

Two Faces
Frances Aviva Blane
Darin Ahmad

Contemporary Art at the German Ambassador's Residence in London

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The German Ambassador's Residence in London

34 Belgrave Square

26 July 2016 - 31 January 2017



Friends of contemporary art,

When my husband was posted to London in 2014, I was immediately fascinated by the beautiful Georgian House at 34 Belgrave Square. The almost empty rooms were ideal for exhibitions, and very soon we opened the house to art.

The exhibition “Two Faces” presents paintings by two female artists, London-based Frances Aviva Blane and Syrian-born Darin Ahmad. The latter had to leave her country under dramatic circumstances in 2012 and lives now in Berlin.

Frances Aviva Blane has been a contemporary British abstract artist for quite a long time and draws on profound experience. She has exhibited widely in Europe, USA, Japan and Australia, including several shows in Berlin. Although Blane describes herself as an abstract painter, it is illuminating to see her portraits; the faces isolated and suffering, some without features and of scarcely discernible form. Her large abstract works are rarely without turmoil and a quiet canvas would be unusual. The titles of her paintings speak of discord: Accident, Deconstruct, Derail.

Darin Ahmad has only recently become a self-taught artist, having previously studied business administration at Aleppo University in Syria. Ahmad too uses her art to connect two different dimensions. She sees art as being able to transform objects of our visualised, inner reality into physical reality and vice versa.

I find the approaches of these two very different artists highly interesting. Their use of form and colour offers an enriching view of our lives today.

I hope the exhibition “Two Faces” can create a space where people from different cultural backgrounds get the opportunity to express who they are. Art could help here to connect different cultures and beliefs, and to find common ground and maybe even ways to benefit from each other.

In our multicultural society it could help us to share each other’s culture by bringing different “types of faces” together – a challenge to which we hope to make a small contribution.

I wish all our friends and visitors a delightful time viewing the exhibition “Two Faces”.

Marliese Heimann-Ammon

Frances Aviva Blane

PAINTING / heads 2016



My work is concerned with the disintegration of paint and personality. I love to watch thinned down paint dissolving slowly on a canvas or seeing the transformation of glutinous lumps of matter into flesh-like forms. The result making a virtue of the inelegant.

I use different media, charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic.

I like exploration, finding new marks and seeing an image evolve and disappear. I use paint in untraditional ways, always prolonging a state of flux.

The paintings are mainly abstract, but I make drawings of heads. Figuration informs abstraction. Things move fast and that's ok. Surprise is good.

Like many painters I prefer my work to speak for itself. Painting and drawing are particular forms of communication – they are before speech. A painting is thought in liquid form.

