

# the mosaic rooms



The Mosaic Rooms are an  
A.M. Qattan Foundation Project

A.M. Qattan Foundation has been a strong operational ground for the past 11 years from Ramallah. Founded in 1999, with a strong cultural arts program that supports projects in and around Palestine, A.M. Qattan Foundation has focused on emerging artists, musicians, writers and until recently, filmmakers to their educational and cultural criterions. Their main programs are on visual arts interventions, and the Young Artists Award, which occurs every 2 years, mainly focusing on

the arts from Palestine. However, due to the building of their reputable initiatives, many partnerships were created with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, which also allowed for their expansion into residency programs with organizations such as The Townhouse Gallery, Delfina Foundation, amongst other associates in Europe, USA, and Middle East.

With a strong international dimension, the Young Artists Award is an open call opportunity whereby artists send in their project applications, and with a jury, they are short-listed to 10 participants. Given 6 months to complete their work, which will once again be presented to the jury and then exhibited, a choice of 3 winners will determine an exhibiting opportunity at A.M. Qattan Foundation's Mosaic Rooms.

The Mosaic Rooms is another one of A.M. Qattan's recent initiatives. Launched one year ago, their aim is to allocate exhibiting exposure to young and emerging artists who have never shown in the UK before. Showing a selection of their finest works and for the first time in UK, the project acts as an afterthought to the Foundation's mandate which is to support free thought and free will through cultural promotion and recognition.

The Mosaic Rooms is located in West London, in a building which used to be the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. With high ceilings and a refurbished space equipped for exhibitions and lectures, A.M. Qattan Foundation has now opened its doors to serve opportunities to the Arab World and not just Palestine, such as Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The Mosaics Room has also offered a series of exhibitions and film screenings brought in from different parts of the region, offering first-hand exposure to their London satellites.

Their first exhibition of 2010 entitled "Is This Your First Time in Gaza?" opened February 26th with new works by Hazem Harb. Born and raised in Gaza (1980), he moved to Europe in 2005. Based between Paris, Rome and Gaza, he took up a passion in painting while studying Visual Arts from the European Institute

of Design in Rome, and produced a retrospective of paintings from 2006-2009, along with a video and photographic installation on the transitory impacts created by man when interacting in their surroundings. Is This Your First Time in Gaza? is the question asked when entering the city for the first time. Harb deals with the restrictive confrontations when being in his homeland, unable to belong, always entering and exiting as though not part of his own.

- AE

*The work will continue at The Mosaic Rooms until March 25th, 2010.  
[www.qattanfoundation.org](http://www.qattanfoundation.org)*

**Hazem Harb.** Detail of *Dance of Escape #1*, 2009  
Mixed media on canvas, 108x108 cm  
Image courtesy of A.M. Qattan Foundation

