

mark hachem
New York | Paris | Beirut

Hanny Khoury



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BIOGRAPHY

- In the Holy Lands which witnessed a fierce conflict for existence, the artist Hanny Khoury was born in 1990 in a small village near Tiberias called Eilabun, the only village, among hundreds of Palestinian villages, that its people had Forced displacement and then returned to it after the Nakba of 1948. Due to its Christian religious character, the Pope of the Vatican issued a decision to the British colonizer to allow the people of Eilabun to return to it under the new rule (Israel). In 1952, the people of Eilabun, including Khoury's family, returned to the village where the artist was born later. (Only few of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were resettled after the Nakba).
- In a humble family in a small village, Khoury was born to a Christian minority within an Arab Palestinian minority in a state of "Israel". Khoury grow up in an environment with sharp and constant debates with everything in the surroundings on social, political, intellectual and literary definitions and a complicated identity conflict. He went to the Church regularly and was active in religious activities which later influenced his works. Within this illogical difference, his interest in art was born.
- This interest developed during high school through an art program presented by the school at that time. He learned for the first time from his teacher Ola Al-Henawi who introduced him to the materials, techniques, colors and basic artistic styles.

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2006

He finished high school - "during the Israel war on Lebanon".

2007

He started a preparatory year to learn visual art at the Manshar Hamanhal College in Tel Aviv. He started his biggest crises with an intellectual and religious conflict and a social identity conflict in a conservative society. This resulted in a severe disagreement with his family that led to him leaving home and unwillingly abandoning his education. He went to Jerusalem, the center of the conflict in that area.

He lived as a homeless, moving between the two parts of Jerusalem – “Arab” eastern Jerusalem and “Jewish” western Jerusalem. He slept in public places, in harmony with Jerusalem’s character. He used to talk to pilgrims from all over the world. His character matured between the alleys of the streets of Jerusalem – literally – and between the strange stories and miseries he lived, which are reflected today in his works.

2008

Carrying a small backpack, he did some small jobs for a year and managed to save an amount of money which he used to rent his first apartment in Ben Yehuda Street in western Jerusalem.

2009 - 2010

Jerusalem, To continue his artistic journey, he produced his collection “Between Reality and Imagination” with the theme of a young man dreaming of an ordinary life. With these works he opened his first personal gallery which was attended by 7 people he knew. He tried to invite some people from the artistic community but they did not attend.

2011

With the failure of the gallery, an unsuccessful romantic relationship, the suicide of a friend, the disappointed Khoury returned to Eilabun. A new production attempt - Failed attempts to contact organizations and artistic figures - Some of them ignored him because he “did not finish college”.

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2012

He learned from artist “Michael Hallaq”, a professor and lecturer at the University of Haifa. He mastered the “oil painting” technique and produced a number of art works.

Over the course of 3 years, he studied and practiced art on a daily basis. He studied the history of art and analyzed psychological impacts and personal experiences and how they are reflected in the works of artists.

2015 - 2016

Nazareth, He broke a record in the Guinness World Records, a portrait of a Palestinian poet, "the largest mosaics painting of an expired toast". He became popular in the community, but at the same time he was attacked by some parties because his main message behind that work was to assert the “Palestinian identity”. He did not become popular in the artistic community.

2017 - 2018

The aspiration to reach the world encouraged him to immigrate to Canada, far away from the conflicts and miseries of the Middle East. He started a new stage of his life, different from what he was used to, a unique artistic experience and style. He produced a new art collection that was admired by art seekers and collectors in the Holy Lands and the Arab World, to take a closer look at Han’s experience.

2019

Bethlehem, Mr. George Al-Aama, a lecturer and art seeker and collector in the Middle East, held the first personal gallery for Khoury as an artist worth of attention and as an important experience that adds to the artistic movement. The gallery was named “The Chaos of Senses” in the hotel lobby surrounded by the all (owned by the world artist Banksy). Moreover, the gallery was extended from one month to two months after its success and the media coverage and attendance it achieved. Many art lovers said that it was “one of the most successful individual galleries in the history of the Palestinian artistic movement”, putting Khoury on the artistic map in the Holy Lands and Middle East, in the hope to bring him global attention.

2020

Abu Dahbi, “Break” a group exhibition hosted by art booth, Salwa Zeidan gallery.

THE AMERICAN REPORTER, JULY 2021

A Dark Past and a Bright Future: Palestinian artist Hanny Khoury Steps on to the International Scene



by [Jennifer Ross](#)

[July 30, 2021](#)

in [Lifestyle](#)



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VIEWS

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Between 2006 and 2008, Palestinian artist Hanny Khoury was homeless. For two years he roamed the streets of Jerusalem from east to west in a nearly biblical quest for identity. Today, Khoury has successfully established himself as a major Palestinian artist, whose poignant work resonates with experiences of trauma, identity confusion, and instability.

Born in 1990, Hanny Khoury grew up in Eilabun, a small Palestinian village near Tiberias. As a Christian Palestinian, he dealt with the added social pressure and internal conflict of living as a minority. Khoury sought creative outlets from a young age, means of expressing the identity crises brought on by his family and society. Khoury took courses in visual arts at Manshar Hamanhal College in Tel Aviv, but his journey was cut short when he left his conservative family home to live independently. On the streets, he met countless numbers of people and learned invaluable lessons that would greatly inspire his artistic works.



