

29. Februar 2024

PRESS RELEASE

TAKLA PROMOTIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG ART FROM SYRIA

With works by Nada Al-Ajoze (Latakia), Rand Abou Fakher (Brussels), Aref Najdat Abdulla (Hama), Rida Alahmar (Bremen) and Maya Zaczac (Tartus)

Exhibition at the HOUSE OF SYRIAN ART in Bremen | Curated by Frizzi Krella

March 2 – April 13, 2024

Opening: March 1, 2024 at 6pm

This year, two First Prizes of the Takla Promotional Award for Young Art from Syria are awarded to Nada Al-Ajoze and Rand Abu Fakher

Painter Nada Al-Ajoze and film maker Rand Abu Fakher both receive a first prize. The third prize goes to painter Aref Najdat Abdulla.

The Takla Foundation awards the prize in the amount of 5000€ biannually. It will formally be awarded at the opening of the Exhibition on March 1, 2024 at the House of Syrian Art.

The Jury consisted of Angela Lammert (art historian, Akademie der Künste, Berlin), Filip Zorzor (painter and artist, Berlin) and the director of the House of Syrian Art, Frizzi Krella.

The Promotional Award for Young Art from Syria was awarded for the first time in 2021. Despite the currently difficult and adverse circumstances, young emerging artists of Syrian heritage shall receive encouragement and support in developing their artistic identity.

In 2021, Tarek Arabi was honored with the first Takla Promotional Award.

While Nada Al-Ajoze portrays the maltreated human body in front of dark, empty backgrounds, Rand Abou Fakher uses her films to show complicated human interaction, ranging from an everyday life in a constant state of emergency to quiet dialogues rooting in previously experienced unparalleled pain.

Her movie *So We Live* is in equal parts an artistic masterpiece and a shattering work of art, urging us to embark on an inward journey about both our personal life and the current situation in the world.

Rand Abou Fakher speaks about the prevalent topics of war and peace and depicts them in a very intimate setting, within the family.

The works exhibited on the occasion of the Takla Promotional Award for Young Art from Syria illustrate wonderfully what a universal language art is. It offers inconceivable ways to give shape to utopian visions, to put into words the unspeakable.

Especially during hard times art can convey a message of hope and encouragement. The Exhibition of the award winners is an invitation to embark on a discovery journey with the young generation of Syrian artists while simultaneously serving as a testament to the powerful force of creativity for humanity.

Nada Al-Ajoze

Born in 1997 in Syria, Nada Al-Ajoze studied painting at the Tishreen-Universität in Latakia from 2016 – 2020 and still works there as a lecturer for painting and drawing.

Her work is characterized by a conceptual approach, challenging the limits of the pictorial.

Rand Abou Fakher

The film maker was born in Syria in 1995 and has been living in Brussels since 2015. In Syria, she studied the flute at the Conservatory in Damascus and sound engineering at the Institute for Dramatic Arts.

In 2018, she premiered her first short film *Braided Love* at the Sarajevo Film Festival, for which she was mentored by the Hungarian film director Béla Tarr.

As an artist and director she is enthusiastically exploring different forms of expression. Her short film *So We Live* was shown at the 70th Berlinale in 2020 in Berlin.

Aref Najdat Abdulla

Born in 1985 in Syria, Aref Najdat Abdulla graduated from the University of Fine Arts of Aleppo in 2010 and stayed on as an assistant professor for drawing until 2014.

In 2022 he was short listed for the Abdul Latif Al-Samoudi Award / Qazah Gallery and has been working as an independent artist since 2017. His work can be found for example in the collection of the Ministry of Culture and in private collections in Syria, Lebanon, the United States, Canada and Sweden.

Rida Alahmar

Born in Damascus, Syria, in 1996 Rida Alahmar moved to Moscow in 2012 and went on to receive an education in theater and speech. In 2014 he transferred to the Studienkolleg of the University of Hamburg, from which he graduated in 2018. He is currently studying architecture in Bremen and taking painting classes at the University of Arts in Berlin and the College of Arts Bremen.

Maya Zaczac

Born in Syria in 1998, Maya Zaczac completed her studies from 2016 – 2021 with a BA in Architecture. Since 2022 she's been dedicating her free time to painting while free lancing for an architecture firm. Her prized painting stems from the series *Nocturne* (2023), in which she depicts the contrasts of dark and light, simultaneously using them as a metaphor for the current situation.

PROGRAM

Opening | March 1, 2024 | 6 pm

Official welcome: Chawkat Takla, Founder Takla Stiftung

Introduction: Frizzi Krella, Director House of Syrian Art

TAKLA

Notice of further events will be released shortly.

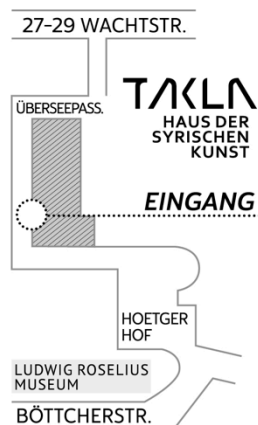
Press images available for download at www.takla-stiftung.org >Press

TAKLA HAUS DER
SYRISCHEN
KUNST

Opening Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2pm – 5pm
Saturday 12pm – 5 pm
Monday, Thursday and Sunday closed

The entrance is free.

Guides upon request: info@takla-stiftung.org



House of Syrian Art

Wachtstraße 27-29

Entrance Böttcherstraße/ Hoetger-Hof

28195 Bremen

Germany

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PRESS IMAGES



Nada Al-Ajoze

Recapturing our youth | 2023
Acryl on Canvas | 59 x 70 x cm



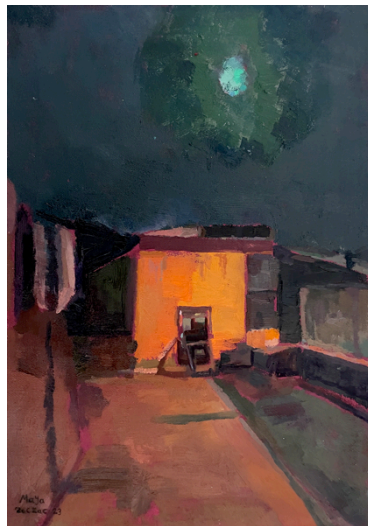
Rand Abou Fakher

So We LIVE | 2020
Short Film



Aref Najdat Abdullah

Between Heaven and Earth | 2023
Acryl / Canvas | 70 x 50 cm



Maya Zaczac

rooftop nocturne #2 | 2023
Acryl/ Canvas | 50 x 35 cm



Rida Alahmar

O.T. | 2023
Oil/ Canvas | 100 x 80 cm