



SAAD YAGAN





## SAAD YAGAN EXHIBITION

JANUARY 20 – MARCH 1, 2016

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## BIOGRAPHY

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1950, Saad Yagan is a leading contemporary Syrian painter. He is regarded as a key member in the development of contemporary Syrian Art and is one of the most significant modern-expressionist painters in the Middle-East.

Yagan began painting at the age of thirteen. He studied painting at the Plastic Arts Center of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Aleppo and graduated in 1964. He held his first solo exhibition at the city's National Museum five years later.

Yagan is widely known for chronicling the modern day experiences of Aleppo residents and their instinctive attachment to the centuries-old city. Yagan's atmospheric paintings have followed two distinct tracts, and can be divided between scenes derived from ancient mythology and literature such as his Gilgamesh and Arabian Nights series, and compositions exploring the morose café culture that hosts Syria's recluses, alienated philosophers, and an assortment of other downtrodden clientele.

Yagan's narrative threads feature stylized figures whose elongated faces appear worn by time, adopting the lines and brushwork of their settings. Yet their muscular bodies, which appear to be patterned after the perception of hallowed bodies found in religious icons, are rendered with an aestheticized elegance.

Over the past 50 years, he has produced a vibrant, compelling and expressive body of

work in painting. His work is internationally acquired, and heavily reviewed in newspapers, magazines and televisions. He has also been featured in several art books and his personal art books titled; 'Gilgamesh', 'Music' '1001 Nights', 'Liberation' and the 'History of Aleppo'. He has served as a commentator for Syrian television, broadcasting a series of documentaries on art. Yagan has also lectured extensively in local universities.

To date, he has exhibited in over one hundred exhibitions at home and abroad.

His works are housed in the National Museum of Damascus and Aleppo and the Syrian Ministry of Culture. Internationally his works can be found in Musee d'Art Contemporain-de Montreal, Canada, Museum of Modern Art, Belgium and the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

The artist's recent solo and group exhibitions have been held at Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut (2014); Art House, Damascus (2011, 2009, 2008); Katzen Center for the Arts, Washington DC (2007); and Art Form Gallery, Montreal (2007)

In 2012 he was successfully auctioned at Christies, Dubai for his painting Bayaa' al Jara'id Abou Hosn (The newspaper Seller Abou Hosn)

Saad Yagan currently lives in Beirut, Lebanon.





My art is universal as it portrays human feelings and psychology. Love, jealousy and other human feelings are the same whether you are in Japan, Denmark, Syria or Sudan. From boredom, to depression, to loneliness, I want to reveal what people are thinking. People mix in coffee shops and public places but deep down inside, they have a completely separate psychology and are each on their own.

My main aim is to illustrate oppressed people who are aware of their problems but unwilling to find a solution. I want viewers to receive that message and think whether maybe they can do something. Wherever there is a humanitarian crisis, the message in my paintings applies ...



