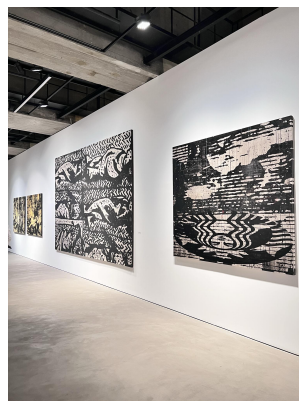


In Saleh Barakat Al-Beirut's elegant and professional gallery, Mahmoud Al-Obaidi held his personal exhibition, which opened on the evening of Friday, October 21 2022 with a large cultural, artistic, and acquisitive audience and others from different parts of the world.



Mahmoud presented his testimony in English, and here we will attempt to explain something of what Mahmoud presented in terms of a historical phenomenon that may ,unfortunately ,repeat itself in the future in a horrible repetition of injustice and violence, by which some human groups dominate the weaker man. He Titled his exhibition "Organs of the Outlandish", the word "Outlandish" is a negative term in the English language, for the violent and impolite stranger who comes from abroad and imposes himself on the natives and their lands by force.

Studying this idea took four years of digging and research, as he declared; most of the works present Al-Obaidi's style, dominated by tenebrous darkness and floral-architectural compositions resembling amputated and dismembered bodies, or to ruins of historical cities overshadowed by overbearing darkness, completely devoid of any life. Scenes of monstrous and severed bodies and the effects of heavy wheels from siege vehicles plough and scar the earth with deep trenches that have forever changed the natural landscape.



Al-Obaidi paints with vengeance and uses his paintbrush as an instrument of battle and struggle. He fights with his idea and draws it, using his black-stained palette as a vessel for his tragedies and disappointments that dug deep wounds that won't heal.



Al-Obaidi recounts the history of the European colonizers who conquered the Native American lands in North America in the 15th century and the organized genocides of the indigenous people that lasted for five centuries. This continues and falls on what happened in Palestine, and then in his country Iraq, reflected through his exhibition, as he screams as a human against violence, murders, and the forceful changing of cultures and communities, leading later to mismanagement, inner conflicts, civil wars, and corruption. He became a stranger who was cut short, disconnected and lost his former life forever.

Hasanain Al-Ibrahimi