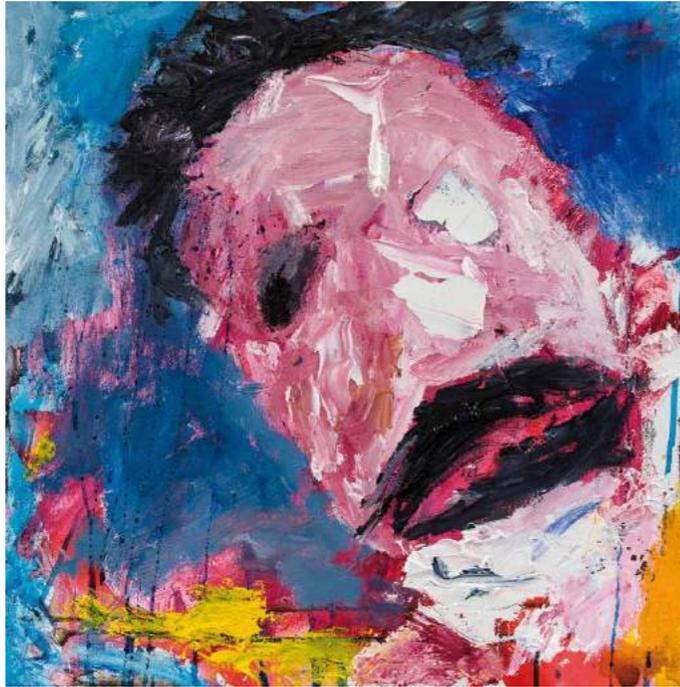
Frances Aviva Blane 2016



July 60 x 60 cm oil on linen



Summer 198 x 198 cm oil on linen



Pool 45 x 45 cm oil on linen



Accident 198 x 198 cm oil on linen



Friend Suzie 1 46 x 46 cm charcoal on paper



Black 173 x 173 cm oil on linen



Wired 172 x 172 cm oil on linen



Hat Head 60 x 48 cm acrylic/charcoal on paper



Blue Head 60 x 48 cm acrylic/charcoal on paper



Pitch 33 x 33 cm oil on linen



Landscape 49 x 49 cm charcoal on paper



Melt 173 x 173 cm oil on linen



Split Head 60 x 48 cm acrylic/charcoal on paper



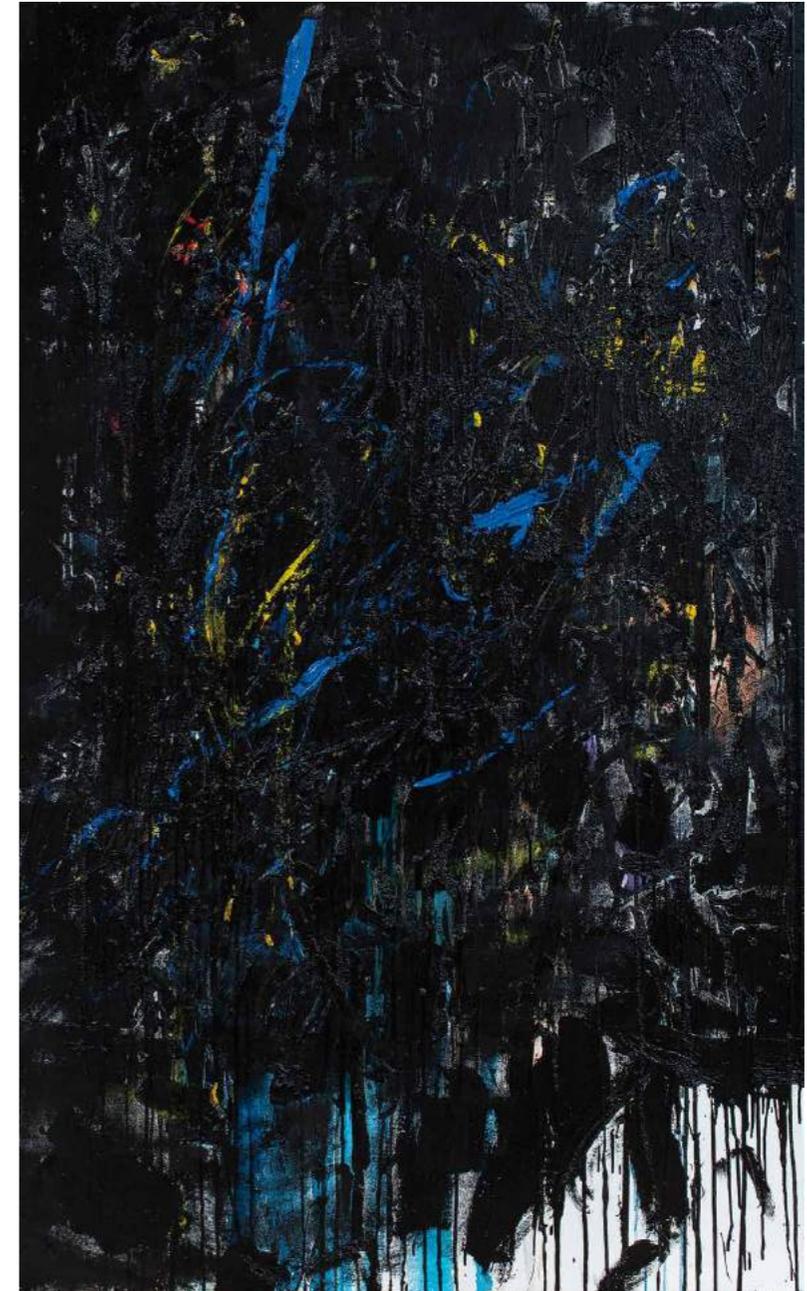
Blue 90 x 90 cm oil on linen



Derail 198 x 198 cm oil on linen



Orange Head 60 x 48 cm acrylic/charcoal on paper



Black on Blue 198 x 154 cm oil on linen



Face 90 x 90 cm oil on linen

Darin Ahmad

Body in Isolation 2016



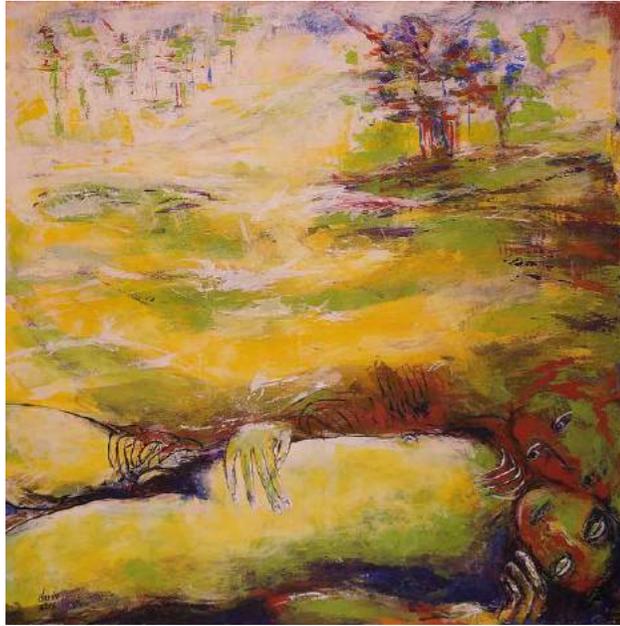
Art is the connecting point between two levels of reality; the physical reality in which we live, and the world of the imagination as it is reflected in the artist's thoughts, dreams, and daydreams. Art can enable us to enter this imaginary world, and in this way can connect it with our physical reality.

