

Loay Al Hadhary
Sculptor



The sculptor Loay Al Hadhary lives and works in Baghdad. In 2006, he graduated from the Visual Art Department at the College of Fine Arts, Baghdad University and started to work in Al Iraqia TV Channel. Since 2018, he is a member of the artist collective TARKIB.

Loay Al Hadhary does not follow any mainstream thinking or culture, not in his art, not in his life. He prefers to use unusual materials to create his sculptures such as fiberglas. His figures are representatives of the society mainly from vulnerable and shelterless groups. Therefore, the subjects he is addressing are socio-critical and deep in thinking. Art for Loay is like a life cycle. If he would stop doing it, he would die.

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ECHO
Sculpture
2023

ECHO
Sculpture
2023

The sculptor Loay Al Hadhary presented the figure of a dead dog and its reflections in mirrors with the echo of barking dogs. He likes to refer to anecdotes, because it is a gently way to let people understand certain happenings and situations. His room-installation ECHO refers to 'the anecdote of a dog in a museum'.

"Once a dog ran into a museum, whose inside was covered with mirrors. When the dog saw its many reflection, it began instinctively bared its fangs, and all of its reflections did the same. The terrified dog barked loudly. The reflections mimicked and repeated. The wretched dog was discovered the next morning by museum security personnel, dead. There was nothing in the museum that might injure the dog. The dog perished as a result of its struggle with its own reflection."



9. *TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Muntada Al Masrah, 2023*

ECHO
Sculpture
2023

The moral of the story: Everything that happens around us is a reflection of our own ideas, feelings, desires, and deeds. The universe is a giant mirror in which people can strike a good pose. For Loay Al Hadhary, it is a request to the people to stand in front of the mirror in the best way a person is able and willing to do it.



9. *TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Muntada Al Masrah, 2023*



CYCLING
Sculpture
2022

CYCLING

Sculpture
2022

The drought of the marshes and human life are linked to each other, as the drought negatively affect the human being and their daily life. They are part of one life cycle and when one part is missing, the cycle is interrupted. Loay Al Hadhary's sculpture consisted of a self-build arabana with an imitation of parched soil and dead fishes inside. The artwork put a spotlight on the impact of drought on human daily sustenance and the life cycle.



5. BAGHDAD WALK 2022, Al Rasheed Street





KNEELING
Sculpture
2022

KNEELING

Sculpture
2022

There is an anecdote about Stalin, that he once gave a lesson to his advisors. He is reputed to pluck out the feathers of a live chicken. After he released the completely plucked chicken, the chicken came back to him. He moved around the room putting some barley and the chicken was following him. Stalin said: "Have you seen how that chicken followed me despite the pain I caused it?"

There are people who follow their exploiters, killers and thieves, no matter how excessively they torture them, and they may sanctify them for their crimes in exchange for crumbs, and often they may not even find those crumbs, but they are following.



BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN

Group Exhibition

23.06.-26.06.2022

Salon am Moritzplatz, Berlin

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibitions series which takes place in public spaces across the city of Baghdad, since 2018.

The exhibition BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN revealed how the participating artists developed artistic strategies and narratives in Baghdad's public space and presented selected works from the last four editions. Loay Al Hadhary presented his works "NOT FOR SALE", a video of his performance "ILLUSION" and a replica of his sculpture "THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER".