## CHRONOLOGY AND SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

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| <b>1964</b> | Graduated from the Plastic Arts Center in Aleppo   | <b>1981</b> | Invited by the US government, together with 9 other artists to the USA on a special program to get acquainted with the modern American art.   |
| <b>1965</b> | Began participating in the state ceremonial exhibitions  | <b>1981</b> | Solo exhibition at the American Cultural Center, Damascus   |
| <b>1967</b> | Earned the Merit Medal of cotton Fair  | <b>1981</b> | Solo exhibition in watercolor at the Cultural aggregation gallery Al Furat – Nicosia – Cyprus   |
| <b>1969</b> | Solo exhibition at National Museum, Aleppo, Syria  | <b>1983</b> | Solo exhibition at the Arab Cultural Center, Damascus, and in the gallery of the National Museum, Aleppo  |
| <b>1970</b> | Attended the Faculty of Fine Arts and obtained first rank in the affiliation admission   | <b>1984</b> | Participated in the exhibition 'Modern Arab Art' exhibition which was organized by: The Arab Studies and Research Center, Montreal, Canada in Cooperation with the Montreal municipality. |
| <b>1970</b> | Solo exhibition 'Black & White' National Museum, Aleppo, Syria   | <b>1985</b> | Solo exhibition at the Arab Cultural Center, Damascus, in the National Museum, Aleppo, Syria  |
| <b>1971</b> | Solo exhibition at the soviet Cultural Center in Damascus, Syria   | <b>1985</b> | Lectured at the University of Aleppo and the University of Damascus.  |
| <b>1971</b> | Solo exhibition at the National Museum in Aleppo, Solo exhibition at the Plastic Arts Center gallery in Lattakia, Syria  | <b>1985</b> | Juror of the international Biennale at the city of Gabrovo, Bulgaria; was invited by the Bulgarian Artists Union.   |
| <b>1971</b> | Solo exhibition 'Denial' in the gallery of the National Museum, Aleppo, Syria  | <b>1986</b> | Obtained first prize at the order of engineers Syndicate exhibition in Aleppo on the subject of environment pollution   |
| <b>1972</b> | Participated in a 'Three Artists from Aleppo'. Participating Artists Louay Kayyali and Wahid Maghariba at the gallery of Dar El Fann and El Adab (Art and Literature House), Beirut, Lebanon | <b>1986</b> | Worked for five years with the handicapped children of the Charity House, Aleppo, Syria   |
| <b>1973</b> | Solo exhibition at the Aleppo Bar Association, Aleppo, Syria   | <b>1986</b> | Solo exhibition in the Catholic Youth gallery, Aleppo, Syria  |
| <b>1974</b> | Solo exhibition at the Arab Cultural Theatre Center in Damascus, and at the gallery of the national Museum in Aleppo, Syria  | <b>1987</b> | Solo exhibition at Ornina Gallery and the French Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria   |
| <b>1974</b> | Participated in a collective exhibition at Contact Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon  | <b>1988</b> | Exhibited at Ornina Gallery and in the Annoqta Gallery, Aleppo, Syria   |
| <b>1977</b> | Solo exhibition at the Arab Cultural Center in Damascus, Syria<br>Participated in an exhibition which toured Syria   | <b>1988</b> | Teacher of art (drawing & painting) in the International School – Icarda - Aleppo, Syria  |
| <b>1979</b> | Participated in the Canadian organization of Overseas Fairs Ltd., Montreal, Canada   | <b>1989</b> | Solo exhibition in Ashtar Gallery, Damascus, Syria  |
| <b>1981</b> | Solo exhibition in the gallery of the French Cultural Center, Damascus, and in the gallery of the National Museum, Aleppo  |             |   |

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| <p><b>1990</b> Solo exhibition in Atassi Gallery, Homs, Syria</p> <p><b>1991</b> Invited by Goeth institute, Germany, for an exhibition at the Gallery of Monika Pasck. Hamburg, Germany</p> <p><b>1992</b> Solo exhibition in 'watercolor' at the Annoqta Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>1993</b> Solo exhibition at Ashtar Gallery 2, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>1994</b> Solo exhibition in 'watercolor' in Levon Chante Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>1995</b> Solo exhibition at 50x70 Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Solo exhibition at Al-Khanji Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Solo exhibition at Shoura" Gallery, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>1996</b> Began presenting TV programs about art on the Syrian Satellite TV channel.</p> <p><b>1997</b> Solo exhibition 'Gilgamesh Epic' at Al-Jabiri Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>1997</b> Solo exhibition 'Black &amp; White' in Qawaf Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Solo exhibition 'Gilgamesh' exhibition in Atassi Gallery, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>1998</b> Solo exhibition "The Deluge and Women" at Shoura Gallery, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>1998</b> Solo exhibition 'Gilgamesh Epic' at Four-Season Gallery, Los Angeles, and USA.</p> <p><b>1999</b> Solo exhibition 'Toward a modern Aleppo icon' at Alsayed Gallery – Damascus – Qawaf Gallery – Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>2000</b> Participated in a conference discussing the future of culture and arts, from the period after 2000 A.D at the Unesco Palace Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><b>2000</b> Solo exhibition 'Tarab in Aleppo' at Ashtar Gallery (Bilad Alsham) Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>2001</b> Invited by the Kuwait National Council to exhibit at the Art Gallery in Abdullah Alsalem.</p> <p><b>2002</b> Solo exhibition on 'Liberation' in Attasi Gallery, Damascus "Bilad Alsham Gallery, Aleppo.</p> | <p><b>2003</b> Exhibited in the Unesco Palace, Beirut upon invitation of the Southern Lebanon Cultural Council</p> <p><b>2004</b> Solo exhibition 'The Wall' at Fateh Al Moudaress Gallery, Damascus</p> <p><b>2004</b> Solo exhibition in small size painting for the book signing of ( Women and Flood ) in Dar Kalimat Gallery, Aleppo, Syria</p> <p><b>2005</b> Solo exhibition 'Saad Yagan diaries 2005' in Ashtar Gallery, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>2006</b> Duo exhibition with the Canadian Artist Bernie Sorge on the occasion of the Canadian Cultural days in Syria at the Arts Syndicate , Aleppo and Fateh Al Moudaress Gallery, Damascus Syria</p> <p><b>2006</b> Participated in the Liberation Exhibition (A Humanitarian Document ) at the Public Park, Aleppo and Al Assad Library, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>2007</b> Solo exhibition at the Arti Form gallery in Montreal, Canada</p> <p><b>2007</b> Participated in ' Art from Syria' at the American University Museum, Washington, DC</p> <p><b>2008</b> Solo exhibition 'Thousand and one night' - at the Art house gallery in Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>2009</b> Solo exhibition 'Music' at the Art house gallery in Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>2010</b> Exhibited '100 + 1' ( Painting on ceramic plates ) at KARMA Art Gallery - Contribution for supporting Aleppo Citadel Friends Association</p> <p><b>2011</b> Solo exhibition 'The other' at Art House Gallery, Damascus, Syria</p> <p><b>2012</b> Successfully auctioned at Christies, Dubai for his painting Bayaa' al Jara'id Abou Hosn (The newspaper Seller Abou Hosn)</p> <p><b>2013</b> Solo exhibition at Orjowan Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><b>2014</b> Solo exhibition at Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon</p> |
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**Last Man 2015**  
130x300cm  
Acrylic on canvas