Our reality – the civilisation we have created – suffers from human-made catastrophes, and our imaginary world can hardly be liberated from this suffering. Nevertheless it must be free, because creativity doesn't happen without freedom. Its freedom, however, lies in creating new forms and new logic.

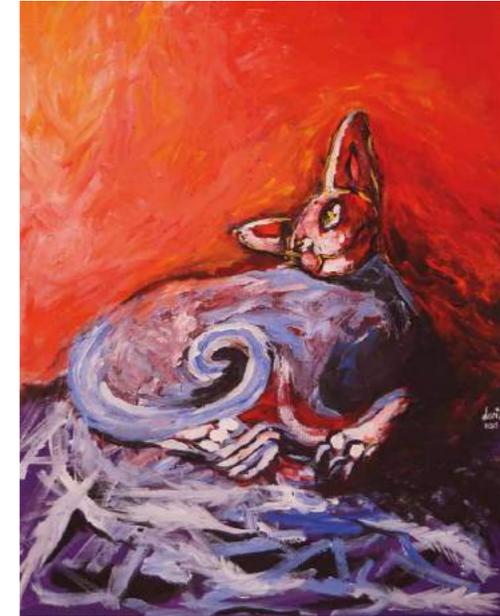
How can we be against war and killing when we carry within us the same negative attitudes towards the body? If it wasn't the thought that directs the body, its killing, selling, and imprisoning in stereotypes wouldn't have been as easy and clear as we see it.

The smart body, which learns, suffers, thinks, dreams, lives and dies, is the stage on which the figures of my paintings move. These figures are moved by their desire to bring their viewer into their worlds for a second or to enter the viewer's world for just a second as well; not more.

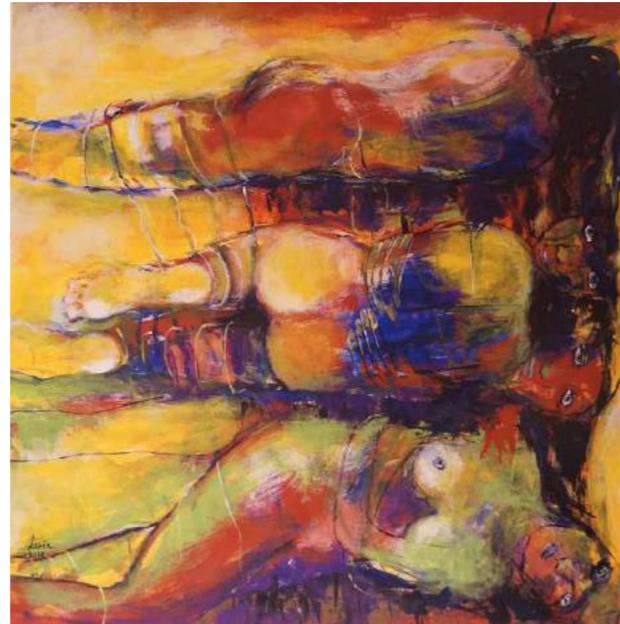
Darin Ahmad 2016



Body in Isolation 3 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Cat 80 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Body in Isolation 2 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Mirror 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



