



eclectica
contemporary

Between Memory
and Migration

2-27 JULY 2026
56 CHURCH STREET
CAPE TOWN
8001

Between Memory and Migration



Hussein Salim & Mimouni El Houssaine

Memory is rarely fixed. It survives as fragments, symbols, traces, and dreams that travel across generations, borders, and histories. Bringing together the works of Hussein Salim and Mimouni El Houssaine, this exhibition explores how identity is shaped through movement, remembrance, and the persistent search for belonging.

Hussein Salim's paintings unfold as layered archives of experience. Grids, emblems, and recurring symbols emerge from textured surfaces like excavated relics, revealing a visual language that speaks to displacement, cultural inheritance, and the reconstruction of self. His works occupy the space between memory and materiality, where histories are continually buried, uncovered, and rewritten.

Alongside Salim's meditations on memory, Mimouni El Houssaine presents a more lyrical journey of longing and return. Living between Morocco and Europe, the artist draws upon the experience of inhabiting multiple worlds. His works combine gestural marks, calligraphic fragments, symbolic forms, and horizon lines that evoke migration not only as a physical passage but as an emotional and spiritual condition. Recurring motifs suggest letters never sent, messages carried across oceans, and dreams of distant shores. His practice reflects what he describes as a yearning for "the other shore"—a desire to return to origins while remaining open to transformation.

Together, the artists construct parallel visual vocabularies. Salim's intricate symbols resemble maps of memory, while Mimouni's calligraphic gestures suggest conversations across time and geography. Both employ processes of layering, erasure, and accumulation, creating surfaces that resist immediate reading and instead invite slow contemplation. Their works inhabit the territory between presence and absence, certainty and ambiguity, home and elsewhere.

The exhibition proposes that migration is not solely about movement through space. It is equally a movement through memory, language, and imagination. Through symbols, marks, and poetic abstraction, Salim and El Houssaine transform personal histories into universal reflections on what it means to carry one's past while continually moving toward an unknown horizon.

In these works, memory becomes a landscape, and the act of remembering becomes a form of navigation. The result is an exhibition that speaks to the enduring human desire to locate oneself between where one has come from and where one is yet to arrive.

Hussein Salim

As a result of a tumultuous political and economical period in Sudan, which too brought about disputes of its historical context, Hussein Salim was displaced from Sudan and spent a number of years in various countries such as England, France, Germany, Norway and South Africa. Despite his artistic training in University of Sudan for Science and Technology, he attained his High degree in art at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg. He has exhibited extensively overseas along with acclaimed local galleries, such as Bonisa Private Gallery, Elizabeth Gordon Gallery, Johans Borman and Eclectica Contemporary among others. Inspired by Sudan and Africa at large, the diversity and diasporic multicultural communal structure. His body of work aims to celebrate this through extensive layering of motifs masked by rich colours.

Following the example of graciousness, humility and resilience of the Sudanese, Hussein Salim has worked closely with NGOs such as African Angels and Buccaneers Outreach programs, who focus on the sustenance and uplifting of children and schools in marginalized communities with proceeds of his artwork sales being donated to various outreach schemes.





Hussein Salim
Desert Aesthetic 3, 2025
Mixed media on Canvas
120 x 120 cm
ZAR 48 000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
Desert Aesthetic 4, 2025
Mixed media on Canvas
120 x 120 cm
ZAR 48 000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
Happy Valley, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
90 x 66 cm
ZAR 18 000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
Whispers in the sand, 2025
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas
64.5 x 54 cm
ZAR 8 500 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
Desert Sun, 2025
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas
64.5 x 54 cm
ZAR 8 500 excl. VAT



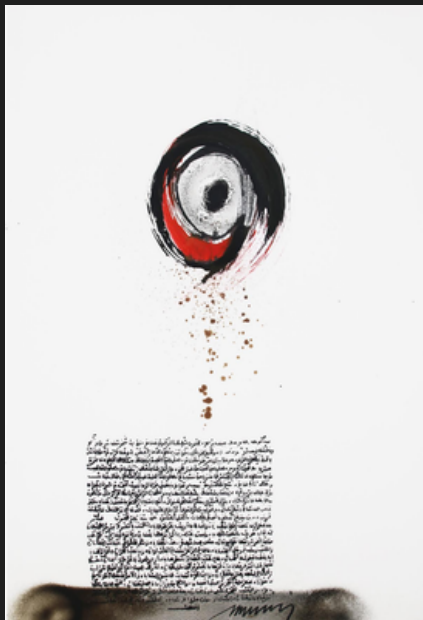
Hussein Salim
Desert Moon, 2025
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas
64.5 x 54 cm
ZAR 8 500 excl. VAT

Mimouni El Houssaine

Mimouni El Houssaine lives and teaches fine art in Montpellier although he travels constantly between the two Mediterranean shores of Morocco and Europe. These constant coming and goings are reflected on his canvases in a game of symbols, spattered written texts and horizons in perspective. Mimouni's work weaves the intricate dialect of yearning for other shores, spurred on by the desire to leave, to return or simply of dreaming of being in a different place. He explains, "yearning for the other shore, is a translation of my thoughts of returning to my country, going back to my roots. It also symbolizes a return to the light, so very unique to Africa".

In his works, the many crossings are represented by means of recurring symbols such as canoes, bundles of sticks or ladders reaching for the sky. Painting, collage, materials and text are combined in a score etched in the heart of one for whom the quest for the invisible seems more irrepressible than ever. Each curve is a meditation, the slightest trace a search towards an elevated state of mind susceptible of reaching the sky. Taking inspiration from his travels, but also from music, Tuareg sounds, Flamenco and Sufi music, Mimouni's work is layered with lyrical symbolisms. Timeless landscapes, graphic writing and splashes of colour are open to imagination, peppered with forms and shapes that verge between drawing and speech. The works hold no human figure, but the features of humanity are delicately outlined in every detail.





Mimouni El Houssaïne
Mataki's Dream, 2019
 Mixed media on Paper
 102 x 72 cm
 ZAR 68 000 excl. VAT

Eclectica Contemporary is a Cape Town-based gallery dedicated to contemporary artistic practices from Africa and its diaspora. The gallery presents a dynamic program of emerging and established artists and has participated in leading international art fairs. Artists represented by the gallery have participated in major international biennials and their works are held in significant institutional collections including the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, the Rupert Museum, and the Iziko South African National Gallery, as well as major international foundations and private collections. Through exhibitions, international presentations, and collaborations with curators and institutions, Eclectica Contemporary contributes to the global discourse surrounding contemporary African art.