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**Maestro 2015**  
160x300cm  
Acrylic on canvas



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**Man and Society 2011**

90x110cm

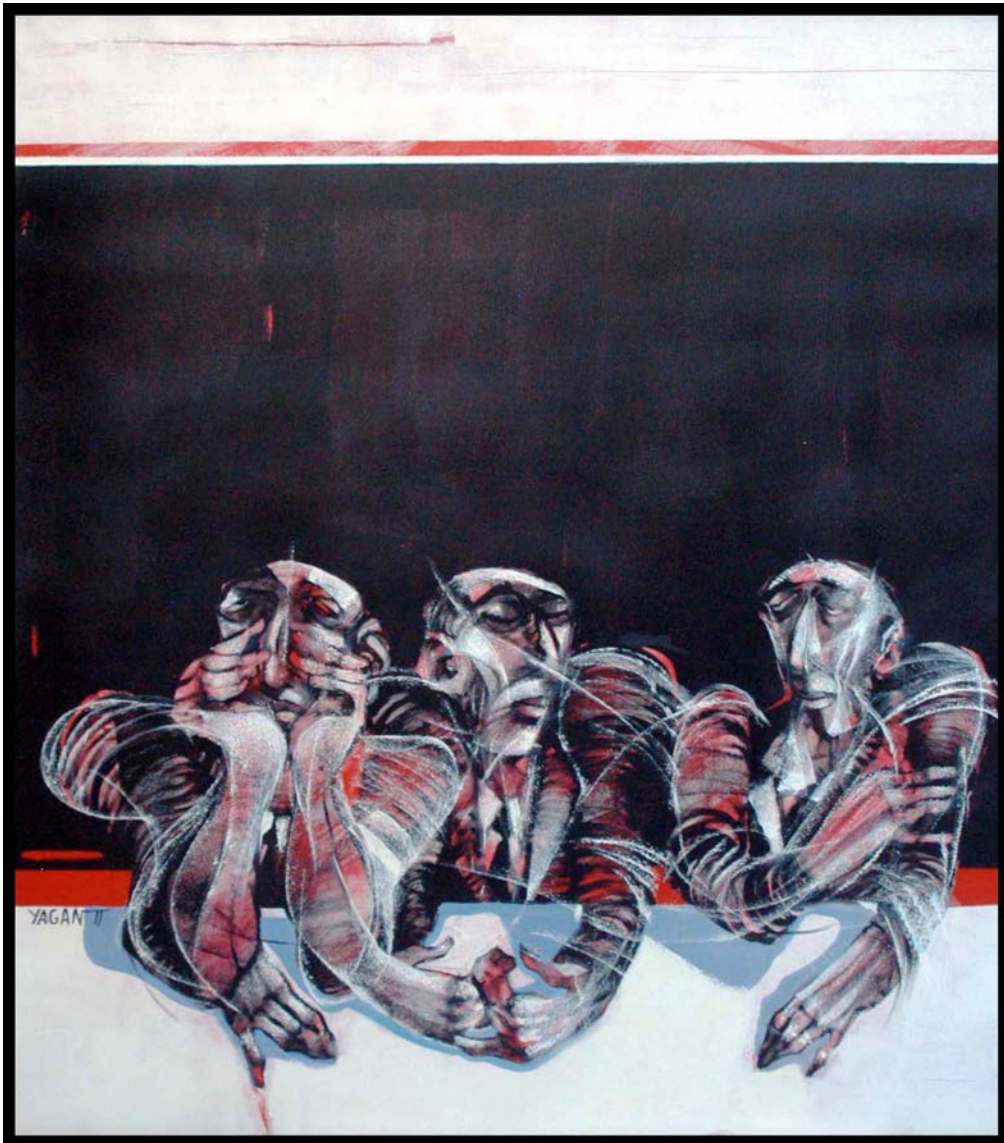
Acrylic on canvas