NOT FOR SALE
Photograph of an intervention
2018

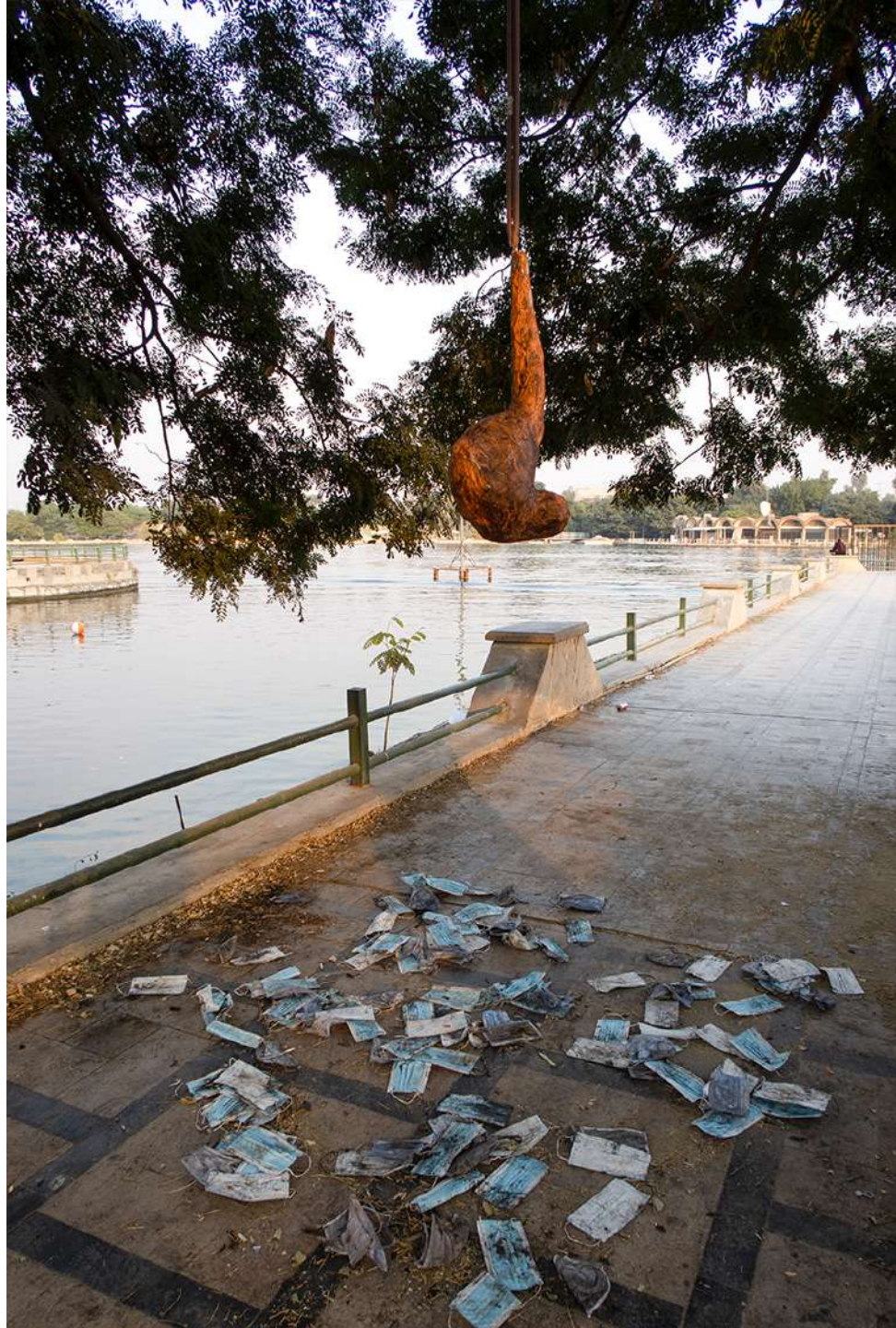




THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER
Sculpture, cardboard
2022



ILLUSION
Video of a performance
2022



OXYGEN
Sculptural Intervention
Fibreglas, 60 cm
2021



OXYGEN is a sculpture made by fiberglass representing an embryo inside a cocoon in the development stage and suspended from a tree branch by an umbilical cord. He talks about the importance of oxygen in our life and our indifference to it.

OXYGEN represents a continuous life cycle of human nature, where trees are affected by environmental pollution and continuous cutting. The latter one leads to reducing the percentage of our sources of oxygen. Since the outbreak of the Corona virus a lot of people lost their lives because they needed oxygen even though they got it either for a lot of money or for free. Loay Al Hadhary is questioning: How do we treat our source of life?





ILLUSION
Performance
2021

ILLUSION was a performance by Loay Al Hadhary. The artist took paper boats from a suitcase and spread them all over the railway tracks. For him, the paper boats drifting useless, purposeless, out of place between the train tracks, represent dreams and hopes, that lost their way, lost direction.

