

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE FROM THE ARAB WORLD
VISUAL ART / LITERATURE / FILM / MUSIC / FOOD

MARWAN

NOT TOWARDS HOME,
BUT THE HORIZON

SELECTION OF EXHIBITED WORKS

the
mosaic
rooms



Untitled (1963), Marwan. 116x97cm, oil on canvas

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Badr Shakir al-Sayyab (1965), Marwan. 61.3x46.2cm, watercolour and opaque white on paper

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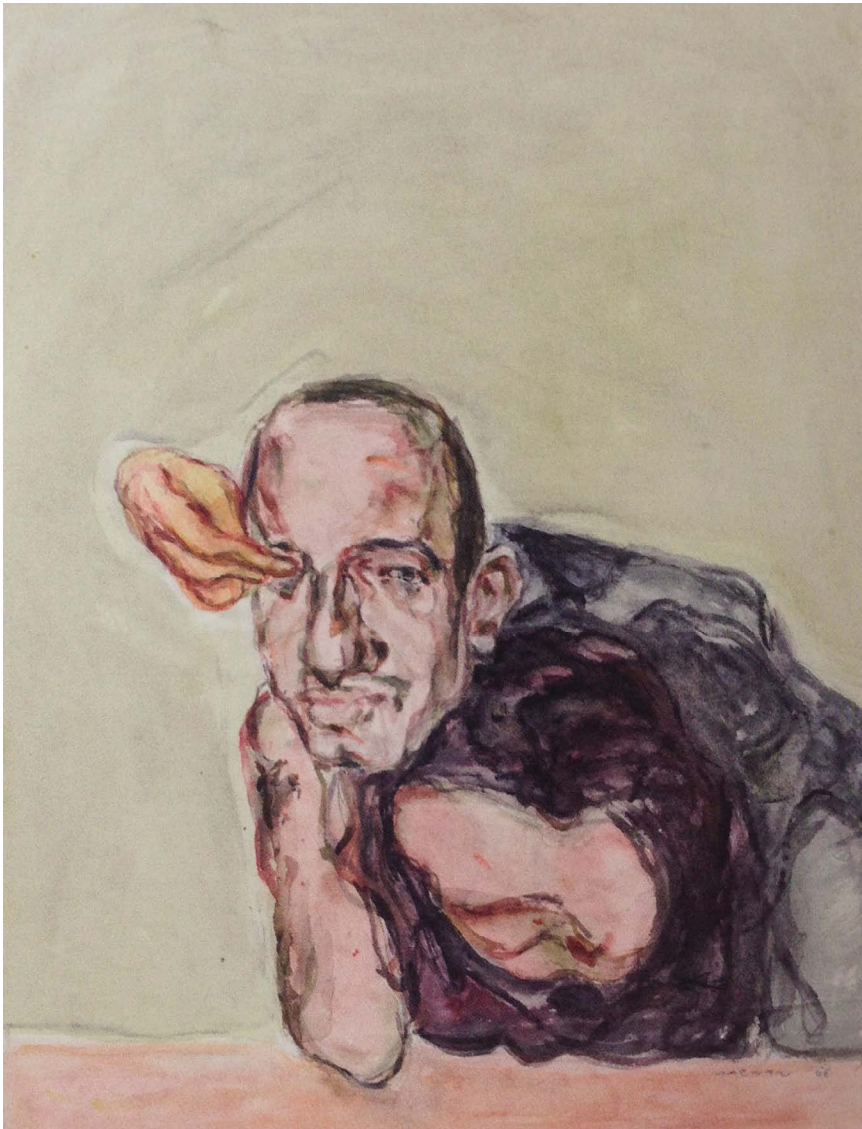
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Munif al-Razzaz 2 (1965), Marwan. 130x89cm, oil on canvas

