

Shareef Sarhan
Visual artist





Born in Gaza in 1976, Shareef is an artist, professional photographer and freelancer. He is a founding member of Shababeek Contemporary Art group and an active member in the Association of Palestinian Artists. Sarhan received his diploma in Arts from the University of ICS in the United States. He participated in several art training courses and workshops locally and internationally. He also received the Bronze award of the Festival of Arab Photographers - 2010 and Oscar Benally Cultural International Award in Cairo 2009. Sarhan participated in many Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in Gaza, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Amman, Britain, the United States, Sharjah, Dubai, Cairo, Paris, Rome, Milan and Marseille.

Sharief Sarhan started his career as an artist in 1995, Learn Arts in a fine arts program at the YMCA in Gaza City. He then moved into a new and different world as he looked for beauty, art, and a means to express his love of nature and humanity. He was introduced to modern art and its relevance to daily life through his encounter with the Syrian artist Marwan Qasab Bashi at the Summer Arts Academy in Amman. Soon after this fortuitous meeting, Sarhan's work began to change, gradually and clearly. His work and projects varied between drawing, installation, digital photography, and even video, which were his key to the outside world. His artworks have been exhibited in Paris, London, the United States, Italy, and a number of Arab countries. Sarhan was deeply affected by the siege that was imposed on Gaza City in 2007, and gained a maturity that became evident in terms of the means he used in order to communicate the Gaza reality to the outside world. He introduced the international community to this small spot of 360 square kilometers and 2 million people through Gaza Living, a project that includes a book of photographs of life in Gaza and how it has been distorted and disfigured by years

of siege. In 2015, a project called War Game was created to reflect the Gazan experience during the 51 days of war by using children's games as a means to express how war affects children.

In 2016, Sarhan worked on producing Gaza Lighthouse, the first synthetic work in the public space - a new experience for Palestinian art as well as for Sarhan. This work relied on reusing the environment and war remnants in building the first lighthouse for Gaza but with a new concept and materials. The project resonated greatly with the people of Gaza, whose powerful positive reaction proved the success of Sarhan's desire to transfer art from the showroom to the street.

Sarhan is now working on a group of new projects to be implemented between 2019 and 2022. The projects include installations in the public space, a new book of photographs about traditional industries in Palestine, and a modern conceptual project about immigrants - an issue that has become one of the world's most pressing problems. At this time, Sarhan is trying to secure funding for these projects.

Letters...City



100x100 cm Acrylic on canvas

The Arabic Calligraphy is characterized with smooth shapes and complex drawings. The Alexandrian Philosopher Euclid called this Arabian art "the Spiritual Art". To sum up, the Arabic Calligraphy is a tool for documentation and communication. For Arabs, it is an art that has a glorious history, great teachers and strong traditions. The quality of beauty distinguishes the Arabic Calligraphy from the regular writing. While the regular writing expresses thoughts, the Arabic Calligraphy expresses beauty. The real start of the Arabic Calligraphy was after the death of Prophet Mohammed peace be upon him. At that time Umr ibn al-Khattab urged the first Khalifa of Muslims Abu Bakr to write Al- Qura'n. That Calligraphy did not have dots, marks for the beginnings or the ends of the Qura'n verses or numbers for the Qura'n verses. This Calligraphy had to develop and go through different stages such as putting the dots on the letters, and vowelization. Colours and Letters.....mean Homeland

Many letters and colours form words with different meanings, especially when we go back in time to more than a thousand years ago when the Arabs wrote their words and letters without dots. The usage of these Arabic letters in art gives different and new effects when it goes back to its origin. Here I work on the first idea of the Arabic Calligraphy as I write the letter in the same way it was written 1400 years ago without dots. Any person can read it the way he/she wants or likes. These letters mix with the crowded city, faces and the details of the body. Letters of Shareef Sarhan Shareef understands art from quite different perspective. For him, life is a huge kiss that covers letter history areas. He narrates the letter itself as if it was a tale. Shareef reform it as an initial source of the tale. With Shareef, tale is a letter and letter is a tale. By his camera, he connects history to the present. Writing becomes the scene itself although it was expressing the scene.



90x170 cm Acrylic on canvas



100x170 cm Acrylic on canvas



30x30x40 cm The aluminum is reused

20x20x36 cm Iron and mixed media





80x80 cm Iron and mixed media



155×185 cmm Acrylic on canvas

War Game

Installation artwork



This contemporary visual arts project brings the ongoing presence of war to the people, the neighborhoods, the streets, through the use of toy soldiers and children's games. It aims to highlight the ongoing damage of war through an interactive and accessible artistic production based on toys and the drawings made by children who have lived through war, in the hopes of encouraging citizens all over the world to stand against war.

