



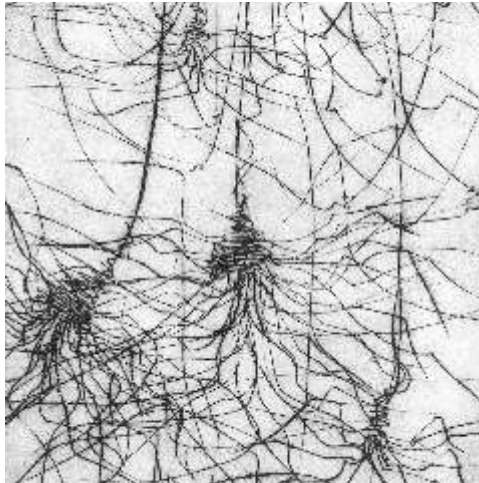
The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Rana Bishara

Ethnic Convergence

February 22 - April 3, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

Rana Bishara

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Artist Catalog, 'Rana Bishara - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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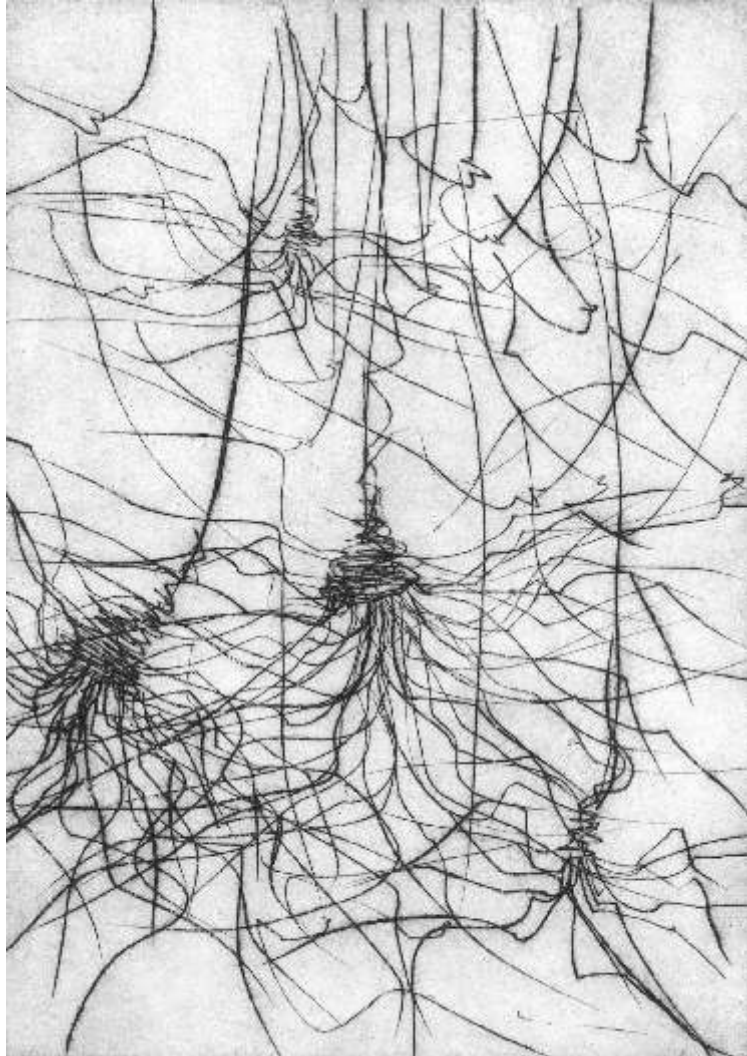
Rana Bishara

Julie Oakes

As if there was never modernity, as if Palestine was not occupied by the Israelis (Rana is a Palestinian living in Israel), as if the authenticity of cultural specification had not been blurred by the influences of the 'other' as global awareness tainted the focus of tradition; Rana Bishara's works on paper communicate the integrity of a centered vision. Stained by henna, the muddy dye that is used to color the skin and hair and an ancient beautifier, the handmade, fragile paper supports the calligraphic markings that bring to mind Arabic scripts. The honest simplicity, consistently more gracious than the pontificating art of the market driven western world, is effective. Faultlessly secure in her technique and application, the work speaks of a return to roots that have been twisted by countless influences. It speaks of a woman's place of resignation, the bounded perspectives of walled enclosures and materials close at hand. Yet despite the quiet presentation and humble means, the work sings and reverberates like an ululation.

