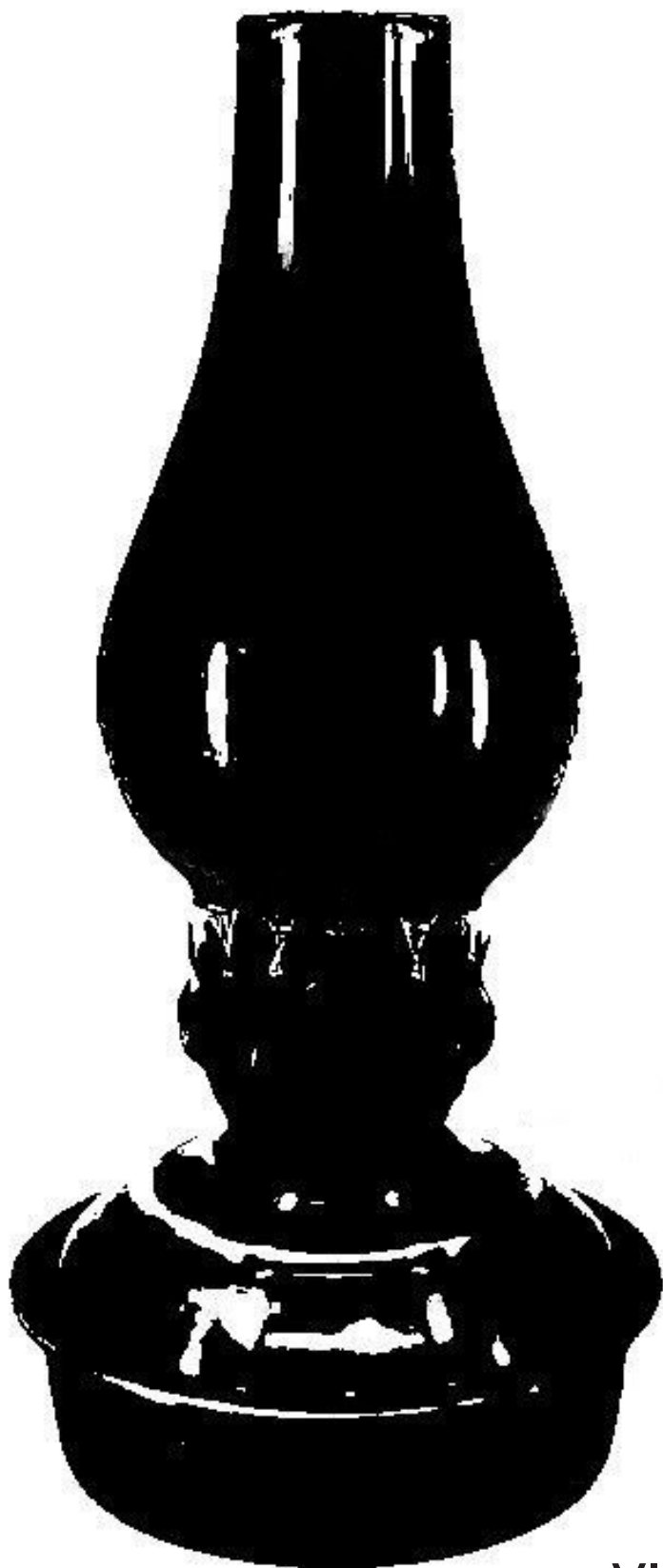


PORTFOLIO

SALEH AL HASSAN



2026

VISUAL ARTIST

Artist Statement

As an artist and student at the College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, Saleh Al Hassan is developing a practice centred on printmaking while exploring its relationship with painting and other forms of artistic expression. He is particularly interested in geometric forms, repetition, layering, and the transformation of familiar objects into a personal visual language.

A recurring element in his work is the LALA, the traditional Iraqi oil lamp. Connected to his childhood memories, it has gradually developed from an everyday object into a character and symbol that moves between different bodies, objects, and situations. Through the LALA, he explores childhood, absence, memory, and the realities of growing up in Iraq. Bright colours and playful forms create a deliberate contrast with the more difficult experiences underlying the works.





