



MAUMAUS
Residency Programme

Lumiar Cité

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Wednesday to Sunday, 3pm to 7pm
or by appointment
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WA BA3DEN

18.01 – 20.04.2025

an exhibition by Jawad Al Malhi

Curator and Artistic director: Jürgen Bock

Produced by Maumaus/Lumiar Cité,
in the framework of the Maumaus Residency Programme.

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The Maumaus residency programme presents the Palestinian artist Jawad Al Malhi at Lumiar Cité. 'Wa Ba3den', Al Malhi's first exhibition in Portugal, is based on a selection of paintings from a series with the same name, created in Ramallah between 2018 and 2023. For Alta de Lisboa, the neighbourhood in which the gallery is located, the artist has selected works of a thematic density that also suggest associations with the gallery's urban context. The possibility of viewing the exhibition from the street through the gallery's glass façade was an important starting point for the conception of the exhibition.

The show's Arabic title, 'Wa Ba3den', has multiple meanings. On the one hand, the phrase can be translated as 'afterwards', but in vernacular speech Wa Ba3den can also be translated as an exclamation similar to 'oh, that again', uttered when recurring misfortunes occur.

Al Malhi's subjects in this series are mainly young men, whose gestures seem at once familiar and alien, ghostly, shadowless, and in their fragmentary state detached from a world that the painter withholds from us, confronting the viewer with a strange tension. The individuals and groups appear timeless, peaceful, sometimes fatalistic, lost somewhere between events that have happened and events that are yet to happen echoing the different possible meanings of wa ba3den.

Undoubtedly referring to a here and now in the Middle East, Al Malhi's 'silent' paintings are based on the artist's observation of recurring fleeting moments of everyday life, which in turn are derived from an unrepresented epic history. Al Malhi engages with known histories and at the same time emancipates his paintings through his fragmentary approach.

About the artist

Jawad Al Malhi (1969) lives and works in East Jerusalem. In 2009, he was part of Palestine's first official participation in the Venice Biennale. His group exhibitions include: 'Thinking Historically in the Present', Sharjah Biennial 9 (2023), 'Global(e) Resistance', Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2020); 'Intimate Terrains: Representations of a Disappearing Landscape', Palestinian Museum (Birzeit, 2019); NSK State Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2017); Art Dubai (2016); and 'Provisions for the Future', Sharjah Biennial 9 (2009). His solo exhibitions include: 'Is There a Place for Me Here?/Is There Any Room at the Inn?', The Walled Off Hotel (Bethlehem, 2017); 'House No. 197', ERG (Brussels, 2017); and 'Measures of Uncertainty', Al Ma'mal Foundation (Jerusalem, 2014). Since 2000, he has participated in educational projects with children, young people and teachers.

The artist, the curator and the artistic director are available for interviews or guided tours to the exhibition.



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-1.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-2.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025

JaWad Al Malhi-3.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025

JaWad Al Malhi-4.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025

JaWad Al Malhi-5.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-6.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-7.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-8.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-9.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-10.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-11.jpeg



Jawad Al Malhi, *WA BA3DEN*, 2025
JaWad Al Malhi-12.jpeg

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