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Press Release

Amna Elhassan – Resonance of Absence

May 23 – August 3, 2025

Press preview: May 21, 2025, 4 PM

Opening: May 22, 2025, 7 PM

„In my work, I confront violence, but I aim to present it ethically with care and responsibility. I’m not just asking what violence looks like, but rather: What comes after?“

Amna Elhassan

For the exhibition Resonance of Absence, basis e. V. presents the vibrant, engaging and personal works of the Sudanese artist Amna Elhassan in a wide-ranging institutional solo exhibition that concentrates on the years 2021–2025. Exhibited are works that were specially created for the show, alongside her most recent paintings that she produced as part of her scholarship from the Martin Roth Initiative in Frankfurt. They are brought in dialogue with some of her artworks that depict a time before the outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023.

For her exhibition at basis e.V., Elhassan focuses on the escalating violence against women in Sudan. Of particular importance here is the war-torn region of Al Jazirah. Drawing on memories she has relating to space, she explores the complex interplay of individual, collective, and historical memory. Further, she engages with cultural inscriptions and colonial continuities in the exhibition spaces.

In her figurative paintings, classical geometries and perspectives are dissolved. Besides her paintings, her prints, installations and soundworks are also shown.



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The exhibited works address the physical, emotional and social experiences of women and children in Sudan and the diaspora, which are characterised by war, flight and political upheaval. Women from Elhassan's community, culture and environment are also major sources of inspiration: their resilience, rituals and traditions have a profound influence on the artist's visual language.

Elhassan's paintings capture the beauty and value of fleeting moments. Her artworks relate to everyday life, moments of solidarity, and mutual support. Her works depict and honour the struggles and resilience of women who led the revolutionary movements in 2018 and they help to preserve and pass on their stories. At the same time, her art addresses the violence to which the people of Sudan are subjected on a daily basis and which has led to more than twelve million people being displaced within and beyond Sudan's borders. Elhassan's works are thus not solely an artistic testimony, but also play an active role in contributing to a public discourse on Sudan that is otherwise marked by silence.

In a movement characterised by a sense of searching, Elhassan's exhibits open up possible spaces for healing. The title of the exhibition, Resonance of Absence, pays tribute to the absent and is dedicated to all those who have been affected by flight and displacement, including those who have lost their lives in the struggle for a democratic society in Sudan. Their stories find resonance in Elhassan's works and this can be experienced in the exhibition space.

Curated by Carlotta Döhn.



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ACCOMPANYING AND EVENT PROGRAMME

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS:

Sat, 24 May – 4 PM

Sat, 14. Juni – 4 PM: In Dialogue With Amna Elhassan And Carlotta Döhn (EN)

Thu, 24 July – 6 PM

FILM PROGRAMME AND TALK:

- 'FEMALE WORLDMAKING AS ARTISTIC RESISTANCE AGAINST OPPRESSION'

Two film evenings dedicated to the role of women in art, resistance and social change, especially in the context of Sudan.

- THU., JULI 10, 2025, SHORT FILM: 'KAMALA IBRAHIM ISHAQ: STATES OF ONE-NESS' BY SUZANNAH MIRGHANI

Doors open: 7 PM

Film starts: 7:30 PM

Followed by a discussion between Suzannah Mirghani, Amna Elhassan and Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann

FRI., JULI 18, 2025, 'HEROIC BODIES' BY SARA SULIMAN

Doors open: 7 PM

Start of film: 7:30 PM

Followed by a discussion between Sara Suliman, Amna Elhassan and Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann

READING ROOM

Additional readings for a deeper understanding of the exhibition themes can be found in the reference collection in our reading room, which is open during exhibition hours.

Press images (selection)

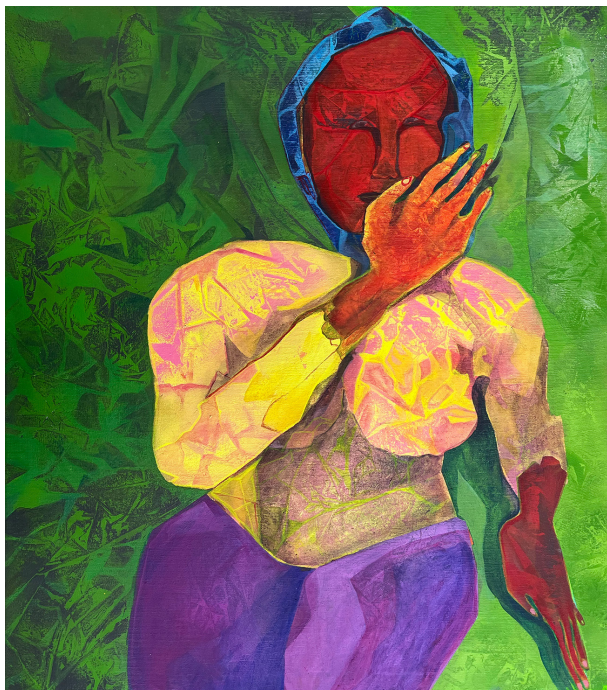


Amna Elhassan, *Watergun*, 2024,
acrylic on canvas,
100 x 80 cm,
photo: Sakhile&Me



Amna Elhassan, *Jump Higher*,
acrylic on canvas,
140 x 120 cm,
photo: Sakhile&Me

Press images (selection)



Amna Elhassan, Speedy, 2023,
acrylic on canvas, 70 x 60 cm,
photo: Sakhile&Me

With the kind support of:



OPENING HOURS OF THE EXHIBITION AND THE READING ROOM:

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY: 2 – 7 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: 12 – 6 PM