Printmaking strongly influences the way he simplifies and constructs forms. Combining screen printing with painting allows him to transfer the graphic qualities of printmaking into his paintings. His recent exploration of the LALA as a sculptural object extends this visual language beyond the flat image. As his practice develops, he aims to further explore objects, installations, and ready-mades, allowing everyday materials and found objects to become part of his work.

Through these explorations, he is interested in how personal memories and ordinary objects can be transformed into contemporary artistic forms that connect individual experience with a wider social and generational memory.

LaLa

Painting • Silkscreen • Sculpture

Bait Tarkib | 2026

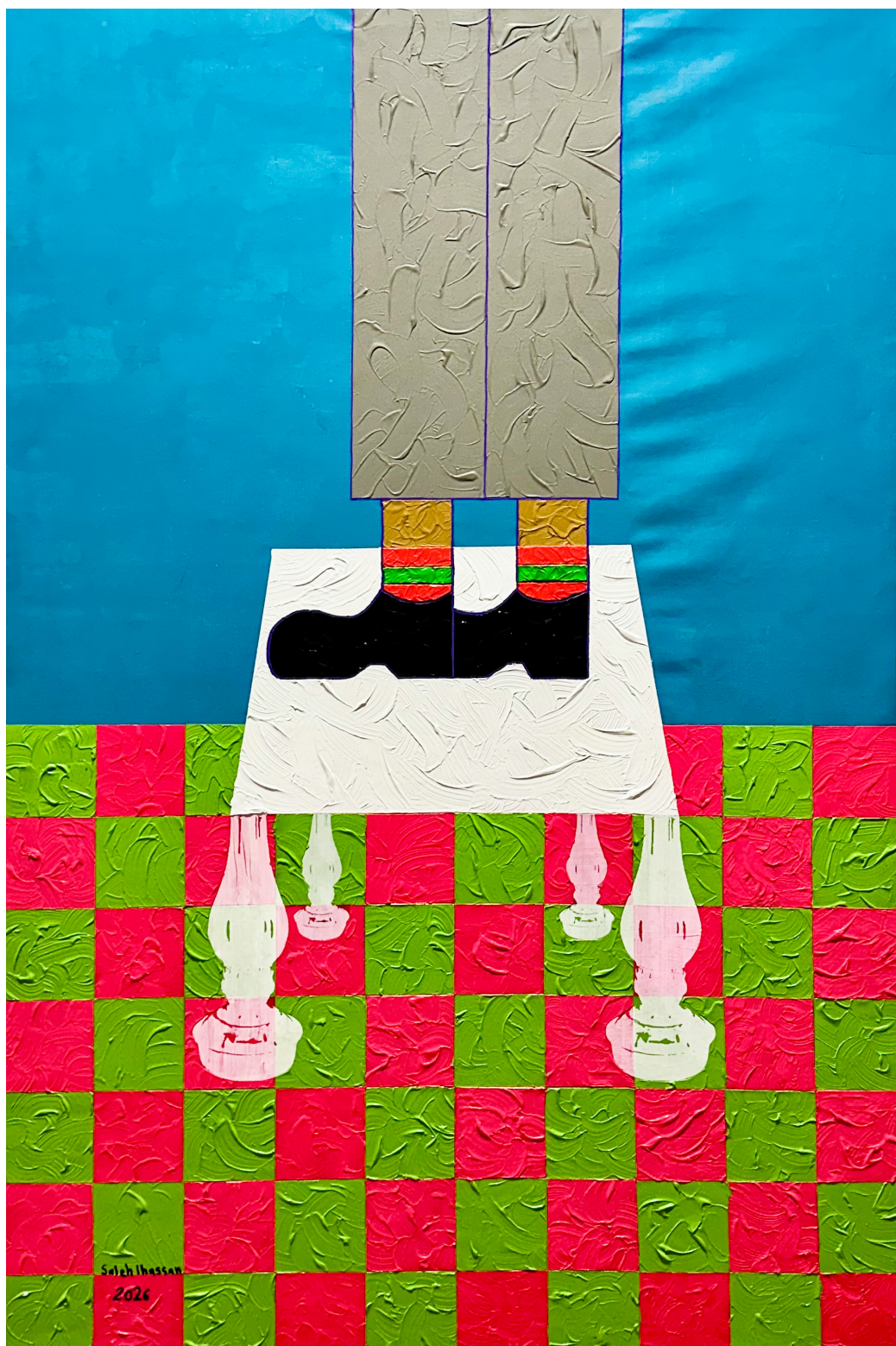
LaLa brings together six paintings, twenty silkscreen prints on recycled paper, and an aluminium sculpture, all centred on the traditional Iraqi oil lamp known as the lala. Closely connected to the artist's difficult childhood experiences, the works use bright Pop Art colours and playful geometric forms to evoke the happiness usually associated with childhood. The vibrant contrasts point instead to what was absent: where there should have been toys, there were, figuratively speaking, a Kalashnikov and an explosive vest.