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**Man and Women in Mirror 2011**  
100x85cm  
Acrylic on canvas





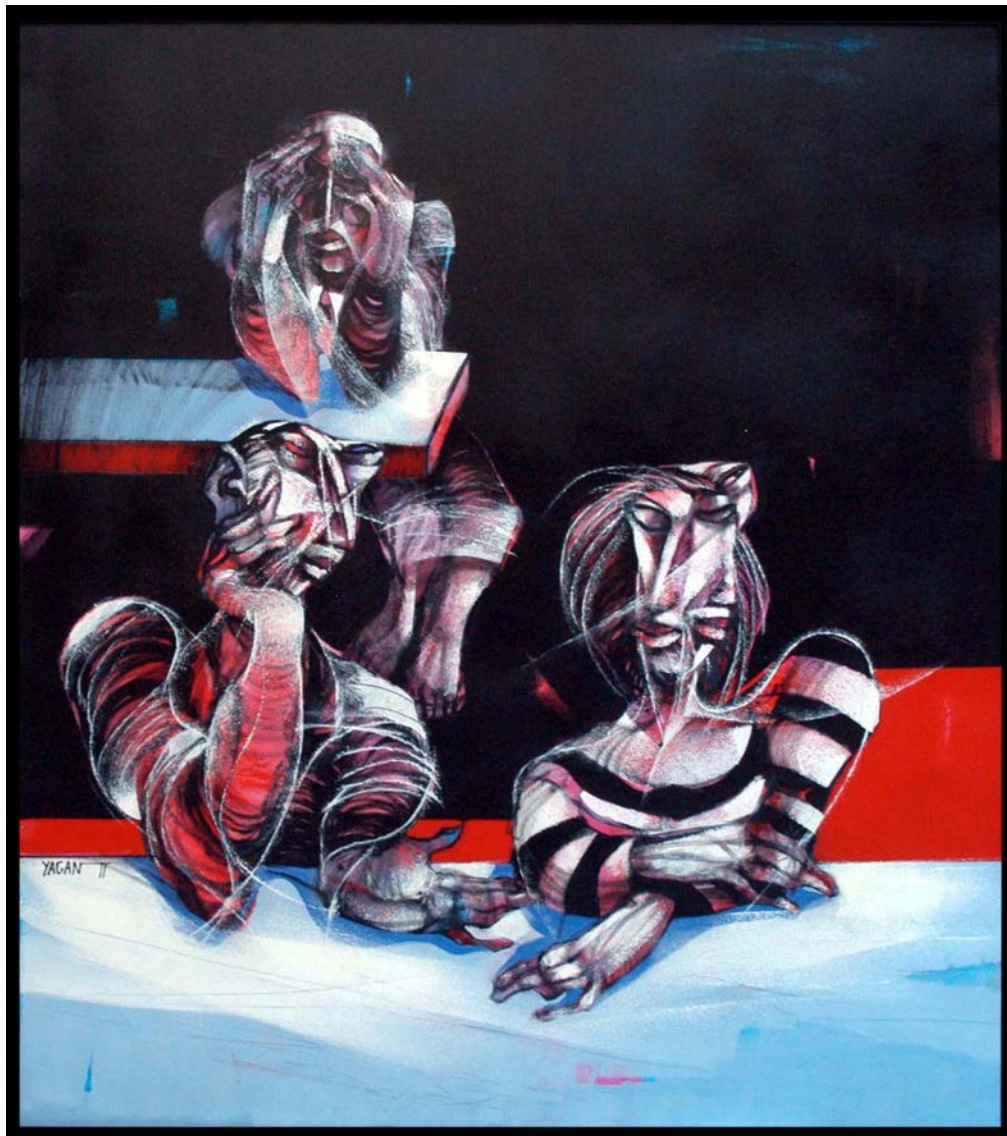
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**Man in the Bar 2011**

