

The background is a solid orange color with intricate white line-art patterns of various plants and leaves scattered across it. The patterns include ferns, broad leaves, and clusters of small leaves.

# **bashar alhroub silent garden**

6 September - 30 October 2020  
Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah

**Bashar Alhroub**  
**Silent Garden**

6 September - 30 October 2020

Private Preview: Saturday 5 September 6.00 - 8.00 pm

Zawyeh Gallery, Ramallah

A riot of flowers with jarring colors and harsh angles dominates the forefront, at other times they take a backstage to blue, green, and grey hues, depending on the time of the year or the day the scenes were observed.

Surprisingly, Silent Garden was not inspired during the COVID-19 pandemic when isolation became central to humans, and when people started looking inwards for refuge. The series is the result of a few years' work, simulating the artist's life and stemming from his own sense of isolation. "I feel that I'm stranger on so many levels, especially on the political level, like everyone else. I have no say in issues that affect my life and existence on this land, and as time passes, I feel more helpless and isolated." Frustrated and unable to make a change or blend in, Bashar Alhroub made his garden with its exotic plants the center of his attention not only by attending to it but also by painting the new blossoming flowers, the various plants, and the diverse combination of colors throughout the seasons. Using acrylic and coal on canvas, Bashar produced a set of artworks that has roots in impressionism, reminding us of works by Monet and Rousseau.

We can see similarities between the flowers, exotic in nature, and the alienation that the artist feels as he tries to adapt to his surroundings. Looking at the perspective of the paintings, we see these similarities when the artist places himself on par with the plants in the visual sense. In front of the big canvas, we are overwhelmed with the dominant tall plants and can sense a conversation between them and the artist, as if the plants have turned into his intimate soul mates.

Ultimately, Bashar's Silent Garden transforms into a healing escape rather than a physical reality. It becomes a sanctuary that provides therapy to the stranger in Bashar's soul, bringing about the peace and tranquility that he strives for in pursuit of his inner reality away from the outside world.

A secret garden can only be accessed through a secret door, and in this exhibition, Bashar opens the door, letting us into his secret wordless world, revealing the intimate, secluded personal journey of the past few years.



Silent Garden #1 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 200 x 295 cm



Silent Garden #2 (2019), acrylic on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



Silent Garden #3 (2019), acrylic on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



Silent Garden #4 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm



Silent Garden #5 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm



Silent Garden #6 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 120 x 150 cm





Silent Garden #7 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 160 x 120 cm



Silent Garden #8 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 150 x 120 cm



Silent Garden #9 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 160 x 120 cm



Silent Garden #10 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 120 x 120 cm



Silent Garden #11 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Silent Garden #12 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Silent Garden #13 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Silent Garden #14 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 160 x 120 cm





Silent Garden #15 (2019-20), acrylic on canvas, 90 x 70 cm



Silent Garden #16 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



**Silent Garden #17** (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



**Silent Garden #18** (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



**Silent Garden #19** (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



Silent Garden #20 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



Silent Garden #21 (2020), acrylic on canvas, 70 x 70 cm



DETAIL  
Silent Garden #16





DETAIL  
Silent Garden #19



DETAIL  
Silent Garden #20

## **Artist Biography**

Born in Jerusalem in 1978, currently living and working in Ramallah. Bashar Alhroub graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from Al-Najah National University, Palestine in 2001. He was awarded the Ford Foundation fellowship to pursue an MFA, which he completed in 2010 from the Winchester School of Art, the University of Southampton in the UK. In 2012, Alhroub was awarded the first grand prize at the 14th Art Asian Biennial, Bangladesh.

Alhroub works with a variety of media including photography, video installation, drawing, and paintings. His work directly deals with the polemics of a place, questioning its role in humanity and its influence on creativity. His work is deeply influenced by the socio-political sentiments that assert his identity as well as his desire to belong to a social and cultural community; rooted in a particular place, Alhroub constantly longs for a feeling of attachment, a sense of significant ownership of that place.

More recently, his work began to engage with the search into the self. Using the body as a signifier, his work shows the threatened self-identity through the process of scrutiny and experimentation. The work deals with personal vulnerability and experience of existential anxiety strongly associated with issues such as religion, nationalism, conflict, and identity construction. Moreover, it looks for meaning, not in the individual sign, but in the context of exile and fragmentation.

Bashar Alhroub's work is also included in a number of international collections and museums including the Imperial War Museum, London; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; China Printmaking Museum, China; Bengal National Gallery, Bangladesh; Birzeit University Museum collection, Palestine; Omi Art Centre, New York; and Michael Abbate collection, New York; Bank of Palestine collection, Palestine; Contemporary Art Platform Kuwait- Kuwait and Dalloul Art Foundation DAF in Beirut.



7A Albireh, Ramallah, Palestine  
Warehouse 44, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE  
zanani@zawyeh.net  
+971 585925667 | www.zawyeh.net