



Jamal Penjweny, Iraq Flay, photography



Gaylan Abdulla Ismahel, Traffic, video

## CONTEMPORARY ART IRAQ

Friday 16 April – Sunday 20 June

Cornerhouse 70 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5NH, UK

Private View Reception: 15 April 2010, 6 - 9 pm

Gallery opening times: Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 - 20:00, Sunday 12:00 - 18:00

A group exhibition of contemporary art from Iraq 16th April - 20th June, including symposium and workshop, a collaboration between ArtRole and Cornerhouse.

This exhibition continues Artrole's mission, building on the success of organising the first major Art Event "Post-War Art & Culture Festival in Iraqi-Kurdistan, 7-9th November 2009". The festival was a three-day celebration of Arts and Culture at The Red Jail, Saddam Hussein's security building. The festival included seminars, research visits, performances, presentations and a symposium. The event also presented for the first time in the Middle East Richard Wilson's 20:50 oil installation and exhibitions and artwork by British and American artists and over 50 Iraqi artists. 138 international and regional officials attended the event opening; including curators, directors, academics, students. Also in attendance were Middle East representatives from Embassies, United Nations, International NGOs, international Galleries as well as local representatives from museums, galleries, universities, art colleges and institutes and schools. The opening attracted significant local, regional and international media coverage.

Following this, and as part of ArtRole's exchange programme between UK/USA and Iraq since 2006, we are very pleased to announce the first Contemporary Art Exhibition, Symposium, and Workshop presenting Iraqi artists to a UK audience. Contemporary Art Iraq is a diverse collection of works by 19 artists currently living and working in Iraq. The artwork includes film and video, sound art, digital art, photography, graphic art, sculpture, painting and performance and the exhibition explores and challenges western expectations of Iraq today and showcases a new generation of exciting artists. The Symposium; "Future Now: Iraq and Contemporary Visual Art" is a one-day event exploring emerging themes from Contemporary Art Iraq. The Workshop event of artist talks and networking opportunities offers quick-fire presentations by a selection of UK and Iraqi based artists, including Richard Wilson, Anne Bean, Xavier Pick and Shaho Abdul Rahman.

Contemporary Art Iraq, Symposium and Workshop will provide a unique platform for Iraqi artists and an opportunity for the British public to experience real artwork from Iraq and a chance to be in touch with and hear from the artists and academics living in Iraq.

For Full details please click the link [http://www.artrole.org/conart\\_intro.php](http://www.artrole.org/conart_intro.php)

**CORNERHOUSE** is Manchester's International Centre for Contemporary Visual Arts and Film. [www.cornerhouse.org](http://www.cornerhouse.org)

The exhibition is supported by British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI), Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW), and City Inn, Manchester.

Thanks to Foreign & Commonwealth Office - British Embassy, Erbil-Iraq, and Khak Press & Media Centre, Iraqi Kurdistan for offering Red Jail National Museum for collecting and hosting artwork.