

***Onloaded: Falah Alsaedi***  
*Chromatic Rhythm from Mesopotamia*

The artist Falah Alsaedi was born in Babylon Province, south of Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, in 1976. After finishing intermediate school, he moved to Baghdad to pursue his degree in Art at the Fine Arts Institute. In Baghdad, which was at that time witnessing significant artistic activities through individual and collective exhibitions, he learned from famous Iraqi artists about the principles and styles of art. Alsaedi participated in several collective galleries in Baghdad before he moved to Amman, Jordan. In Amman, he had his first solo exhibition in 2006 at the Darbuna Art Gallery, followed by four additional personal exhibitions in Alanda Gallery (2007) and Alorfali Gallery (2009), both in Amman, as well as one in Doha, Qatar (2012) and another in Saudi Arabia (2014). Alsaedi and his family immigrated to the United States and Arizona in late 2013.

Alsaedi's artistic journey and practice is one of most significant experiences in the Middle East. His way of composing his artwork is a unique one that we only find in pioneer artists and a few other artists' works in Iraq and the world. He uses three steps in his works. The first step is establishing the work with colored spaces. The second is building the work with figures and shapes that are required for the subject he wants to present. Finally, he completes the painting in an artistic, coherent way based on the style he loves. These steps need a refined aesthetic sense and a technical expertise on the part of the artist in order to compose and realize the artwork and map its implicit relations.

In his seventh solo exhibition opening in Phoenix, Arizona in December, 2014, Alsaedi references various symbols and objects from the great civilization of ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq). He revives one of its most sophisticated art forms – music – which was played with hymns inside the temples of Ur, the capital of the Sumerian civilization. In one work, he portrays a woman playing the lyre, a harp-like instrument, as if its lyrical tones embrace our spiritual state when looking at this terrific scene. In this group of works, Alsaedi presents several lyrical scenes that show ballet dancers with themes and backgrounds that are drawn from different stages of Iraq's civilization. They represent Iraq from the Sumerian civilization to the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad and to the royal period of Iraq in the 1950's, a golden age during which Baghdad was witnessing its most outstanding cultural, musical, and artistic achievements of the modern era. Within the context of abstract expressionism, Alsaedi integrates and realizes exceptional elements of abstraction in these new works created for phICA's exhibition. Viewers are encouraged to utilize a finely tuned sense of seeing and in reading a visual text in an aesthetic way in order to better understand, interact, respond, and enjoy Alsaedi's paintings. From the land of Sumer that taught humanity reading, writing, music, drawing, and sculpture on walls and from Baghdad of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Alsaedi paints this legendary civilization to let the world know and to remind us that this land is the origin of art, music, and writing.

-Text by Salman Alwastey, December, 2014

-Translated from Arabic by Saleem Suzah; edited by Ted G. Decker