

PRESS RELEASE

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KHALED JARRAR

“THAT THOU CANST NOT STIR A FLOWER WITHOUT TROUBLING OF A STAR”

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

Art Bärtschi is pleased to present for the second time in Switzerland, a solo show of the Palestinian artist *Khaled Jarrar* called “ that thou canst not stir a flower without the troubling of a star “, for which the artist has come specially from Ramallah where he lives and works. On this occasion, you may discover the artist’s work in which he exposes with subtlety and intelligence, the difficult realities of everyday life within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Famous for having stamped “State of Palestine” on the passports of visitors of la FIAC in Paris a few years ago, Khaled Jarrar participated in the 7th Berlin Biennale in 2012 and received the Special Price of the Jury of the 9th International Film Festival of Dubai for his documentary *Infiltrators* in 2013. Former member of Yasser Arafat’s personal staff, he entered the International Academy of Art of Palestine in 2006 at 31 years old. Soldier and artist, his double profile allows him to question the relation between individuals and power.

The title of this exhibition “that thou canst not stir a flower without the troubling of a star” comes from a poem of the English poet Francis Thompson in which he expresses the fundamental unity of nature and the idea that, every act, even the most trivial, leads to a series of consequences.

It is the destructive finality of shooting with a gun that the artist twists in his performance held on the night of the pre-opening of the exhibition. In fact, with a pistol, the artist uses his “deadly” skills developed at the army by shooting 21 times – symbolic number referring to the shootings made during the commemoration of a dead soldier – on paint pots placed between canvases. Explosion of colors and not of blood, the performance and the works created during it, reconcile the double status of the artist and symbolize the powerlessness of the soldier identified by the enemy. But more importantly, it transforms a murderous deed into a creative one.

Exhibited in a freezer, an ice helmet represents the fragility of the status of the soldier. Like the helmet would not exist without the icebox, the ideas of “soldier” and “war” are not intrinsic. In fact, without “artificial conditions”, they would not exist...

Active protagonist of the History of his country who grew up as a “combatant” and not as “a child” as his his famous sculptures made of concrete secretly chiseled from the separation wall witness, art is a place of freedom for Khaled Jarrar. Although anchored spatio-temporally, his work raises a number of questions that are universal.