Not that the work is uninformed by the modern world. Rana Bishara has not been adverse to using mediums as progressive as installation and performance to put forth statements concerning human rights and freedom of expression. The courage of acceptance, the embracing of the less demonstrative from within a country that has been permeated by strife, and the bravery to put forth the value of gentler expressions is the subtlest of strategic methodologies. It is a Gandhian methodology. It will not entertain violent or aggressive promotions and instead brings forth a sureness of foot that is admired for its graceful dexterity.

Are the signs messages and if so are they of peace or passion? It is impossible to know from a western vantage point and this fact as well, illustrates that although ethnicities might converge with occasion, their differences remain mysterious. Since there is no guilt passed outwards in Rana Bishara's paper offerings, no didactic warnings to stay out, the door is open to experience another culture.



Untitled
drypoint on paper, 9 x 7.5 inches
2005



Dance I
henna & watercolor on hand-made paper, 19 x 15.5
inches



Dance II
henna & watercolor on hand-made paper, 19 x 14 inches
2001



Dance III
henna & watercolor on hand-made paper, 19 x 14 inches
2001



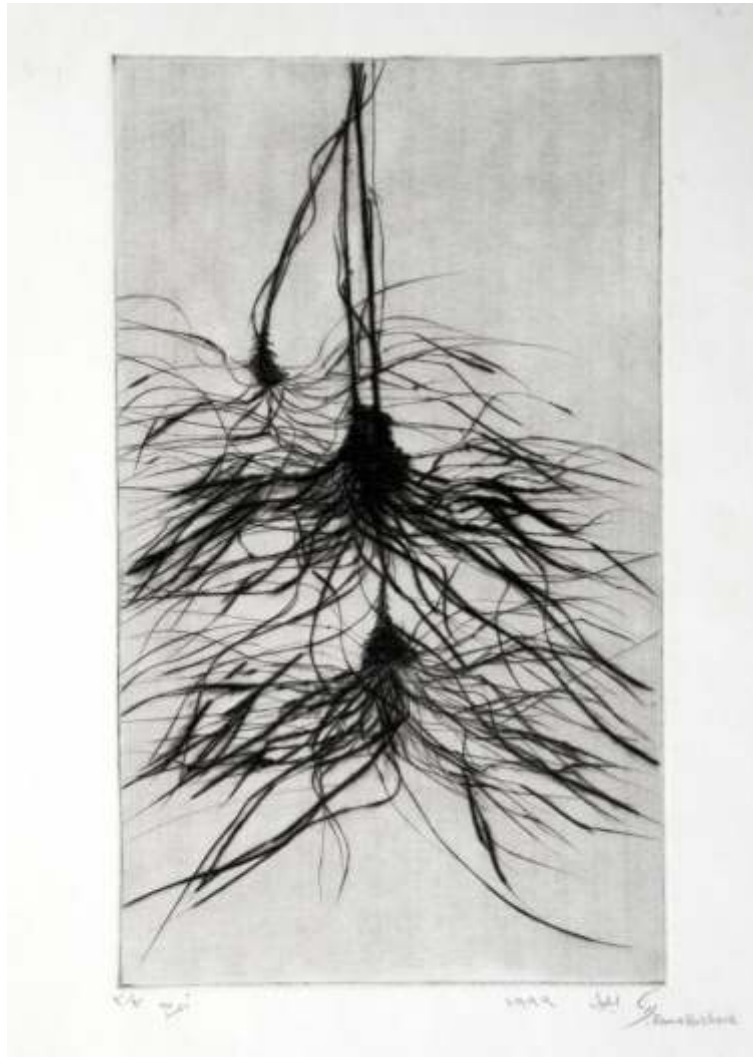
Untitled
India ink on hand-made paper, 11 x 8.5 inches
2001



