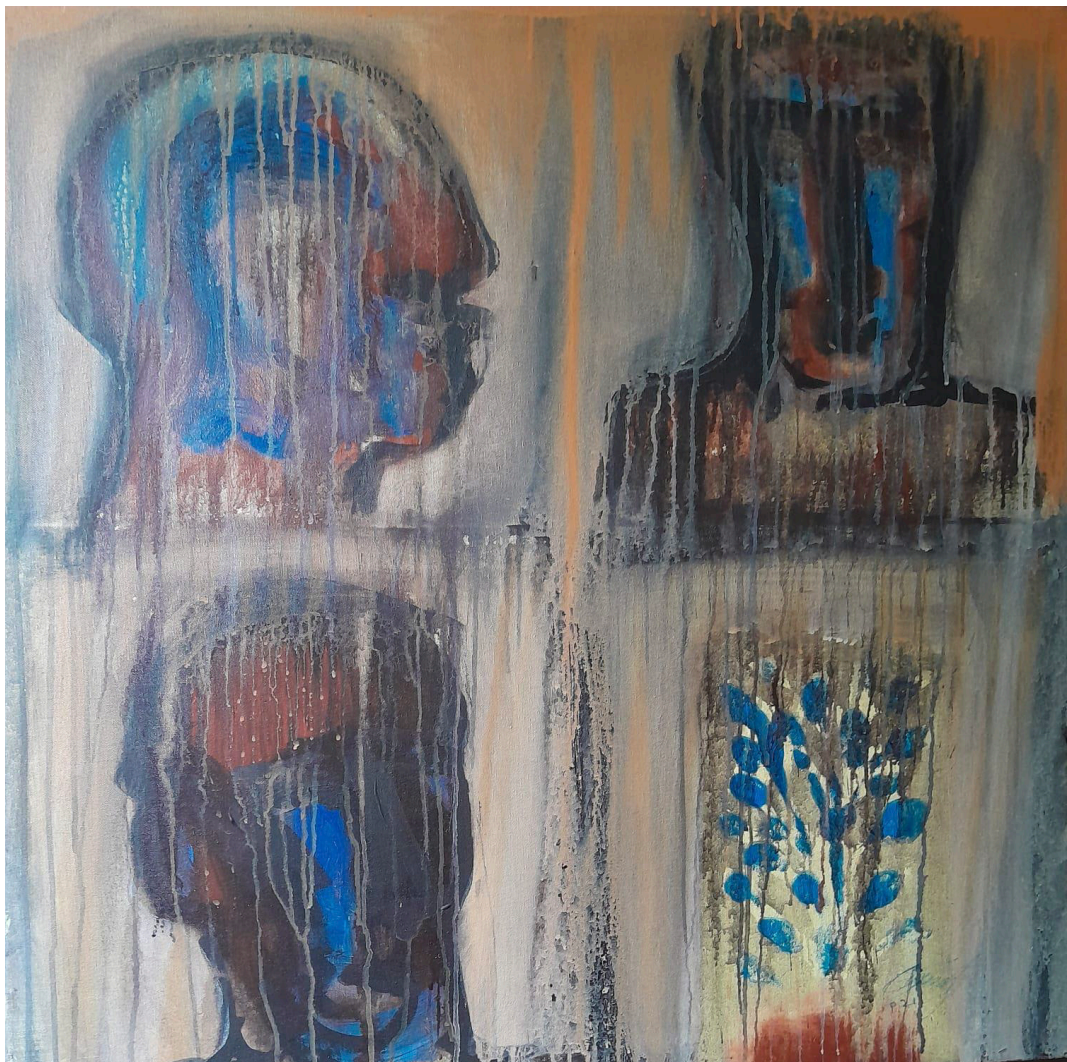
97 x 50 cm

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**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Spirit Faces III*