Through this deliberately joyful visual language, LaLa offers a positive way of processing difficult experiences shared by many people in Iraq and encourages a peaceful shift in perspective on the past. Extending this exploration beyond painting and printmaking, the aluminium LALA stands as a silent monument to difficult times that will hopefully never return.

LALA

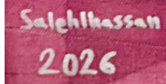
Exhibition View | Bait Tarkib | 2026





THE TABLE

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 150 cm | 2026



EXPLOSIVE VEST

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 80 x 80 cm | 2026



THE BICYCLE

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | 2026



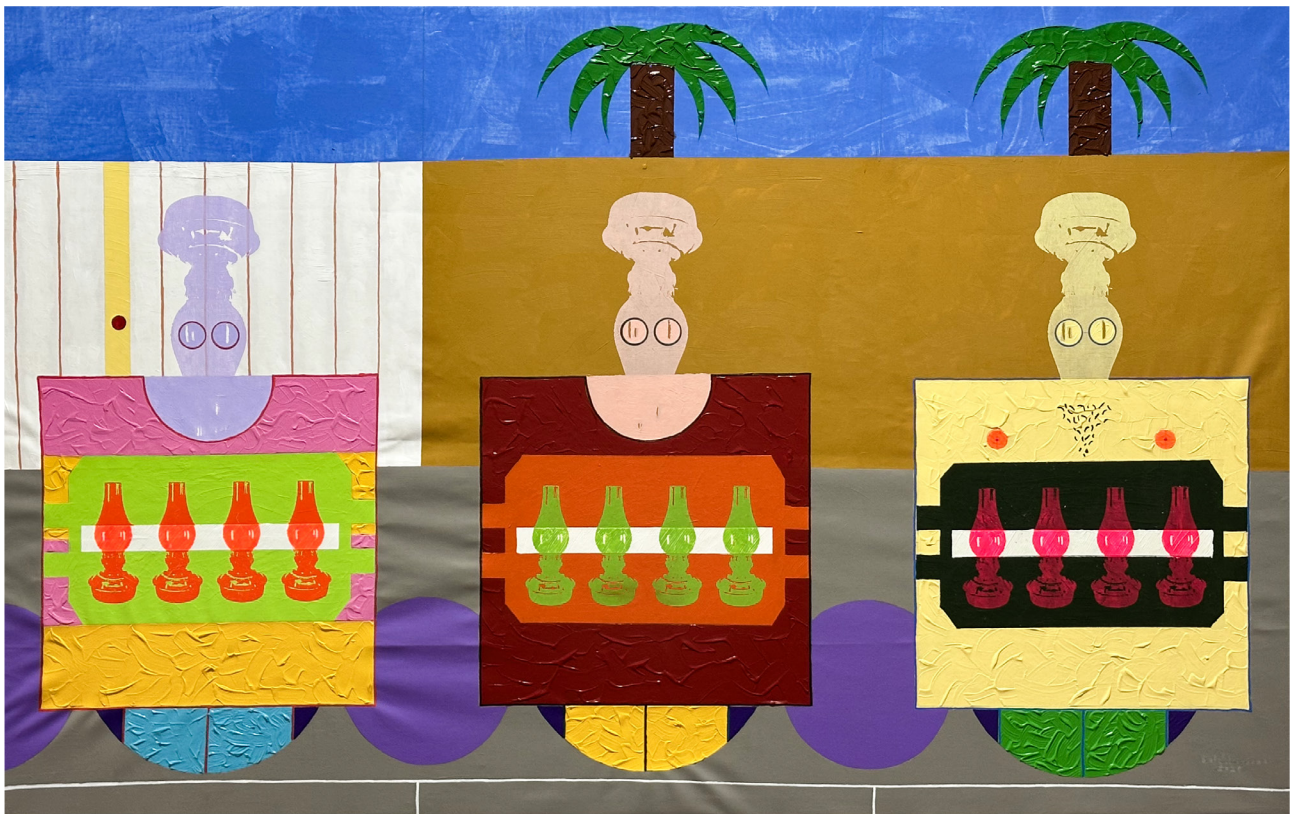
FERRIS WHEEL

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | 2026



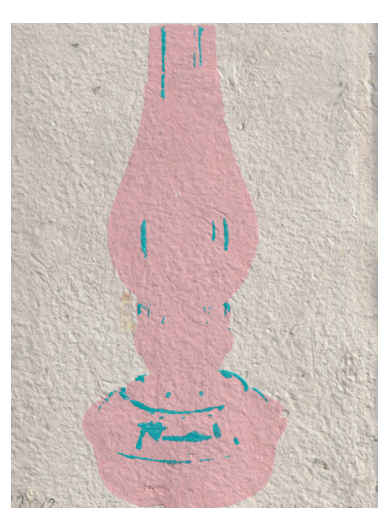
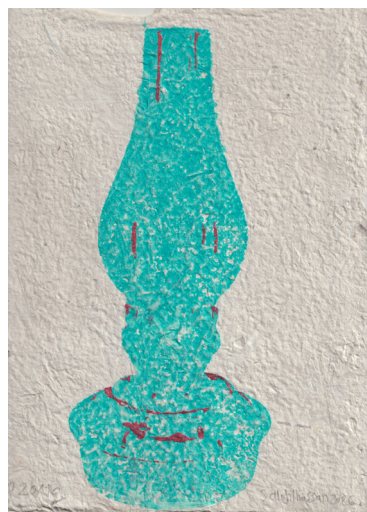
THE ROOM

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 150 x 100 cm | 2026



SEWAGE

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 150 x 100 cm | 2026



RECYCLE

Series of 20 LaLa silkscreen prints in colour variations on handmade recycled paper |
20 x 30 cm each | 2026



THE LALA

Cast aluminium | H: 27 cm | 2026

993

Silkscreen and gouache on canvas

Baghdad Walk 8 | 2025

Baghdad Walk is a TARKIB program and a platform for emerging artists to present their work in Baghdad's public realm. For Baghdad Walk 8, Saleh Al Hassan presented a 5 x 2 m canvas laid on the ground in front of the historic villas on Haifa Street, featuring 993 oil-lamp icons rendered in silkscreen. The work symbolizes Iraq's oil reserves and reflects their detrimental impact on both the environment and society. Through colour, bluish icons are dominated by brownish, oil-toned areas.

The number 993 refers to the combined number of producing wells in two of Iraq's earliest and largest oil fields: 330 in the Kirkuk Field and 663 in the North Rumaila Field in Basra. The canvas was intentionally placed against Haifa Street's historically layered backdrop: early 20th-century villas associated with the formation of modern Iraq after 1921 and the residential blocks constructed under the Haifa Street Development Plan between 1980 and 1985. Across these different periods, as today, the work points to the contradiction between Iraq's immense oil wealth and the limited extent to which this wealth has benefited the wider population.