Untitled
India ink on hand-made paper, 11 x 8.5 inches
2001



Untitled
India ink on hand-made paper, 17 x 11 inches
2001



Untitled
drypoint on paper, 19 x 13 inches
1999

Rana Bishara

Education

2003 - MFA Painting, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah G.A, USA.

1993 - BFA Painting major, Women studies and philosophy minor, Haifa University, Israel.

Awards, Grants & Residencies

2006 College Paul Riquet, "creating an art studio in a college with French artist", Beziers, France.

2004 Xanadu artist in residency, (Xanadu, un- gallery, artist run space), New York, USA.

2001-03 IASP-Fulbright Scholarship, MFA Painting, Savannah College of Art And Design.

1999 Darat Al-Funun Summer Academy, Amman, Jordan.

1997 Art & Dialogue Arab Mediterranean Artist Residence, Rabat, Morocco.

1996 Artist in residence, sponsored by: ProHelvetia & Gastatelier Krone Aarau, Switzerland.

1996 Art Omi International Artist's Colony, artist in residency program, New York, USA.

1994 Construction in Process, The Artist Museum, Negev, Palestine/Israel

Solo Exhibitions

2004 "Creation" Xanadu Gallery, New York City U.S.A.

2004 Bergen Hall Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah GA, USA.

2000 Art & Craft Village Gaza city, Palestine.

1999 Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, Ramallah City, Palestine.

1999 Nazareth Cultural center, Nazareth City, Palestine/Israel.

1996 Rathhaus, Aarau city, Switzerland.

1996 Jules Gloor Gallery, Aarau city, Switzerland.

1993 First Solo Exhibition, Nazareth City, Palestine/Israel

Ras Al-Hanut Group Exhibitions

Ras El-Hanut : Mediterranean Artist Group established in 1993 in Morocco and Spain.

1999 The Tatwan City Gallery, Morocco.

1998 La Croix Gallery /Institute Francis, Tangiers, Morocco.

1998 Galleria Cultures S.L, Santander, Spain.

1998 Bab El- Rwah National Gallery, Rabat, Morocco.

Group Exhibitions

- 2006 "Paranoia" International group show, touring in the UK
Opened June - Aug 06, at Leeds City Arts Gallery, Leeds City.
Focal Point Gallery, South End, Oct -Nov 06.
Freud Museum, London, Jan-Feb 07.
- 2006 "Made in Palestine" The Bridge Gallery, New York, USA.
- 2005 "Visit Palestine: A Voyage Through Contemporary Art".
- 2005 Ten Artist Ten Years, "artist in residency reunion show" Indian-Palestinian, Aarau, Switzerland.
- 2005 Lieu Commun, Espace Oscar Niemeyer, Lagalerie, Mains d'OEuvres ,CGT, Paris, France.
- 2005 T.W. Wood Art Gallery& Art Center, "Made in Palestine" Montpelier, Vermont.
- 2005 DePaul Art Museum, "The Subject of Palestine" Chicago, IL.
SomArts Cultural Center, "Made in Palestine", San Francisco, CA.
Real Beauty (International women doll project curated by Claudia De Monte)
*Contemporary Art Center New Orleans.*University of Maryland. *University of New England.
Station Art Museum, "Made in Palestine", Houston TX, USA.
West Savannah West Bank, Savannah GA, USA.
Williamsburg Bridges Palestine, Williamsburg Art & Historic Center, Brooklyn, New York
- 2002 Viva la Cabaret! Art during wartime, Atlanta G.A, USA.
- 2002 The Bridge, Graduate painting student, Chinese painting
- 2001 Entity, Palestinian Women artist, Nazareth Cultural Center Palestine/Israel.
- 2002 Palestinian Artist Today, WUK Projektraum Vienna, Austria.
Art & Craft Village Gaza city, Palestine.
- 1999 Palestinian Artist Today, Drammens Museum for Kunst OG Kulturhistorie, Norway
- 1999 Darat Al-Funun Gallery, Amman, Jordan.
- 1999 Gateway, The National Gallery of fine Arts, Amman, Jordan.
- 1999 50 Years of Creativity, Nazareth Cultural Center, Palestine/Israel.
- 1998 Palestine (a), women Artist shows, Al-Wasiti Art Center, Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel
- 1998 Ami Stienetz Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Palestine/Israel
- 1998 Om Al-Fahim City Gallery, Palestine/Israel.
- 1998 Royal Academy of Art "Palestinian Art", Stockholm, Sweden.

