

zakharif

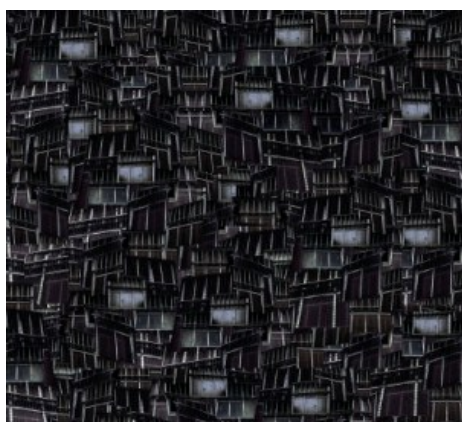
Charlotte Bank's blog on contemporary artistic and cultural practice from the Arab world and beyond, nomadic lifestyle and transculturality

Euphoria and Beyond

Posted on [May 13, 2011](#) by [zakharifblog](#)

Solo exhibition by Steve Sabella

Palestinian artist Steve Sabella's work centres on concepts of exile and dislocation. In his project "In Exile" he addressed the fragmentation of his own mind that he had felt all his life and which was brought to a further climax by a remark of his young daughter when she expressed a longing for "her city Jerusalem".



Steve Sabella: "In Exile 5", 2008, was included in my "Borderlines" exhibition Oct. – Nov. 2010 at Green Art Gallery, Dubai.

More on the "In Exile" project for which Sabella won the Ellen Auerbach Prize of the "Akademie der Künste", Berlin in 2008:

http://universes-in-universe.org/eng/nafas/articles/2010/steve_sabella

<http://stevesabella.com/exile.html>

In his more recent works, Sabella seems to have reached a new inner peace; "It seems that I have managed to slowly glue my fragments so that they appear complete in a healthier way. Before, they were torn apart in every direction, where now they make some form of a unity. Hence, 'I feel more stable'".

The series "In Transition" relates to early phases of this new state of mind, one of greater lightness, filled with the effort to "unlock the aesthetic and beauty" buried in the artist's brain. Light shines through the branches of trees, caught in floating movements, ephemeral and fragile like the first rays of morning light after a long and dark night. Here, a cautious hope enters Sabella's universe, a hope that gains in momentum in "Euphoria", a triptych celebrating the euphoric deliverance from the mental bonds of anxiety in what might be called a "mental heterotopia". Through the use of a similar technique of multi-angled photomontages as in "In Exile",

each of the three single pieces show a kaleidoscope of up-rooted trees. But their up-rootedness does not make them appear doomed, rather they seem to stretch out their branches, circling around each other in a light-hearted dance.

This new-found freedom is further explored in “Beyond Euphoria”, the series Sabella was working on when demonstrations erupted in Tunisia and Egypt. “Beyond Euphoria” invites the viewer into multi-layered landscapes, indefinable, yet attractive, stretching toward a far horizon.

The exhibition “Euphoria & Beyond” runs through June 11, 2011 at the Empty Quarter Gallery in Dubai.

<http://stevesabella.com/euphoria-and-beyond-solo-dubai.html>

http://www.theemptyquarter.com/index.php?p=exhibits_current

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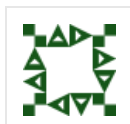
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About zakharifblog

Independent researcher, curator and writer, living and working between Berlin and Damascus

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