

HELEN ZUGHAI B

*“THE ARTIST’S GREATEST HITS”*



## Helen Zughaib, Looking Back, Looking Forward



In Spring 2021, Gallery Al-Quds exhibits its first retrospective view of paintings by Helen Zughaib, *“The Artist’s Greatest Hits”* featuring some of the most loved images from 30 years of artwork reflecting her personal history and unique take on world events. The somewhat humorous title gave us a chance to look backward and look forward after a tumultuous year of anguish and hope, during which Zughaib continued to build upon the artistic foundations she lay soon after coming to America from Lebanon.

From revisioning famous American landmarks, to painting stories her father told her of his childhood in the Middle East, to her latest life-changing re-interpretations of the paintings of Jacob Lawrence in the context of the Syrian migration, her work offers a touchstone to history and social justice, robed in humor and beauty.

# Charity and Compassion (from the series, *Stories My Father Told Me*)



# Eid al Salib (from the series, *Stories My Father Told Me*)



Saying Goodbye (from the series, *Stories My Father Told Me*)



# Coming to America



# George Washington Monument



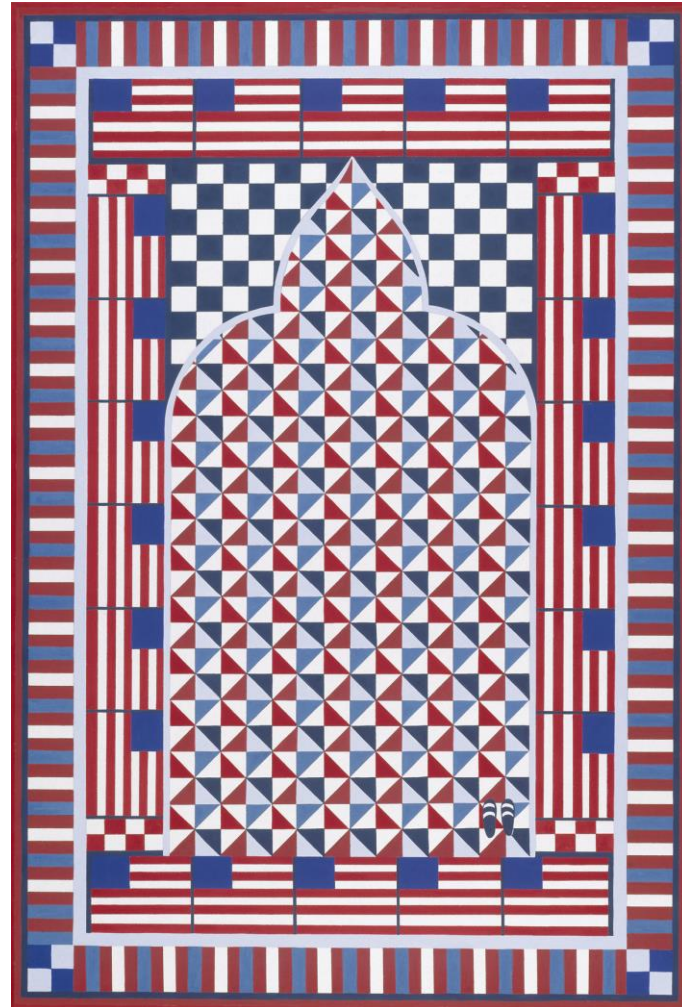
# The Capitol Building



# The National Mall



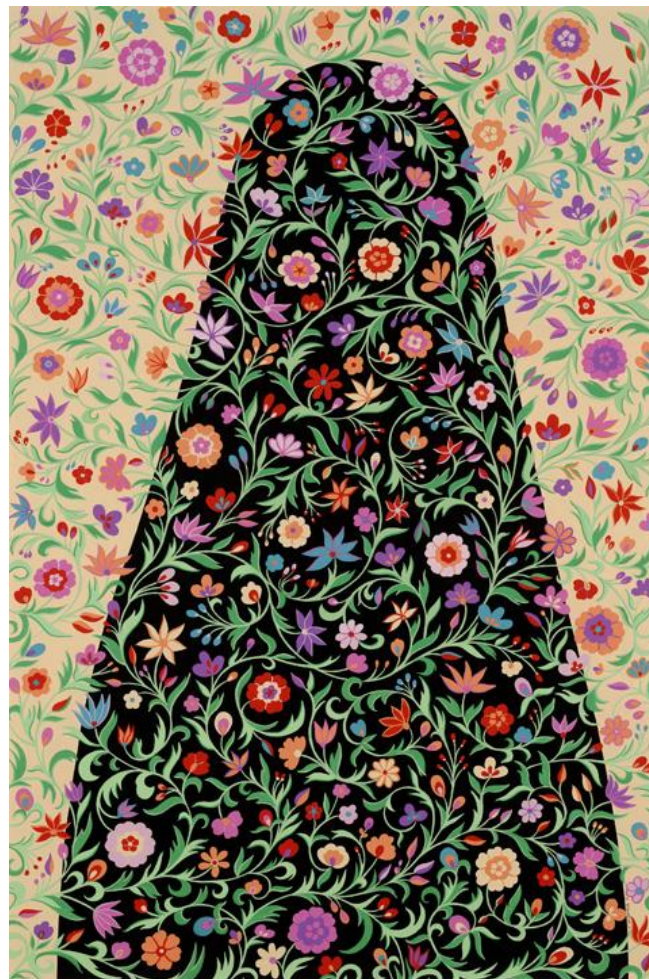
# Prayer Rug for America



# Prayers for Peace



# Arab Spring



# Spring Landscape



Spring Flight, Bird #1 (from a 12-piece installation)



