



Rose Water

An Homage to Twombly

Nazar Yahya

2 0 1 2

when the rose dies
it falls open, spreading
perfume
you will become a window
for every house
you will be a rose garden in
every field

(Rumi)

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(An Homage to Twombly)

I was wandering through the corridors of the Twombly exhibition from the Menil Collection in Houston.

At this time I was filled with spirituality of the ideas from my own art exhibition for the Prophet Joseph, and this feeling inside of me I could not ignore. It was transformed into a bacterium like one that would not allow my brain to stop thinking throughout my visit in the Twombly exhibition.

I remembered my friend joking when I stood on my own in front of Twombly's big painting, saying, "hasn't the artist come to finish the painting," and we both shared smiles and laughter from his comment. Then moments later I wondered and asked myself "and why should he finish, and what is the meaning of complete?"

Did the artist sense the meaning of completion, meaning of eternity, that things are not complete except in the form of absolute? Did he sense what it meant for me to meditate and ponder in the remaining parts? Or did he start from what seemed to be destruction to reach this stage of the image (painting)?

I realized it's not enough by reason/knowledge to have the mixture of colored flowers with its tears to urge reverence and meditation, colors represented urgency to what is imposed by gravity from a horizontal rhythm.

But they disappear behind the white vertical rhythm with the divine written words of the poet Rumi intertwined with the fabric, and will meet here at this moment where nothingness differs from feeling.

This exhibition Rose Water is not of flowers that you had seen in the garden but is meant to be of a journey to the spirit of roses and rose water where the experience will perfume to your senses with the abundance of purity.

Close your eyes and ponder, in this similar moment, between life and death, ponder in the serene darkness created by your eyelids application, love, pain, sadness, excitement, passion and look into your heart to the forms that you will see, you'll see something that is not quite there, not from the present world, and you will begin to sense the rose water flowing with its essence, just as meditation narrowly fleets away from your grasp at that moment.

Nazar Yahya
Houston 2012

English translation by:
Hanah Mirza, University of Houston



Face from Ur (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 38*38 inch



Ablutions (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 54*108 inch



Homage to Twombly, Pink (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 48*36 inch



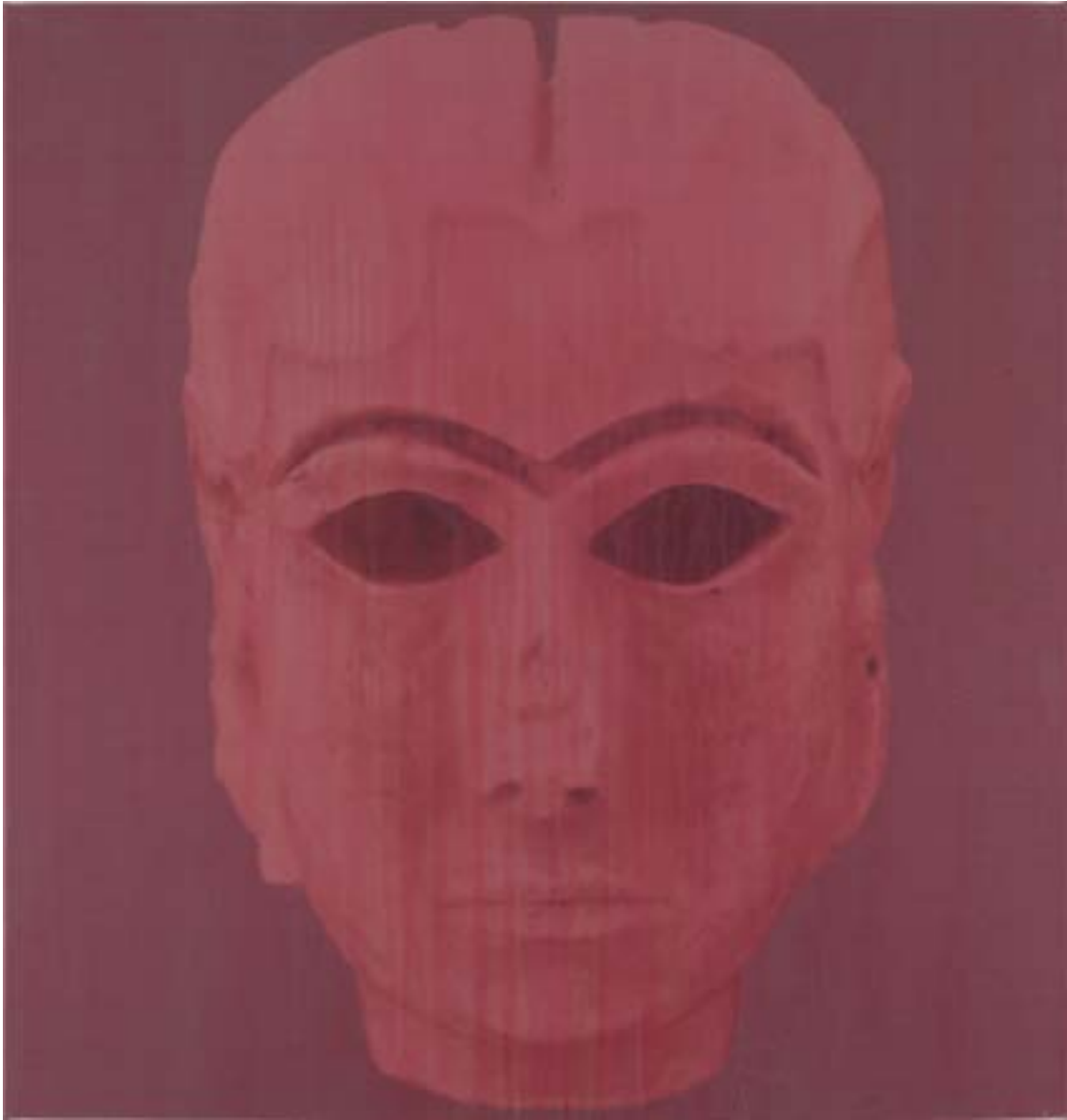
Homage to Twombly, Yellow (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 48*36 inch



