

International

Gallerie

A Journey of Ideas

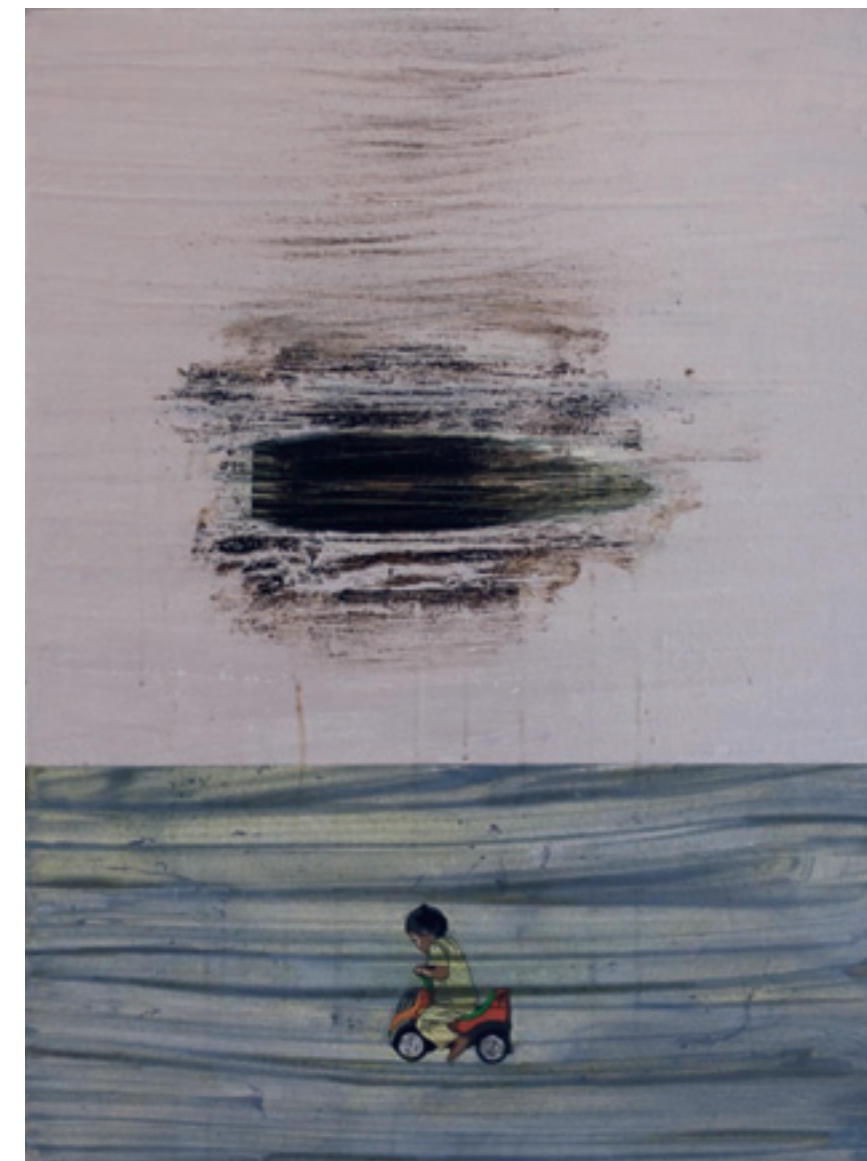
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CHECKPOINT PALESTINE

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"What I try to do when I paint is to rewrite my life; I try to place myself as a witness of the situations and the events I experience. That's why there are no boundaries between political matters and private stories in my work. My life has been up till now a series of displacements. Of course, this has so much to do with certain historical and social facts. But when painting displacement becomes a matter of exploring the state of Halt, Absence, Deferral and Wait, I wonder if I can still talk about the particularity of the bodies I paint by relating them to some local conditions or to any specific dates." ~ Hani Zurob

new generation of Palestinian painters. Sayig's earliest canvases depicted iconic portraits of Palestinian peasants in Biblical robes. Together with his earliest landscapes of Jerusalem's countryside, these portraits appear to have been painted with the aid of photographic postcards that had recently become available in the country. In later paintings whose more vivid rendering indicate they were painted from life, we see themes that were subsequently emulated by his followers. These themes included recognized portraits of local personalities, native landscapes and still life compositions of local fruits and flowers.

The Russian Orthodox Mission in Palestine may have come to an end with the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, but the seeds it had sowed over a 74-year period were to leave fertile ground for the growth of secular thought and for furthering art innovations. To rival the Russians' prevailing influence, other church missions sought to leave their mark on the country's native Arabs. Consequently, a number of Palestinian visual artists availed of their first opportunity to study art in Italy, Germany and France, the home countries of rival

Above & right: **Hani Zurob**. *Pour apprendre a voler* [A flying lesson] 2009, Acrylic, oil and tar on canvas. 94.5 x 40 in
Pesanteur [Gravity] 2009, Acrylic, oil and tar on canvas. 29 x 21 in