“The train of life will not stop at the station of despair, and the memory of hope must be kept, even though wisdom comes through freedom from illusion.” – Loay Al Hadhary





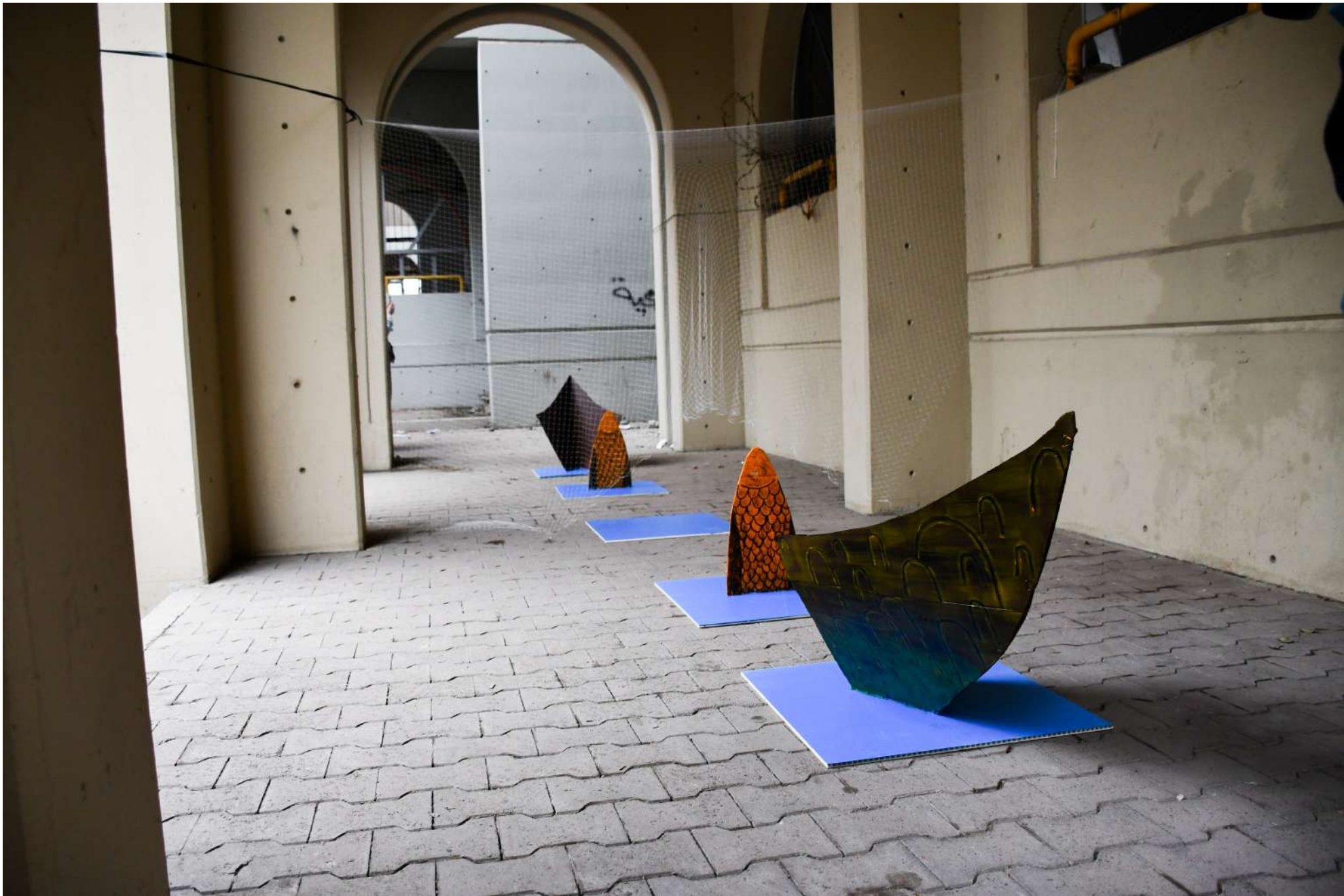


THE NEST
Fiberglas, gips
2020

THE NEST is a work which includes 12 eggs inside a nest made from war rubble. One of the eggs shows a newly hatched creature, born in Iraq. The face of the new creature looks like a face of a common sickness. But, it only expresses the fact, that we have a responsibility towards our children.