95x75cm

Acrylic on canvas





**Women in the Bar 2011**  
95x75cm  
Acrylic on canvas



**Women in Red 2011**

120x100cm

Acrylic on canvas



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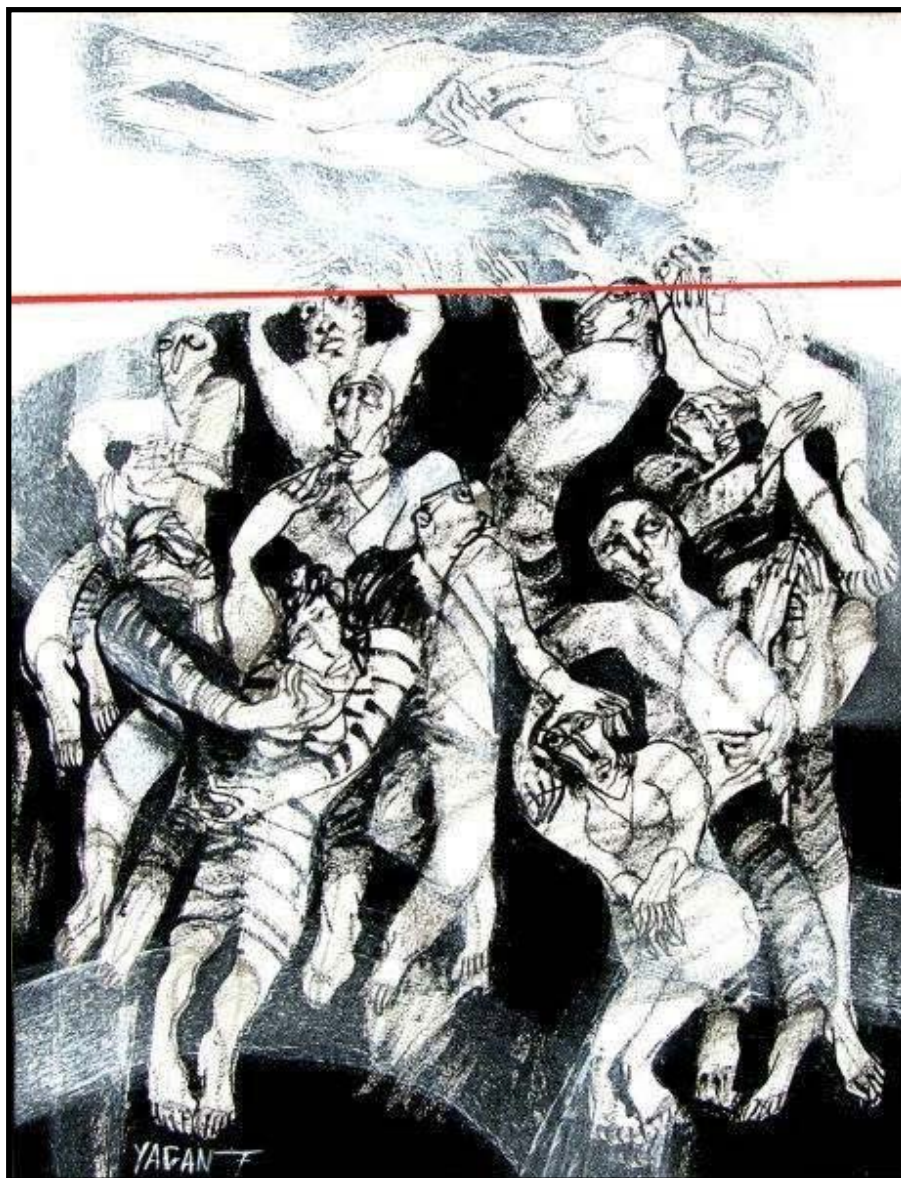
**Playing Cards 2011**  
100x240cm  
Acrylic on canvas





**Red line #2 2008**  
50x70cm  
Acrylic on canvas





**Red line #1 2008**  
50x70cm  
Acrylic on canvas



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**Reflections 2013**

120x90cm

Acrylic on canvas





**Women in the Mirror 2008**  
70x60cm  
Acrylic on canvas



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**Self portrait 2015**

160x120cm

Oil on canvas





**Family 2011**  
120x100 cm  
Acrylic on canvas

# ARTSPACE

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