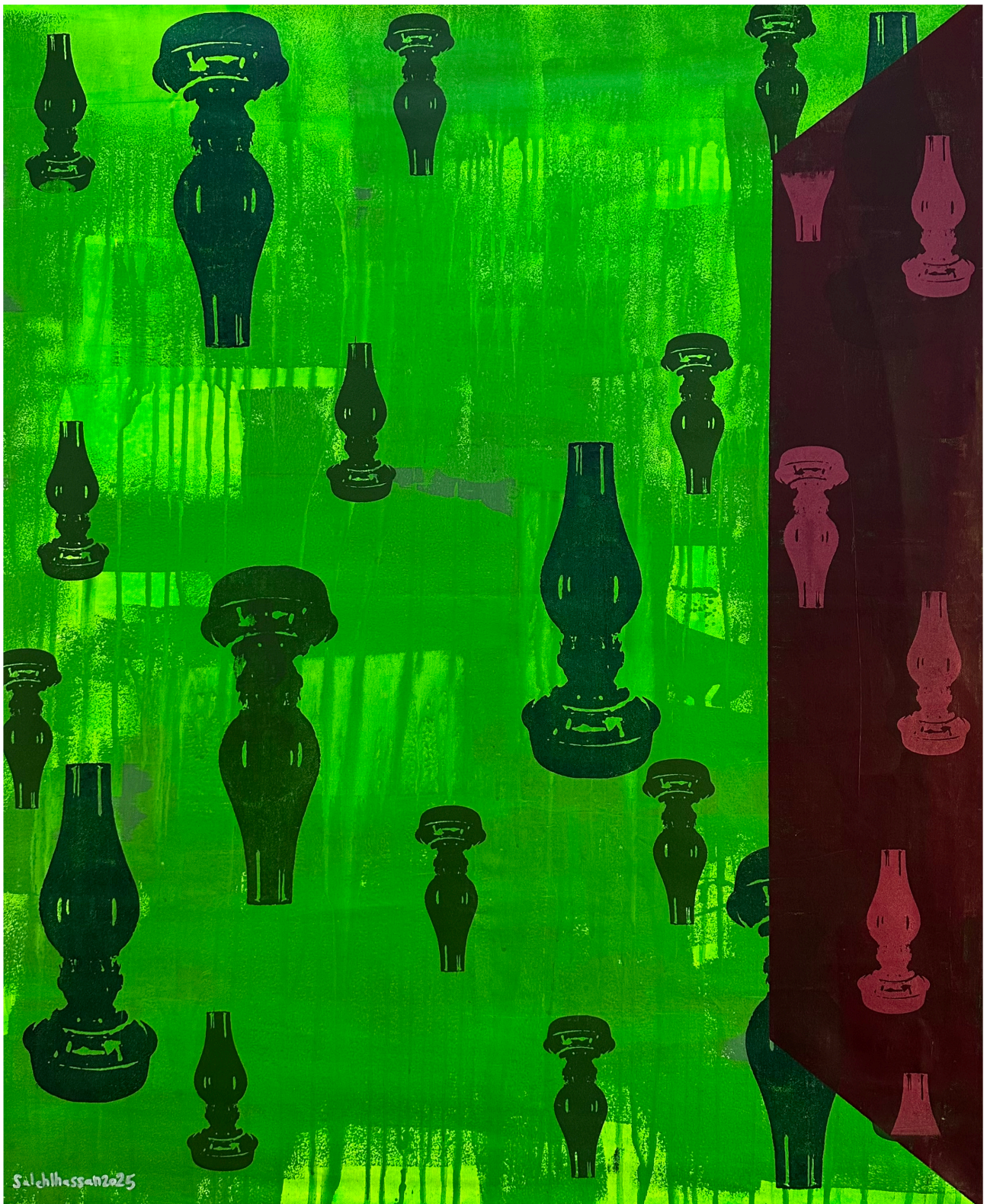




Exhibition View | 11th TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival |
Museum of Modern Art (Gulbenkian Hall) | Baghdad | 2026