@ 6. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Online, 2020



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER
Sculptural Intervention
Cardboard
2020



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER is a sculptural intervention that refers to Haifa Street and its former neighbourhood, which traditionally was closely connected to the river and the fish market. This work addresses the perception that the new development has 'turned away' from the river and its life-supporting function.



@ 3. BAGHDAD WALK 2020, Haifa Street



CAMOUFLAGE
Pappmaché
2019

A life-size sculptural work made from cardboard trash took on the form of a homeless woman in a sleeping position. The work was displayed unobtrusively on the street amid a pile of remaining market waste, indicating that pedestrians passing by would only see a pile of refuse, oblivious to the number of homeless people who live and sleep on those streets close to the Shorja bazaar, with its remains and garbage left after the market day comes to an end. Often used against the cold of the night, the homeless population collects paper and cardboard garbage to create hiding spots.







THE OTHER SIDE OF FREEDOM
Fiberglas
2019

This work by Loay Al Hadhary speaks about an Iraqi woman and her personal view of the term "freedom" in a society restricted by social, religious and tribal traditions and customs, where she considers herself restricted to freedom despite the society's view of her that she is free.



@ FORB – Group Exhibition, Bait Tarkib, 2019



RUMOUR
Sculptural Intervention
Fiberglas
2019

The internet, particularly social media, is another outlet for a possible downfall. Fake news, gossips and rumours, spread as true meant statements, could be incredibly damaging to the receiver. This fact is more dangerous than people think. RUMOUR wants to create an awareness about this dangerous fact. 12 figures are arranged in a circle, adapting the common children's game 'chinese whisper'. The number 12 stands for 12 months in a year and 12 hours per day of reception.





NOT FOR SALE
Sculptural Intervention
Fiberglas
2018

The sculpture NOT FOR SALE is a Yazidi woman, her skin assigned with inscriptions of slavery and wrapped in semi-transparent plastic foil, which represents the traditional Abaya robe, with raised hands, tearing a chain apart. His statue stands for the fate of the Yazidi women, kidnapped, sold and raped by members of the Islamic State (IS). Loay Al Hadhary installed his sculpture under the "Freedom Monument" created by the Iraqi pioneer sculpture Jawad Saleem on Tahrir Square. The monument was unveiled in 1961 and commemorates the 14.th of July Revolution in 1958. The 14 bronze reliefs are a narrative of this revolution and should be read from right to left. The first stage to the right begins with the pre-revolution. The period of the revolution is located in the middle and the post-revolution stage extends on the left. Loay Al Hadhary positioned his sculpture NOT FOR SALE precisely under the bronze relief which expresses the moment when the revolution happened: Enough – The Freedom Day.





UNION
Live-Sculpture
Mixed Media
2018

UNION was a live-sculptural performance on the occasion of 3. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival in BAIT TARKIB in 2018. Visitors followed the process of making a peace sculpture. Loay Al Hahdary sculpted a human size abstract formed statue during the festival representing the concept of unification.

@ 3. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, 2018







MINORS MARRIAGE
Fiberglas | 50 x 70cm | 2018

REMAINS OF REMAINS
Solo-Exhibition
BAIT TARKIB
2018



A DOSE OF HOPE
Fiberglas | 35 x 45 cm | 2018



CHILD UNDER THE RAIN
Fiberglas | 15 x 50 cm | 2018



DISPLACED UNDER THE RAIN
Fiberglas | 26 x 45 cm | 2018



HOMELESS CHILD
Fiberglas | 30 x 40 cm | 2018



THE LAST FLAVOUR
Fiberglas | 20 x 70 cm | 2018



ONE PIECE
Fiberglas | 20 x 40 cm | 2018



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Fiberglas | 33 x 45 cm | 2018



LOST HOPE
Fiberglas | 25 x 40 cm | 2018