It was one of the days on which people decided to strike during the first Palestinian Intifada in 1987. I was sitting with my neighbors. We were fixing wooden pieces to play a well known game, War Game. However, we used different name; we called it Jews and Arabs. It is the same game that children all over the world play, yet they call it policemen and thieves. Still, the conception is different since a Jew is the policeman who has all the supplies and abilities while the Arab is the Palestinian man who has nothing but his determination and challenging to free his or her homeland. This conception makes this game completely different.

When I got older, the game has been the same and it did not differ from the one that I used to play in the quarter where I live. Camp children still play the same game in the blind alleys or streets which portray the details of our daily life including the frazzled walls and the graffiti

and the clothesline behind which children play. Nevertheless, children became grown-up and the game turned to be real one. Things are different since forms of resistance have changed in Palestine in general and in Gaza in particular. The little child who used to play with wooden gun holds a real one now to defend us and defend our land on which we live to liberate our country.

This project is established using contemporary art, which needs no translation to transfer the game from a game to the real world and present its effects upon us and upon the lives of our children.

What urges us to present this project is the need to work together to stop these wars that prevail the world and kill children, women and youth. These wars obliterate countries and destroy the environment. Poverty is increased in communities where wars take place for different issues. It is a must to stop these wars so that the whole world can live in peace and safety. Art is one of these means that help and support us to work and stop wars all over the world and in Palestine in particular.

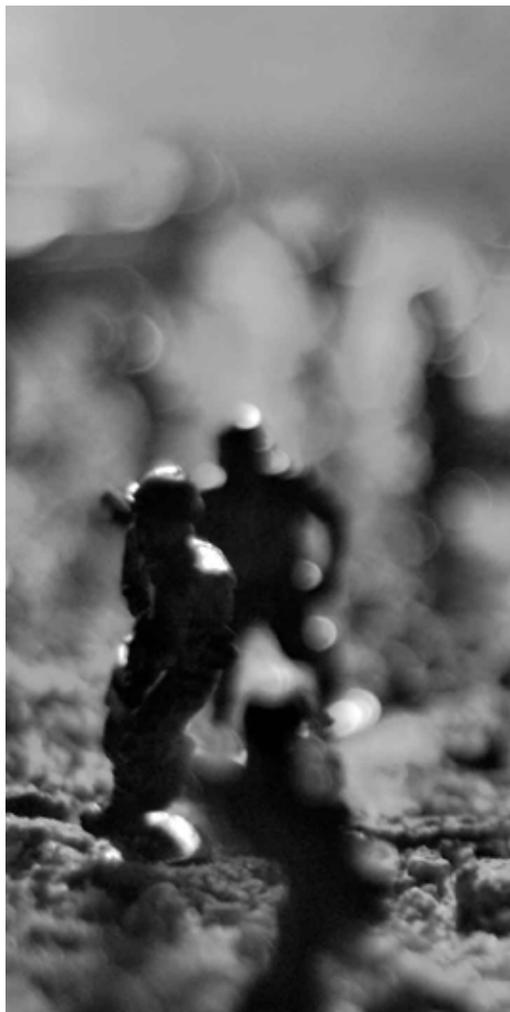
Today, after this unbelievable war on Gaza which resulted in having thousands of people with no shelter, many killed and a lot of houses demolished, there is no life. Wherever one goes, he or she can find death and destruction

surrounding us. All of these aspects became part of my project, which I did not plan to establish in this destruction that happened to Gaza in 51 days. During these days, I was thinking how to establish this artistic work. I was watching children at shelters while they were expressing themselves and painting their drawings about this war and how they imagine and think about death, which is surrounding them and surrounding all of us. Thus, the vision became clear, so was the implementation. I have more options, more than what I had expected when I first start writing this project.

