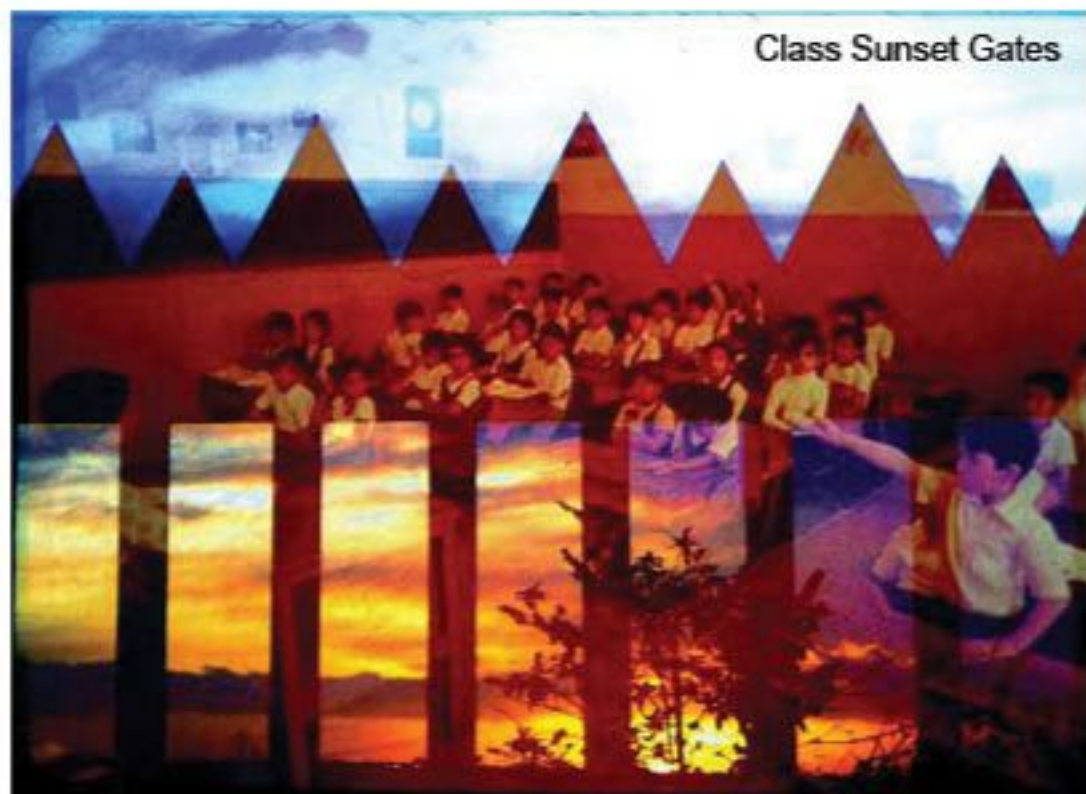


Sound Base: Geo-piano Installation And Digital And Analogue Prints

By: ITM London

Iraqi artist Rashad Salim shows his geo-piano installation, projections and a new series of digital and analogue prints, at a Ramadan Exhibition (20th August – September 26th) at La Ruche Gallery in East London.



Salim says the show «dares to imagine things anew and remade: pianos, open, accessible; caught in the sensibilities of light from

many sources.»

The piano installation was inspired by an upright piano abandoned near Salim's studio in London, which had its action and keys ripped out. He associated it with the continued destruction of his native Iraq following the 2003 invasion. In a previous expression of the project in Somerset in December 2009, a defunct piano was burned on an a country estate lawn in a performance recalling

the conflagrations of Baghdad.

It is a very much «please touch» installation. Visitors to the gallery are encouraged to play what remains of the piano and the invitation to the private view described Sound Base as an exhibition by Rashad Salim, co artists, friends, family and you, drawing attention to the importance of audience participation.

Just as Ramadan is a month of



Conference by the Tigris



**Mother - Riverbank
Stadium**

remembrance, observance and re-evaluation, Sound Base engages past and present with a wish for the future in a visual and meditational experience, Janet Rady of La Ruche Gallery explains in a press release. Re-piano is an ongoing art project that centres on the reclamation, reinvention and renewal of defunct pianos and is particularly relevant for Ramadan. Ramadan is a time to come together and to reach out, a time for compassion in practice, giving

thanks for understanding and to retune spirit and matter. The process of opening and remaking embodies a wider process - an opening of the imagination that is called for in any situation where established systems have become dysfunctional. Re-Piano proposes that this process is not a matter of starting something new but of re-engaging with the huge wealth of what we already have. Why throw the whole thing away when it is only the mechanism that has

failed?