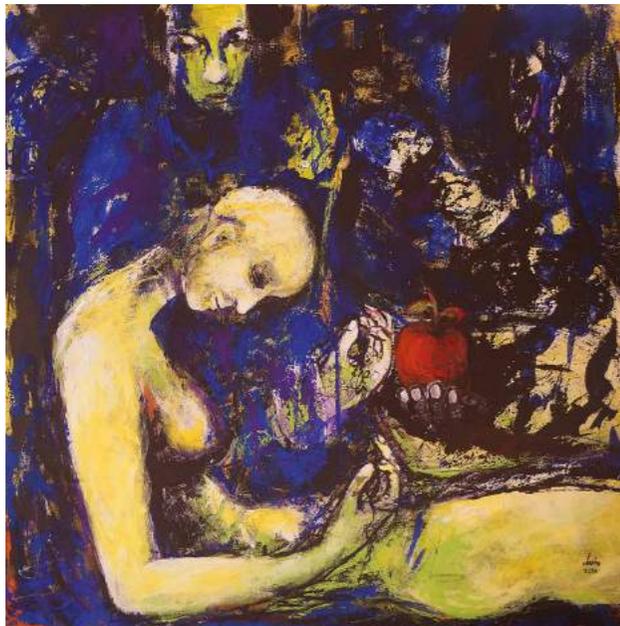
Anima 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Human 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



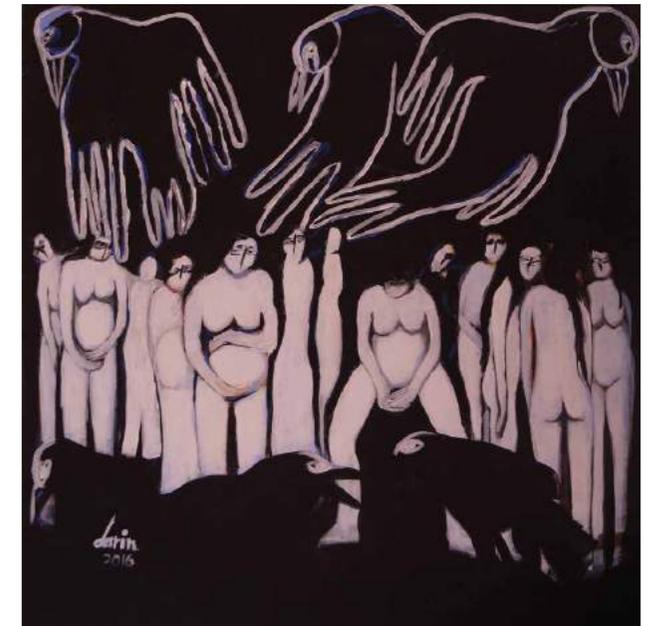
Body in Isolation 1 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



The Apple 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Dinner 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas



Birth 100 x 100 cm acrylic on canvas

Frances Aviva Blane

Born in London, United Kingdom

Education

Chelsea College of Arts 1987-1988

Byam Shaw School of Painting and Drawing 1988-1991

Slade School of Fine Art University College London 1991-1993

Frances has exhibited widely throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, USA and Australia, some of her exhibitions are listed below

Selected Solo Exhibitions include

Deconstruct, De Queeste Kunstkamers Abele/Watou Belgium 2014

Work shown alongside exhibitions of Francis Bacon & Louise Bourgeois

BIG BLACK PAINTINGS, Bay Hall Kings College London 2014

Selected Group Exhibitions include

Jerwood Drawing Prize 2015-2016 London and Tour

De Vage Grens with Frank Auerbach Renier & Depla etc

De Queeste Kunstkamers Abele/Watou Belgium 2015

Annely Juda A Celebration

Annely Juda Fine Art London 2007

Public Collections include

Moorfields Eye Hospital London | Jesus College Cambridge | BlindArt London | Sternberg Centre London |
3 Faith Forum | London School of Economics | Usher Gallery Lincoln

Awards and Residencies

Jerwood Award for Drawing 1999 | Mid-America ART Alliance Fellowship for Visual Arts 1998 |

Residency at Djerassi Artists' Foundation, California, 1998 | Graham Hamilton Drawing Prize, 1991

Frances is represented in Belgium by De Queeste Kunstkamers, Abele/Watou, Belgium

for more information on Frances visit: www.avivablane.com

Darin Ahmad

Born in Hama, Syria

Education

Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, Aleppo University

Work Experience

Darin Ahmad is a self-taught artist and a poet.

Since 2004 she has been working as principal Arabic Editor and Webmaster of Maaber online magazine and Maaber publishing house (www.maaber.org).

Group Exhibition

Darin Ahmad is one of five Syrian artists taking part in the "Fluchtpunkt" exhibition in Bonn from May until July 2016, a joint project by Institut français Bonn, ArtDialog e.V. and the German-Arabic Poetry Salon.

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Outside cover: Frances Aviva Blane – Deconstruct 1 90 x 90 cm oil on linen