War Game

In this, small dummies with which children play are going to be used to show different scenes of the War through some paintings that were drawn by children about their experience during the war. This is to show how much this war affects all of us. Tools of the war include soldiers, war supplies and dummies to portray some of the scenes. The scenes will be from different areas or similar scenes because war has one face only

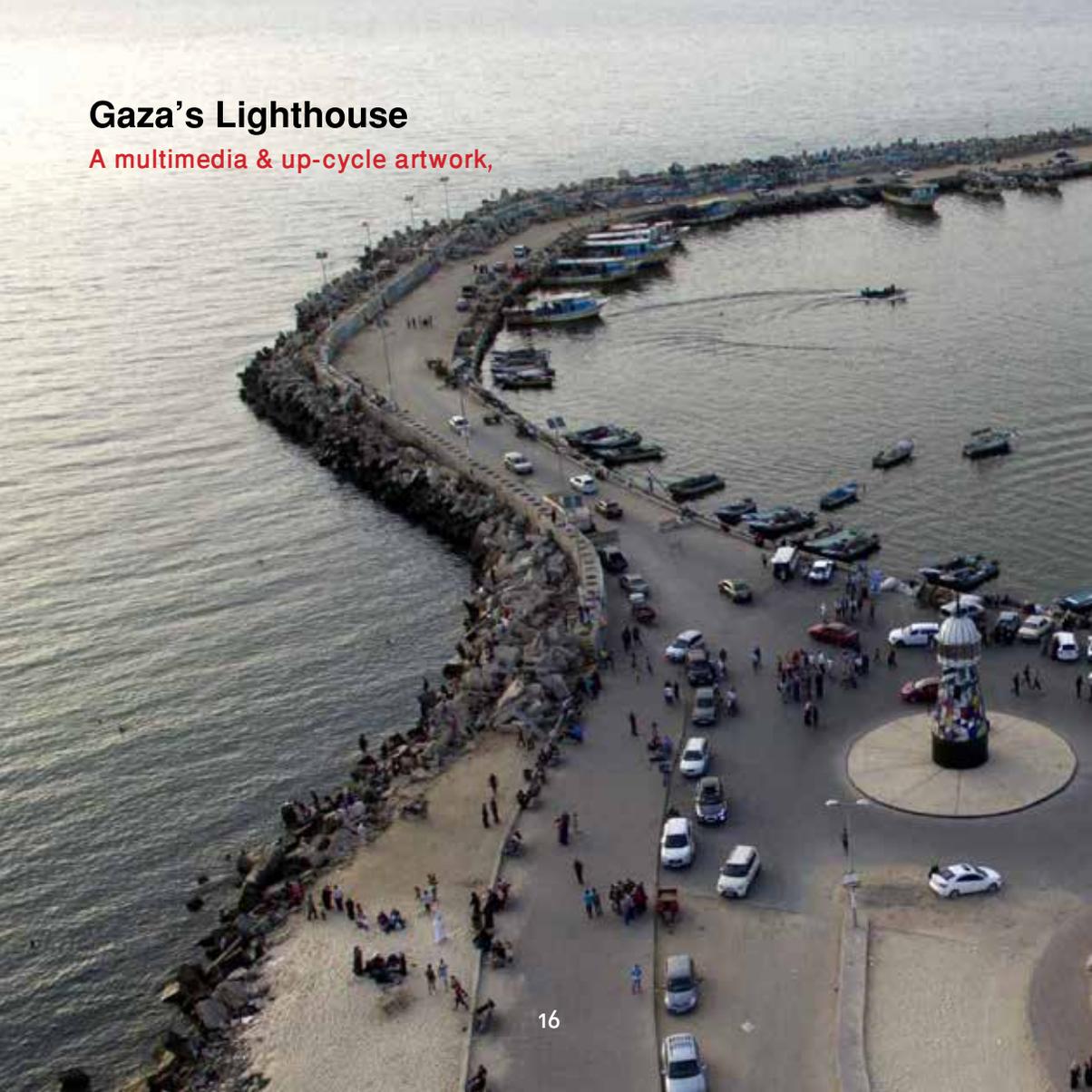






Gaza's Lighthouse

A multimedia & up-cycle artwork,





A multimedia & up-cycle artwork, interactive and social outside usable object. It's a competition winner project by qattan. He uses rubble and reinstall and building structure techniques.