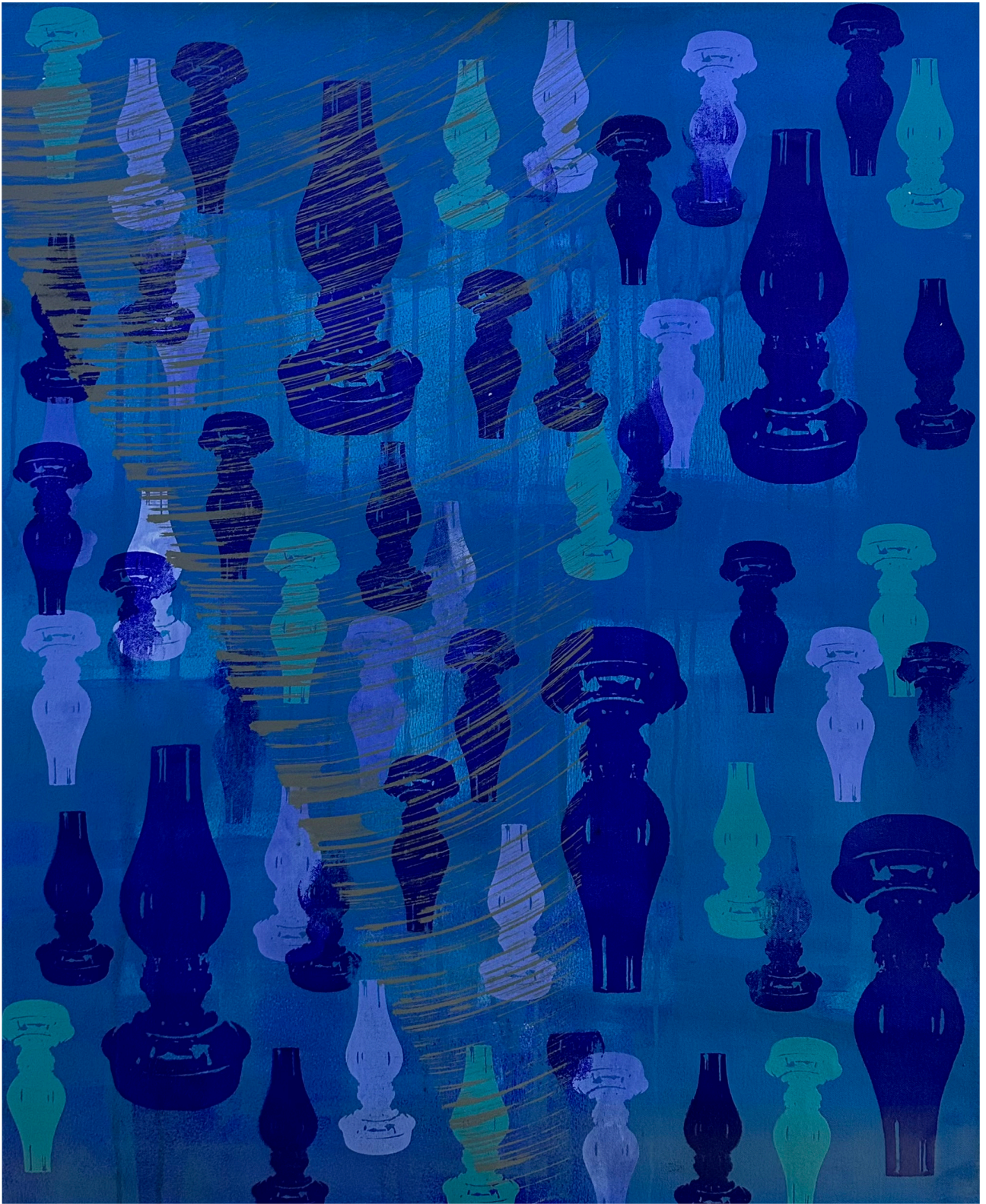


Exhibition View | TARKIB at the French Institute Baghdad |
French Institute | Baghdad | 2026



GREEN

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 80 cm | 2025



BLUE

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 80 cm | 2025



PINK

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 100 cm | 2025



ORANGE ROOM

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 150 cm | 2025



SCHOOL/1

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 80 cm | 2025



SCHOOL/2

Acrylic and silkscreen print on canvas | 100 x 80 cm | 2025

Artist Biography

Saleh Al Hassan was born in Baghdad in 2002 into a family originally from Amara, near the Hawizeh Marshes in southern Iraq. He is an emerging visual artist currently studying at the College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, where he specializes in printmaking. His developing practice moves between printmaking and painting, with a growing interest in objects and installation.

In 2025, he joined the TARKIB Collective through its BAGHDAD WALK program. In 2026, he participated in the 11th TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival and presented his first solo exhibition at Bait Tarkib in October 2026.

Artist CV

Born

2002, Baghdad, Iraq

Education

College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad
Graphic Print / Printmaking, current student

Solo Exhibitions

2026 – “LALA”, Bait Tarkib, Baghdad

Selected Group Exhibitions & Projects

2026 – 11th TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Baghdad
2025 – BAGHDAD WALK, TARKIB, Baghdad

Membership

Since 2025 – Member of TARKIB Collective, Baghdad

Artist Contact

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