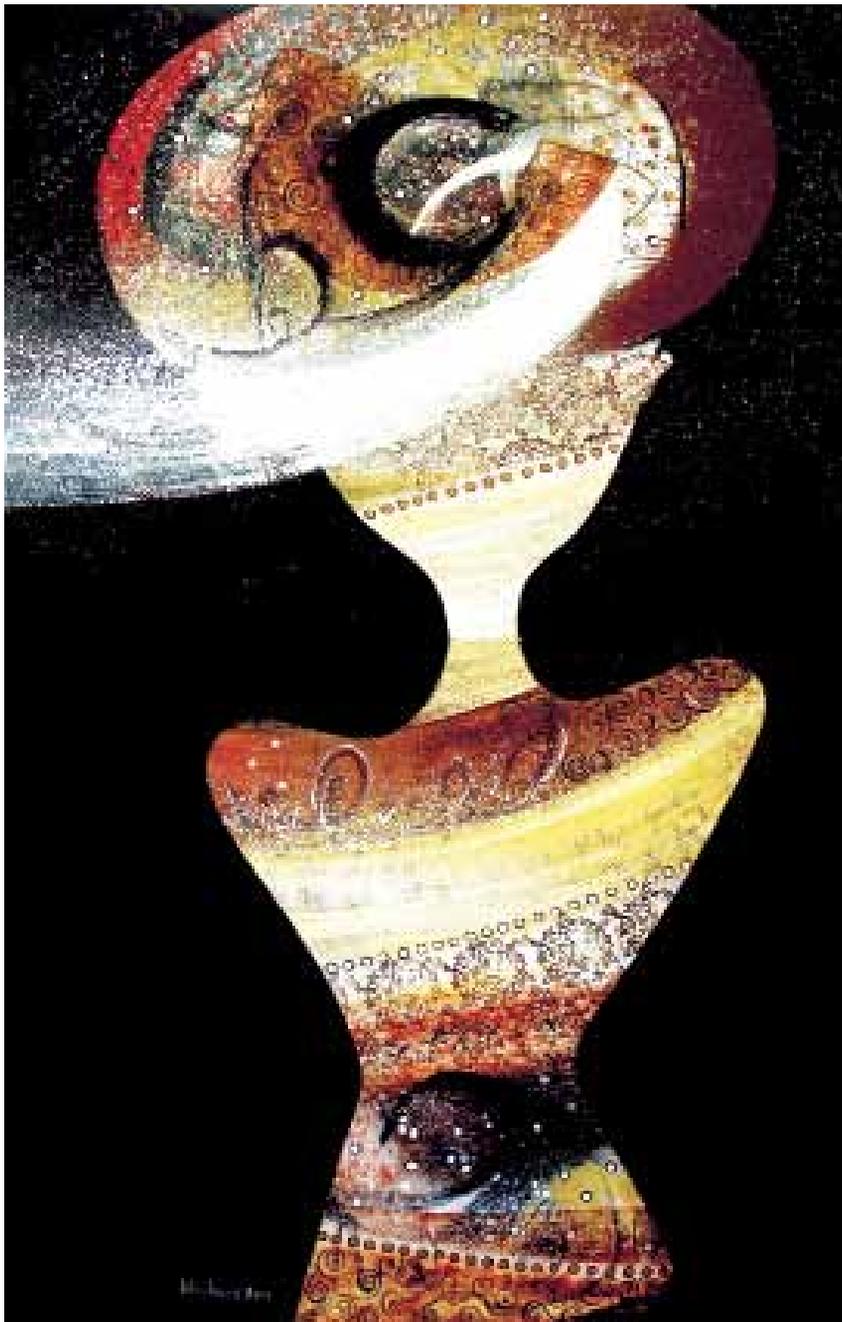


EYE ON ART

HILDA HIARY EXHIBITION AT ORIENT GALLERY



"Hilda Hiary is a contemporary artist from the Middle East who refuses to be defined by stereotypes, and whose works explore vast ranges of human emotion and experience. She is gifted with impressive amounts of empathy, which she channels as an offering to the world through her art. In these days of over-determined political and cultural identities, it is easy to label an artist like Hilda Hiary on the facts of her gender (she is a woman), ethnicity (she is self-identified as "an Arab-Jordanian" artist), race and other such cognates, all of which do not quite give us a useful picture of the person in question.

Hilda Hiary is an artist whose work demands contemplation of its unique qualities. She lives and works in her native Jordan but is also a cosmopolitan global citizen and very widely traveled since she was a child and has exhibited at very important venues including recent exhibitions in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Over the years, her prolific presence and persistence have vaulted her to the top of a select group of female artists emerging into global space from the specific cultural environments of their Middle Eastern origins.

Her style of painting, and her art in general, is uncommon, but Hiary's artworks have won many international prizes in recognition of their unique quality. All in all, we can confidently assert that Hilda Hiary is a very serious artist whose art engages the human condition in ways that are universal. She is a pure painter and the message of her practice is that art has the ability to unite the world. This is not to say that the artist lacks a sense of humor; in fact, her devoted excavation of inner space cannot be sustained without a huge sense of humor. How else could one maintain sanity when confronted by the darker terrains of the human imagination? In much of our history as a species, human culture has been shaped by conflict, but in the Middle East, news of conflict overrides all other information we have of its peoples. However, Hilda Hiary's artworks suggest that conflict does not necessarily define this region. Her art is ultimately optimistic and in its harsh beauty, provides an oasis in which the imagination can rest in its quest for a better or at least more propitious human future."

Sylvester Okwunodu Ogbachie, Ph.D.
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Orient Gallery will be showcasing a personal exhibition featuring the works of Hilda Hiary from November 8 until November 30, 2010. ■