Energy, I - 2 - 3 (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, diameter 48*48 inch



Homage to Twombly, Red (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 48*36 inch



6000 Years Old (2012) , Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 38*76 inch



Rose Language (2012), Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 78*78 inch



Dissolution (2012), Mixed media on rice paper on canvas, 64*64 inch

NAZAR YAHYA

B. Baghdad, 1963

EDUCATION

1987 BA in Painting, Academy of Fine Arts, Baghdad University, Baghdad

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1994 Graphic Expiation, Riwaq Gallery, Baghdad
- 2000 French Cultural Centre, Doha
- 2002 Steel and Asphalt Memory, French Cultural Centre, Doha
- 2004 Blocks, Orfali Gallery, Amman
- 2007 Beard Land, Karmin Gallery, Amman
- 2008 Beard Code, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait
- 2011 Yusuf, Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1985 Fredrickstad Biennale, Fredrickstad
- 1997 Environment and Surroundings in Iraqi Art, Jordanian National Museum, Amman
- 1999 Three Iraqi Artists, Agjal Gallery, Beirut
- Fifty Years of Iraqi Graphics, Darat Al Funun, Amman
- 2000 Fredrickstad Triennial, Fredrickstad
- 2002 Asian Art Biennale, Dhaka
- 2003 Five Contemporary Artists from Iraq, Green Art Gallery, Dubai
- 2005 Improvisation Exhibition: Seven Iraqi Artists, Alrwaq Gallery, Bahrain and
- Contemporary Iraqi Book Art, University of North Texas, Houston, Texas
- 2006 World into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East, British Museum, London
- 2007 Negative Positive to Iraqi Artists, Albareh Gallery, Manama
- 2010 Chair and Painting, Albareh Gallery, Manama
- My Home Land, Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai
- Art in Iraq Today: Part II, Meem Gallery, Dubai
- 2011 On the Edge of New, Wade Wilson Art Gallery Houston
- 2012 Artifactal Realitis, Station Museum Houston
- Impressions, print group Exhibition, Wade Wilson Art Gallery Houston
- Group Exhibition, Wade Wilson Art Gallery Santa Fe

AWARDS

- 1997 Homage to Jawad Salim, received three artistic awards
- 2004 First Prize in Painting, Emaar, Dubai

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Arab Museum of Modern Arab Art, Doha
- Art Center for Fine Arts, Baghdad
- British Museum, London
- Station Museum, Houston
- Jordanian National Museum, Amman