# Spring Flight, Bird #2 (from a 12-piece installation)



# Changing Perceptions: Abaya Mondrian



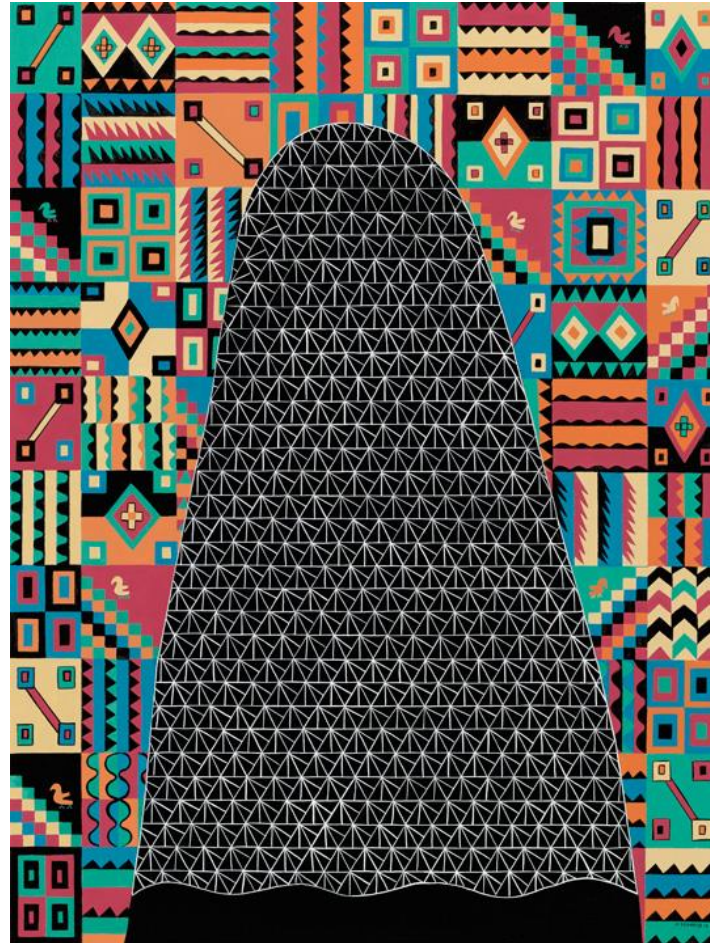
## Changing Perceptions: Abaya Leger



# Red Veil



# Woven in Exile (from *The Map is Not the Territory*)



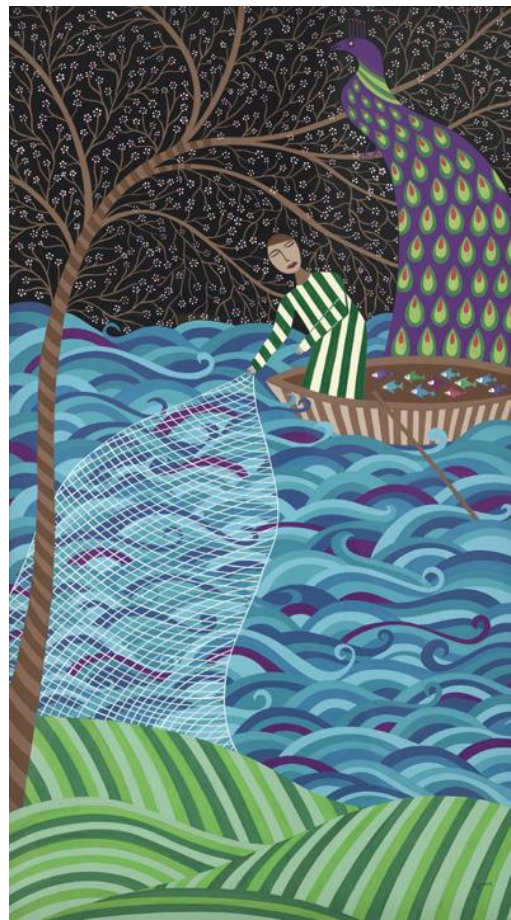
# Women Against the Night



# Sisters Too



# Moonlight Fishing



# Look Who is Coming to Dinner



# Self Portraits



# Miniatures



# Wish (still from video)



# Syrian Migration Series 2019 (slide presentation)

Series inspired by Jacob Lawrence. 41 panels to date. *"So the migrants kept coming"* final panel, quotation from Jacob Lawrence



# About the Artist

Helen Zughaib was born in Beirut, Lebanon, living mostly in the Middle East and Europe before coming to the United States to study art. She received her BFA from Syracuse University, College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1981. She paints using gouache and ink on paper, transforming her subjects into a combination of colors and patterns, creating a nontraditional sense of space and perspective.

Her work has been widely exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe and Lebanon. Her paintings are included in many private and public collections, including the White House, World Bank, Library of Congress, US Consulate General, Vancouver, Canada, American Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, and the Arab American National Museum in Detroit, Michigan. In 2008, she served as United States Cultural Envoy to the West Bank, Palestine. In 2009, she was sent to Switzerland under the State Department's Speaker and Specialist Program. Most recently, President Obama gave one of Zughaib's pieces to Prime Minister Nouri al- Maliki of Iraq, upon his official visit to the White House, and Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, gave one of her pieces to the King of Morocco.