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Khoury's work clearly reflects the years of trial and struggle he endured. Despite being confident in his identity now, Khoury faced years of uncertainties. His work expertly represents his constant struggle against attempts to negate his identity and beliefs. Using a dark, natural palette and organic imagery, Khoury expresses the anger and apprehension of his internal struggle. He returns most often in his work to human or animal forms but distorts and manipulates them. Curved and malleable, his figures bend and fold around each other. Halos and other religious symbols appear throughout his work, pointing towards his complex relationship with his faith. The sun and moon factor into many of his strange landscapes, indicators of time and spirituality, as well as the duality of nature. What is perhaps most jarring about Khoury's work is the distortion of features and limbs, as if he is conjuring faded memories of people he once knew, attempting to recall a forgotten life. The result is a disturbing, yet captivating depiction of the artist's inner psyche.



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Like many artists, it took years for Khoury to establish a reputation in the region and abroad. After landing on his feet in 2008, Khoury began to paint again. His first collection, "Between Reality and Imagination," was largely overlooked by the artistic community, but it changed something in the young artist who was moved to continue his education shortly after. Between 2012 and 2015, Khoury practiced art every day, expanding his skills, techniques, and knowledge. He studied art history and analyzed how psychology and personal experiences are portrayed in various artists' work. He was finally recognized in 2015 when he broke the Guinness World Record for "the largest mosaic painting of expired toast" with a portrait of a Palestinian poet made entirely out of stale bread. However, he was criticized for his assertion of the "Palestinian identity," and snubbed by the artistic community once again.



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In 2017, he decided to migrate to Canada where he could express himself freely, away from the complex identity politics of the Middle East. He embarked on a new leg of his artistic journey and produced a collection that caught the eye of regional collectors who began to take a closer look at Khoury's story and his work. The momentum began to build and Khoury had his first exhibition in Bethlehem in 2019 hosted by Mr. George Al-Aama, a well-known lecturer and art collector in the Middle East. Entitled "The Chaos Scene", the exhibition garnered attention from the arts community and the media. In 2020, Khoury took part in "Break," a group exhibition hosted by art booth in Salwa Zeidan Gallery in Abu Dhabi.



Inspiring and humbling, Khoury's story is one of redemption and perseverance. From living in the streets to taking on the international art scene, Khoury is the living proof to never give up on your dreams, no matter how rocky the path might be. Despite major setbacks, he held fast to his vision, remaining confident in the identity he forged for himself. Today he is

poised to begin the next phase of his career with Mark Hachem Gallery, an internationally renowned contemporary art gallery with locations in Paris, Beirut, and New York.

THE LONDON POST, AUGUST

A Dark Past and a Bright Future

Palestinian artist Hanny Khoury receives long overdue recognition

Between 2006 and 2008, Palestinian artist Hanny Khoury was homeless. For two years he roamed the streets of Jerusalem from east to west in a nearly biblical quest for identity. Now, 15 years later, he is signed with Mark Hachem Gallery, an internationally renowned contemporary art gallery with locations in Paris, Beirut, and New York. Inspiring and humbling, Khoury's story is one of redemption and perseverance.

Born in 1990, Hanny Khoury grew up in Eilabun, a small Palestinian village near Tiberias. As a Christian Palestinian, he dealt with the added social pressure and internal conflict of living as a minority. Khoury sought creative outlets from a young age, means of expressing the identity crises brought on by his family and society. Khoury took courses in visual arts at Manshar Hamanhal College in Tel Aviv, but his journey was cut short when he left his conservative family home to live independently. On the streets, he met countless numbers of people and learned invaluable lessons that would greatly inspire his artistic works.

Khoury's work clearly reflects the years of trial and struggle he endured. Using a dark, natural palette and organic imagery, Khoury creates Surrealist paintings with a dark edge. He returns most often in his work to human or animal forms but distorts and manipulates them. Curved and malleable, his figures bend and fold around each other. Halos and other religious symbols appear throughout his work, pointing towards his complex relationship with his faith. The sun and moon factor into many of his strange landscapes, indicators of time and spirituality, as well as the duality of nature. What is perhaps most jarring about Khoury's work is the distortion of features and limbs, as if he is conjuring faded memories of people he once knew, attempting to recall a forgotten life. The result is a disturbing, yet captivating depiction of the artist's inner psyche.

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collector in the Middle East. Entitled “The Chaos Scene”, the exhibition garnered attention from the arts community and the media. In 2020, Khoury took part in “Break,” a group exhibition hosted by art booth in Salwa Zeidan Gallery in Abu Dhabi.

Today, Khoury has successfully established himself as a major Palestinian artist, whose work speaks to trauma, identity confusion, and instability. With Mark Hachem Gallery, his prospects look brighter than ever before. With major international connections at art fairs, not to mention locations in three major cities, the gallery poses to launch Khoury into the next phase of his career. From living in the streets to taking on the international art scene, Khoury is the living proof to never give up on your dreams, no matter how rocky the path might be.