- 1998 Home, Anadeel Gallery Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel.
- 1997 "Art & Dialogue, Arab Mediterranean Artist", Rabat Morocco.
- 1997 "The Scream of the "Wadi", Outdoors Installation, Haifa City, Palestine/Israel.
- 1996 Art Omi International Arts Center, upstate New York, USA.
- 1995 The Artist Museum, Lodz', Poland.
- 1995 Kawkab Abu-Elheja Sculpture Garden Galilee, Palestine/Israel.
- 1994 Construction in Process "The Artist Museum" Megev, Palestine/Israel.
- 1994 From Galilee to Jerusalem, Al-Wasiti Art Center, Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel.
- 1995-6 Wohin? , One year touring exhibition in Germany, Muenster, Telgte, Kassel, Oldenberg, Duesseldorf Fellbach and Cologne.

Publications & Catalogs

- "Visit Palestine: A Voyage Through Contemporary Art" 2005
- *Lieu Commun*, by ACTUEL- ART, Jean-Robert Franco. Paris, France, 2005.
- Real Beauty (doll Project), Claudia De Monte, 2005.
- The Subject of Palestine, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago IL, USA.
- The Politics of Materials and Autobiography: Rana Bishara's Creation by Alessandro Imperato, drain on-line magazine.
- Station Museum, *Made In Palestine*. Houston: Ineri Publishing, 2004.
- Breaking the Veils, Women Artist from the Islamic world', Amman, Jordan, 2003.
- *The Year 2001 Award for young Palestinian Artist Catalogue*, Al Katan Foundation, Ramallah, Palestine 2001.
- *6+2 Young Artist, Art & Craft Village Gaza city, Palestine, 2000*.
- Solo Exhibition Catalog" The Voyage of the Returnees", 2000.
- Palestinian Artist Today by Oystein Loge& Aissa Deebi, Drammens Museum, Norway, 1999.
- Gateway, The National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan, 1999.
- Palestinian Art by Ulf Thomas Moberg, Stockholm, 1998.
- Children's Book, illustration, The Mother's Day, Haifa, 1999.
- Art Omi International Arts Center, 1996 artist's in residency catalogue, New York.

Selected Collections

The National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan.

Art/Omi International Arts Center, New York, USA.

Darat Al-Funun, Abd El-Hameed Shouman Foundation, Amman, Jordan.

The Savannah Collage of Art and Design, Savannah GA, USA.

Ms. & Mr. Qupty's Private Collection of Contemporary Palestinian Art, Jerusalem.

Pamela & Ramsey Khalidi's Private Collection, Savannah GA, USA.

Ms. Henrietta Aswad, Lebanon.

Ms. Lila Abu-Lughod & Mr. Timothy Mitchell, New York, USA.

Ms. Hala Al Kayali private collection, New York, USA.

RICH FOG



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