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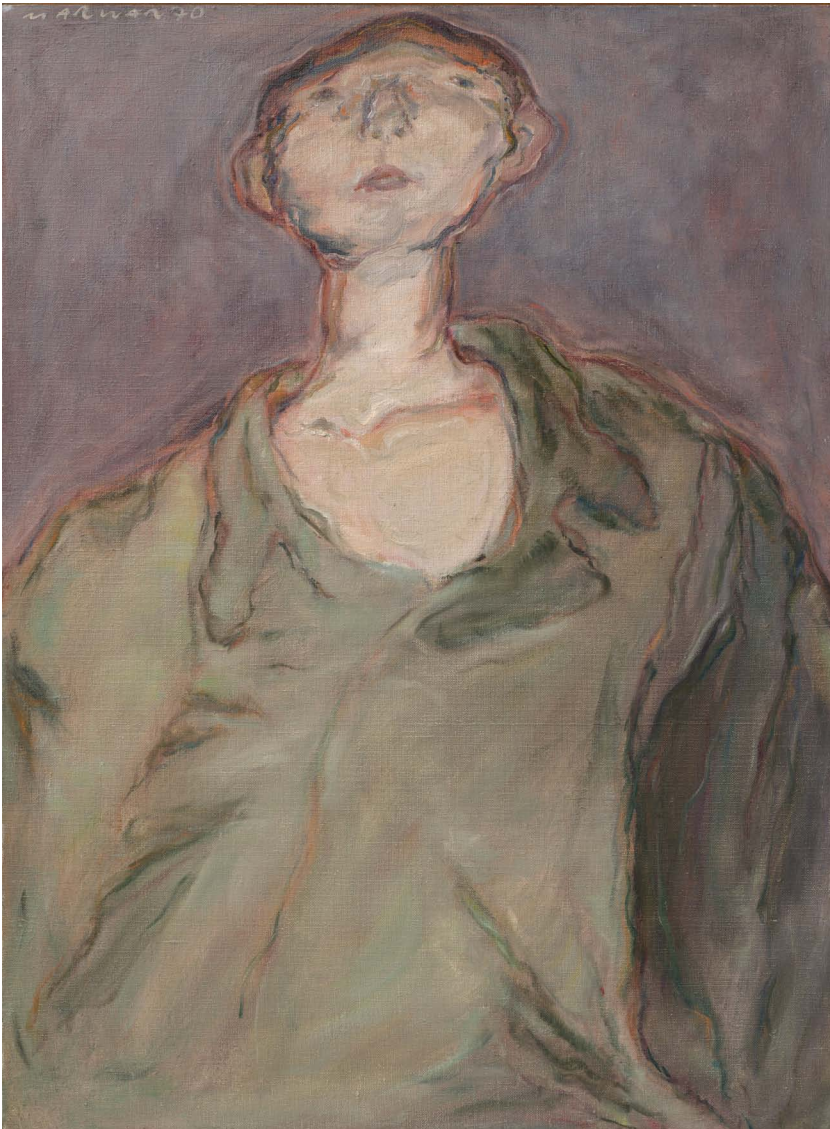
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Untitled (1966), Marwan. 60.5x46.2cm, watercolour on handmade paper

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Fidayee (1970), Marwan. 81x60cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (1973), Marwan. 156x195cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (marionette), Marwan. 195x97cm, oil on canvas marionette

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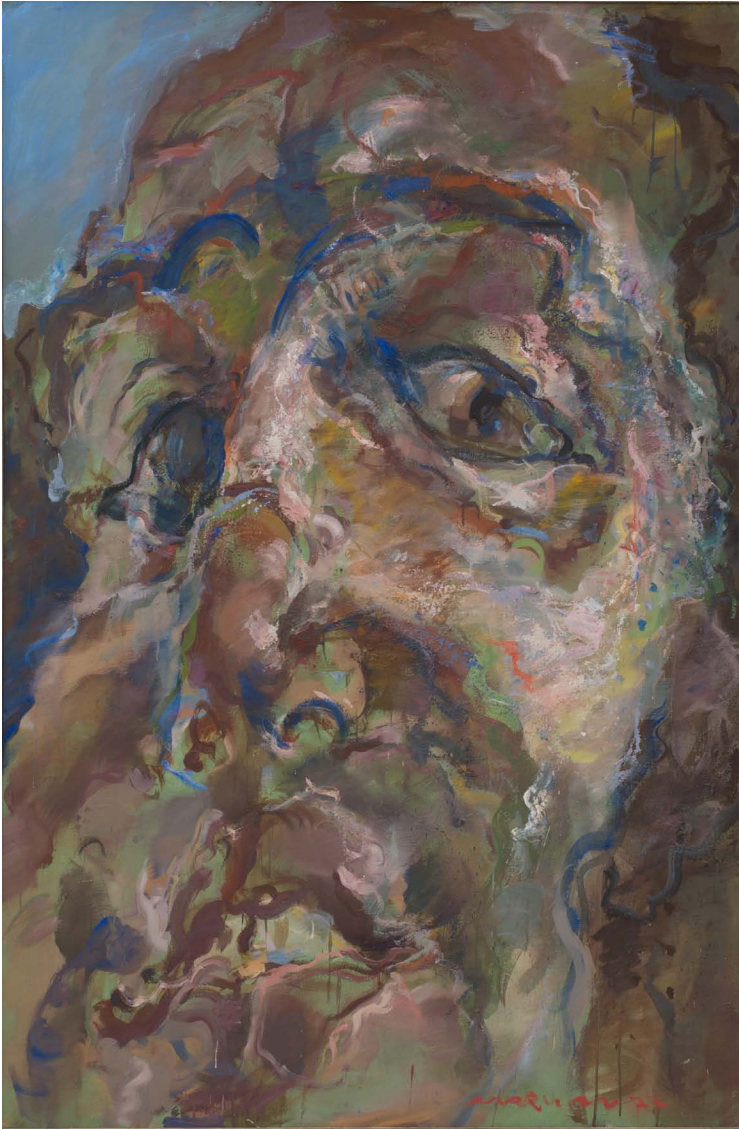
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Untitled (1976), Marwan. 70x100cm, etching and watercolour on paper

