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| **Hallaj, Mustafa (1938-2002)** |
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| Mustafa Hallaj is considered a pioneer of Palestinian graphic arts, as well as an important figure in the country’s resistant art movement. He was born in 1938 in Salame village in the Jaffa district. His early childhood memories of exodus and exile from the homeland in 1948 were to be a recurring theme that haunted his artistic works. In 1958, he went to study sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo. In 1968, he completed his postgraduate studies of higher education in the Luxor Atelier, where he focused on the history of ancient Egyptian, Canaanite, and Phoenician art, which had a significant influence on his entire oeuvre. After 1968, his interest changed increasingly from sculpture to etching, engraving and printing, which he found to be a more accessible medium that could reach large audiences. Hallaj spent eight years in Beirut, and left following the Israeli invasion of the city in 1982. He lost a significant amount of his studio when leaving Beirut due to severe bombing. He went to Damascus, and after recovering from the devastating events in Beirut, he established The Naji al-Ali gallery in 1987. Linear forms, outlines, and silhouettes dominate his work, which is structured mostly as murals. Hallaj is most known for his etchings and woodcuts, and his distinctive style of representation, characterised by a bold linear style, which draws on ancient traditions. |
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| Further reading:  ( Al Hoash Art Court)  (Hadidi)  (Halaby) |