As an Arab American, Helen feels that her background in the Middle East allows her to approach the experiences she has in America, in a unique way, remaining an observer of both the Arab and American cultures. She believes that the arts are one of the most important tools we have to help shape and foster dialogue and positive ideas between the Middle East and the United States.

# Exhibition Checklist

curated by Dagmar Painter

## **Women Against the Night**

framed archival pigment print 20 x 30

## **Prayers for Peace**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 30

## **Moonlight Fishing**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 30

## **Look Who Is Coming To Dinner**

framed archival pigment print 20 x 30

## **Changing Perceptions,**

### **Abaya Mondrian**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 30

## **Changing Perceptions,**

### **Abaya Leger**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 30

## **George Washington Monument**

framed archival pigment print 20 x 30

## **The Capitol Building**

framed archival pigment print 20 x 30

## **National Mall**

gouache and ink on board 30 x 40

## **Charity and Compassion**

gouache on board 15 x 20

## **Eid al Salib**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 20

## **Saying Goodbye**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 20

## **Coming to America**

framed archival pigment print, gouache  
15 x 20

## **Sisters Too**

framed archival pigment print 20 x 30

## **Spring Landscape**

framed archival pigment print 30 x 30

## **Spring Flight, Bird #1**

gouache on board, 15 x 20

## **Spring Flight, Bird #2**

gouache on board, 15 x 20

## **Woven in Exile**

gouache on canson paper

## **Red Veil**

framed archival pigment print 15 x 20

## **Self Portrait with Two Animals**

Gouache

## **Self Portrait with Cat**

gouache

## **Miniature, Coffee Pot**

gouache, signed on reverse

## **Miniature, Cat with Tail**

gouache, signed on reverse

## **Miniature, Cat**

gouache, signed on reverse

## **Miniature, Garden**

gouache, signed on reverse