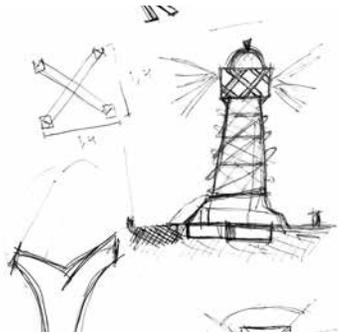
"Gaza's Lighthouse" is a visual modern art project which depends on recycling the environment and war remnants in Gaza city. Those remnants are junks and many other things which are suitable for assembling and installing in an artistic way to become an artwork placed in the Port square. By this, the junks turn into a beautiful artwork that promotes the beauty of the city, changes its stereotype and resurrects a new spirit through the existence of art in the street.
Concept

In these days, Gaza city became one of the most crowded cities in the world, as there is no space to enjoy and have fun except this blue spot "Gaza's beautiful beach". In Gaza, the houses swallowed all the empty spaces which were found 20 years ago in this small city. The view changed into big cement squares colored by gray mostly due to the disability of its owners to bleach and paint it which made Gaza look in a gray scene. Despite the wars and the siege that we are witnessing, we are in a deep need to change the gray scene and turn part of this city into a piece of art.

This project uses the modern art to change

and beautify part of the city shape, and that's include using the human remnants such as: plastic materials, metal like old cars and other things. In addition to the remnants of the last Israeli aggression on Gaza city form the houses and organizations destruction materials like: concrete pieces, metal or plastic to be gathered in order to make an art installation. This work is implemented with the help of a number of artists, engineers and specialist youth who put lots of efforts to reach the lighthouse shape and to make it a huge edifice in one of the most important areas in Gaza city.

What motivated me to implement this project is that there are no spaces for art or to have fun in the city. Moreover, bringing out the art from the exhibition to the public to make this work, which is basically a piece of junk, an art work in the street that would affect and be affected by the people in this city. Furthermore, it's very important for us to show people the importance of arts and not to monopoly such artistic pieces on the artist, intellectuals and galleries. This project is the first of its kind in this city which depends on pieces of junk, with some equipment and ideas and a number of workers and artists who implement this project, changes the ideas into reality and the junk into a piece of art decorates the city and beautifies its shape.



4x4x14 meter, mixed media

Junk ... Reconfigure

An Installed Sculptural Work in the Open Space

A Brief Summary of the Project
A contemporary visual art project based on the recycling of the environment and war on Gaza junk, rubble and other things which are suitable for an artistic reconfiguration and installation to produce a sculptural artwork in the open space, in one of the city's squares. In this way, the junk would turn into a beautiful artwork, the city would seem more beautiful and the stereotype of the city would change to get a new art spirit.



This project sheds the light on the amount of wastes produced in the city as a result of the imposed imposed on Gaza and the inability of the government sector or the private sector to get rid of it or even use it properly. Therefore, the idea of how to turn part of this wastes into artworks in the open space occurred. In addition, we succeed in turning ugly things into beautiful and artistic works in order to change the shape and mood of people and the city too.

This project, and the use of contemporary art to change and beautify part of the city shape, is about the use of humans' wastes such as plastic materials and iron including old cars' bodies and other things. In addition to the last war remnants on Gaza due to the destruction of houses and institutions from concrete, iron and plastic. Then to be re-assembled into a form of art close to the sculpture between sculpture and installation. Moreover, this contemporary artwork is different than what is now manufactured in some of the city squares in terms of shapes and symbols which have no artistic dimension. Furthermore, people who work on them aren't artists, and they implement bad ideas in terms of shape and content, in addition to adding a visual pollution to the city scene.

Here we try to change people's mood through art that is implemented in the open space,

transferring arts culture from exhibitions and galleries into the street so that the old and young of different social classes could see it. By this, we convey the work's idea to the street to reach an artistically sophisticated society. On the long term, this type of art will have an impact on people's mood in the street.

After our first and second experience in implementing the first installation work in the open space, and our knowledge of the city art's needs, also what we discovered during our work that people here appreciate this kind of arts, especially since it is new in Gaza, all of that drive us to present this project. In addition, there is no more space for leisure and art in this city. Moreover, we intend to take art from the walls of the galleries to the street where we produce an artwork out of junk pieces which people would affected and be affected by it. Furthermore, it's very important to transfer arts in order not to monopolize the professional artworks on artists and intellectuals only. This is the third project of its kind in this city, which relies on pieces of junk with some equipment and ideas, and a number of workers and artists to implement and transform ideas into reality and junk into a piece of art to beautify the city and change its shape.



4x4x7 meter, mixed media



The Refugees... **Absence of Paths**

A brief Summary about the Project

A visual art project which uses various ores and materials. The project reflects the paths and pain map that refugees "immigrants" cross from their country to the north, where they can dream and feel safe, in addition to the difficulties and pain that each refugee faces until reaching the last station. This would be accomplished by gathering stories in a book of photos with scripts, producing artworks of installation, sculpture and drawing, and setting paths for their pain path in an art gallery.

