

Untitled, 2008

Mixed technique on wood

51/39 cm

From the exhibition: "Oriented"

Julie M. gallery, Tel-Aviv



Oriented

The series "Oriented" features figurative alongside calligraphic images assimilated into various eastern decorations that unite to generate a uniform texture.

The Orient in this case is geographical - East Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and North Africa - but also cultural.

Derived from the Muslim Holy scriptures (the Qur'an), the Arabic word Inshallah, which appears in the works as mixed Arabic-Hebrew calligraphy, encapsulates everything embodied by this blessing, expressing a yearning for the fulfillment of the plea inherent in it, mainly in those moments to which traditions ascribe such great significance. The use of a word originating in Arabic represents the assimilation of Arabic into Hebrew, symbolizing the combination of Mizrahi (Eastern) and Ashkenazi (European) Hebrew, and indicating that Mizrahi (Near Eastern) Judaism and Arabness are inseparably linked in partnership, or possibly in inter-dependence.

The wealth of opposites, the fabric of languages, and the diverse cultural elements comprising the works conceal an engagement with matters pertaining to the cultural, political, religious, ethnic, and linguistic discourse in Israel; a preoccupation expressing the desire for a natural, genuine link between current Israeliness and the feelings of affinity and belonging to the Jewish origins and to Mizrahi traditionalism.