2021

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm





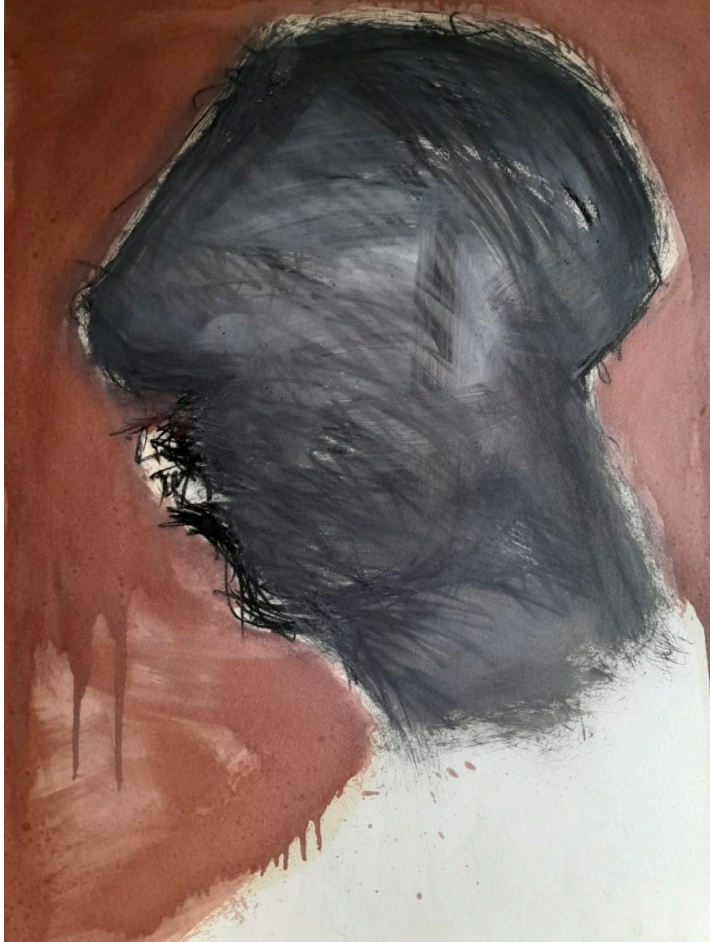
**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Spirit Faces II*

2024

Mixed media on paper

75 x 55 cm



**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Spirit Faces IV*

2016

Mixed media on paper

75 x 55 cm



## Khalid Abdelrahman

Khalid Abdelrahman (1978.) grew up in the great Khartoum, being well acquainted with art and practicing it recreationally, soon sprouted in him a fascination with the artistic process. Intrigued he was by how the world is represented through art. His work feeds of this in depth experience of the great Sudanese metropolis, composed of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri. He has only been fully dedicated to his art for the past decade and was widely successful in Sudan and is collected abroad privately and publicly. Khalid Abdelrahman's work encapsules the Sudanese urban landscape and architecture that stands out, like monoliths in the desert. An unanimated world yet withholds proof of human intervention, you will find flora, the only thing rooted and alive that accompanies his structures. All this encased in a cosmic, however earthy and Nilotic colour palette. His work is a study and record of the natural human footprint of the Sudanese civilization Today it offers a deeper reflection, the war has destroyed the city and left it empty of its citizens. His works have always transcended time and now elegantly portray our urban mass for eternity. Due to the ongoing civil war in Sudan he had to flee to Egypt. He has exhibited in Sudan and internationally including Kenya, Uganda, U.S.A and Egypt.







**Eltayeb Dawelbait**  
*Shrine in yellow field*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 cm



**Eltayeb Dawelbait**  
*Shrine in yellow field*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
108 x 102 cm







**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Shrine and trees*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

118 x 97 cm

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**Eltayeb Dawelbait**  
*Cityscape and minare*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
66 x 46 cm



**Eltayeb Dawelbait**

*Small significant house*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

90 x 60 cm





## Mutaz Elemam

Mutaz Elemam (b. 1979) was born and raised in Kassala, then moved to Khartoum to study Fine Arts at the Sudan University of Science and Technology. He worked in art therapy at the Grace Childcare Organization in Khartoum, working with children who have been through adverse circumstances. He has participated in numerous solo and collective exhibitions regionally and internationally, the most recent of which were 1-54 Art Fair in London, the USA, Italy and Egypt.

His artistic practice encompasses painting, drawing, mixed media and collages. There is a fascination with flora and the control of space through depth. The interposing of different layers suggests a clear understanding of composition, and with balanced lighting, he creates in the spectator a sensation of peeking into his world. A sensation, also reminiscent of obscure portraits, filled to the brim with emotion. His works present a restoring nature in that their harmony provides a safe place for one's perception. After the war broke out, Mutaz fled Sudan and settled in France.