Complimenting the Geopiano, the exhibition also features individual, graphically nuanced print impressions from the base of a piano and a selection of prints from a series of visually challenging digital collage works – an explosion

of colour with images superimposed on images blending the past and the present.

Rashad Salim was born in Khartoum, Sudan in 1957 and studied in Graphics and Printmaking at IFA and completed



Rashad
Salim



a Postgraduate Diploma in Audio Visuals at St. Martins School of Art in London.

He has worked in various countries as a teacher and lecturer on art and has been involved in illustration, stage design, photography, film production and advisory work to the UN and other NGOs. He has established and developed many cultural associations including Friends of the Children's Hospital, Rabat; International Halaqa, Yemen; and

Ashford Visual Artists.

Rashad Salim's work is in a number of private and institutional collections including H.R.H. King Mohammed VI, H.E. Countess Helga Graf von Strachwitz, H.E. Christopher and Mrs. Laure Yeager, Dr Jacques Veerman, Dr Ahmed Kadri Tourjaman, The estate of Mr. Rashid Romani, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Saeed Al Nahayan, The British Museum, The King Faisal Foundation, The Ministry of Culture Oman – and

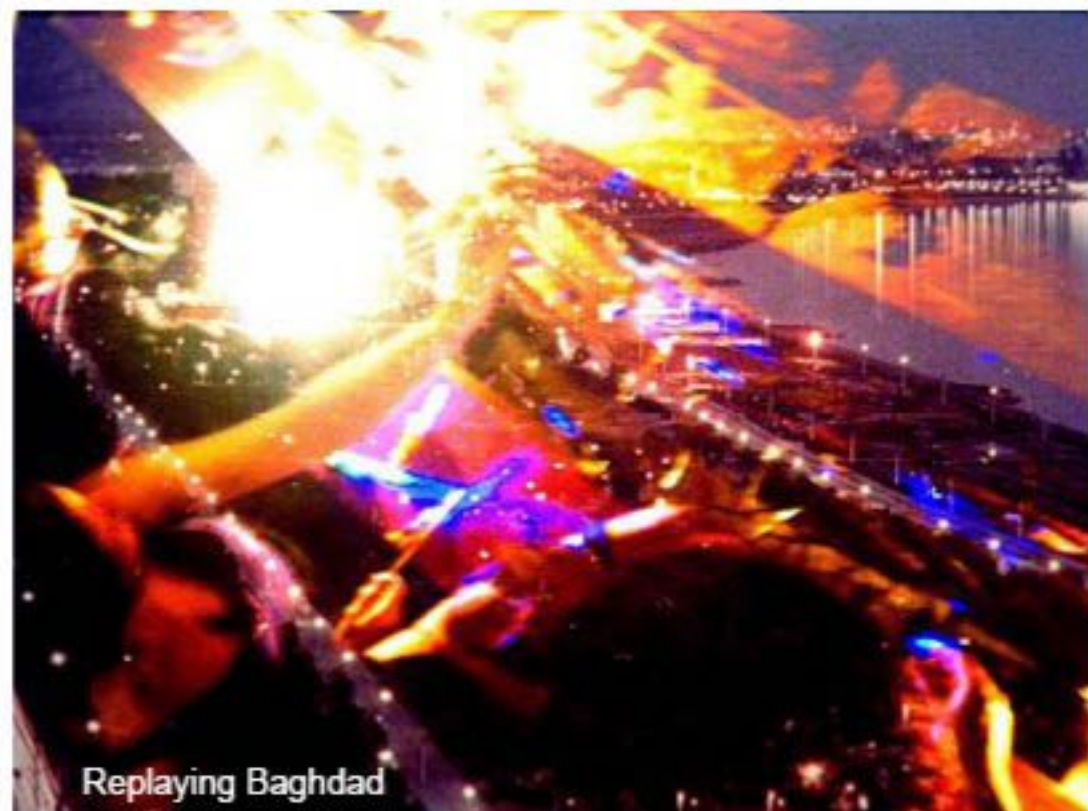
the Arab Investment Bank, Amman.

Salim is currently based in London and regularly commutes between North Africa and the UK.

Now in its third successful year, Janet Rady Fine Art has recently opened a gallery space in the East End of London, featuring an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions by a wide range of

cutting edge Contemporary Arab and Iranian artists as well as International artists whose work references the Middle East.

Based between London and the United Arab Emirates, Gallery Director, Janet Rady is a Specialist in Contemporary Art in the Middle East, with over twenty years' experience of the International Art Market including Auction Houses, Commercial Galleries and Art Fairs.



Replaying Baghdad