



EXHIBITION REVIEW

Art of Memory – Life Before 1948

By Martin Mulloy

Born in Latrun in 1943, Nabil Anani is a key founder of the modern Palestinian art movement.

Anani personifies what it means to be a Palestinian living under occupation since much of his work continues to be influenced by the collective narrative – a narrative that centres on loss and subjugation. Yet his work is also a celebration of all things Palestinian – the Palestinian village and families; the olive grove; and Jerusalem.

A multi-talented artist, he pioneered the use of local media such as leather, henna, natural dyes, wood, and weaving. Anani's creative techniques and stunning use of colour make his work attractive and highly desirable. His paintings adorn the walls of many homes in Palestine and beyond, and his public works, murals, and sculptures are to be found across many Palestinian towns.



Andolina Hawwa, Akka, 1941 Nabil Anani 2014.

Anani's latest project promises to be one of his most exciting initiatives yet. *Art of Memory* celebrates Palestinian life and society before the upheaval that culminated with the *Nakba* in 1948. Inspired by Walid Khalidi's *Before Their Diaspora* and the work of early-twentieth-century Palestinian photographers such as Khalil Raad, Anani uses rare published and unpublished photographs that capture diverse aspects of Palestinian society. Anani depicts families, landscape, and everyday life in pre-1948 Palestine in a series of paintings that form an impressive collection of work both celebrating Palestinian life and also reminding us of the collective injustice and loss suffered by Palestinians after 1948. Anani's vision restores, and celebrates, a denied and often-forgotten reality. His paintings bear testimony to another history and re-ignite memory.

Delivered in a series of travelling exhibitions, the project will culminate in a major show and a comprehensive book to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the *Nakba*. *Art of Memory* is a celebration of life in Palestine and pays homage to the vibrant and dynamic society that existed before 1948.

Private View: 6 December 2014, 6 - 9 pm

Exhibition runs from 6 - 20 December 2014, 12 - 7 pm daily



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