**Mutaz Elemam**  
*Untitled I*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 cm

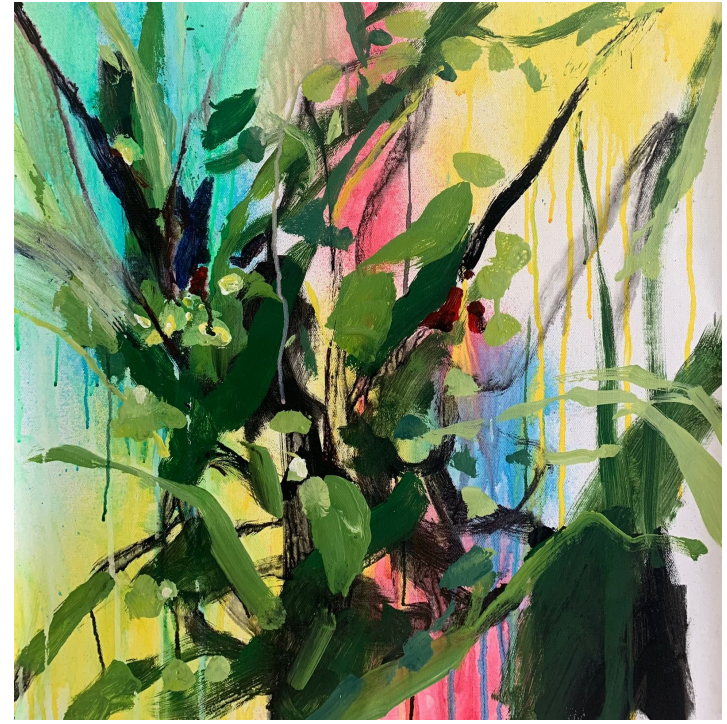
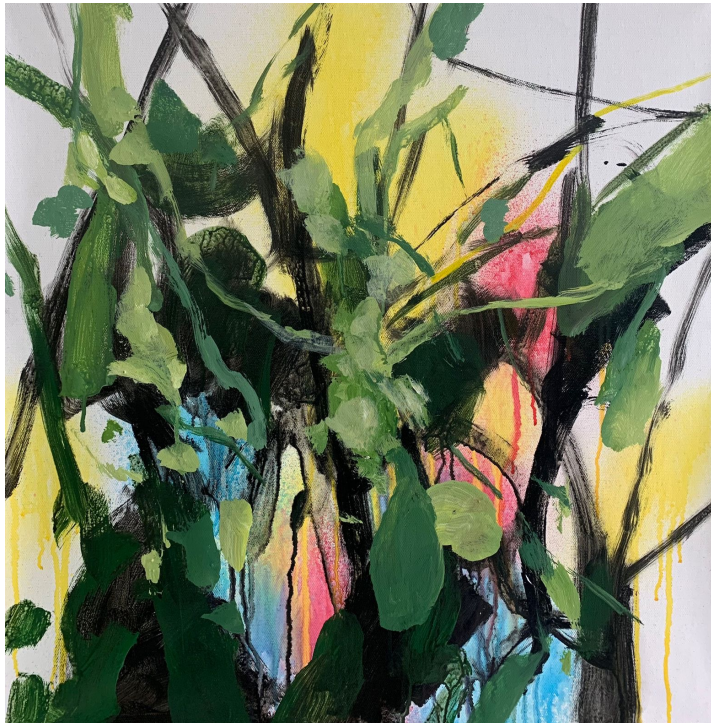




**Mutaz Elemam**  
*Untitled II*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 cm







**Mutaz Elemam**

*Untitled III & Untitled IV*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

50 x 50 cm

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**Mutaz Elemam**  
*Untitled V*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
50 x 50 cm

# Acquisition of artworks

After the celebration of the Aurora Arts Culture Biennial, the artworks will be available for purchase. For any more information please contact Dara Art Gallery.

Email: [Dara.artgallery@gmail.com](mailto:Dara.artgallery@gmail.com) - WhatsApp: +249 121 872 892