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Untitled (1977), Marwan. 195x128cm, tempera on canvas

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Untitled (1986), Marwan. 149x113cm, watercolour and pencil on paper

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Untitled (1987), Marwan. 226.5x161cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (1992), Marwan. 195x195cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (2001), Marwan. 162.5x114.5cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (2009), Marwan. 146x114cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (2009-2010), Marwan. 195x260cm, oil on canvas

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Untitled (2014), Marwan. 162.2x114.2cm, oil on canvas

ABOUT MARWAN

Marwan Kassab-Bachi was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1934, and is based in Berlin. He studied Arabic Literature at the University of Damascus (1955-57) before moving to Germany to study painting. From 1980, he held a professorship at the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin, and in 1994 became the first Arab member of Germany's distinguished Akademie der Künste (one of the oldest cultural institutes in Europe).

His first eight years in Germany were difficult. Although he came from a wealthy Damascus family he was unable to sustain himself as a painter in Berlin. To make ends meet he worked in a factory between 1962 and 1970. However he continued to paint - working through the night to create sketches that he would then transform into paintings.

Now aged 81, Marwan is considered a leading figure of contemporary Arab art. His work has been a major influence for important literary figures including the internationally celebrated Syrian poet Adonis, who composed prose poems in his honor. The great Saudi novelist Abdul Rahman Munif (author of the controversial novel 'Cities of Salt') also wrote the artist's most important monograph in *Arabic Journey of Art and Life*, as well as *Literature of Friendship* - which includes letters exchanged by Munif and Marwan over the years.

Marwan has exhibited mainly in Germany, but also in wider Europe, the Middle-East and U.S.A. His recent solo shows include: Armory show New York one-man-presentation by Meem Gallery, Dubai (2015), Galerie Jacques Leegenhoek, Paris (2015) and Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah (2014). He currently has work included in *From the Figurative to the Abstract* at British Museum.

Work by Marwan can be found in public collections internationally, including at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Darat al Funun, Amman; National Museum, Damascus; Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; British Museum, London; Tate Modern, London; Barjeel Art Foundation; Sharjah; Guggenheim, Abu Dhabi; Nationalgalerie, Berlin; Berlinische Galerie, Berlin; and Städel, Frankfurt.

In 2005 the artist was the first ever non-German born recipient of the Merit Order of the Federal Republic of Germany. His other awards include Prix Forum Culturel Libanais, awarded 2005, and the Fred Thieler Prize, awarded 2002. He was Professor of Painting at Hochschule der Künste, Berlin, and founder of the Summer Academy at Darat al Funun, Amman Jordan.

www.marwan-art.com

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ABOUT THE MOSAIC ROOMS

The Mosaic Rooms are a leading London-based non-profit cultural organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary culture from and about the Arab world. We provide an international platform for the arts, particularly new work, and create opportunities for interaction, collaboration and professional development between artists, collectives and organisations from the Arab world and the UK. We do this through our trail-blazing contemporary art exhibitions, multidisciplinary events, artist residencies and learning and engagement programme. We work in partnership with local, national and international organisations to disseminate our combined arts programme to the widest possible audience. We are an A.M. Qattan Foundation project.

[The Mosaic Rooms profile](#)

www.mosaicrooms.org

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