

him prevent him from making exhibitions outside the Gaza Strip and West Bank, but his paintings have been exhibited all over the world, due to the efforts of the friends of the Palestinian people.

Gaben says that he belongs to the «school - or camp - of pain and suffering. From suffering we learn everything in life. The real artist is the artist of pain and suffering, coupled with talent and daily activity. The process of gaining artistic ability is refined from real suffering, in addition to my studying some art books. These were incomplete, but the bitter life I live fills out the gaps. Modesty is the best way to capture the hearts of the masses, and this comes before art work. The real artist is the one who knows his people and their feelings. This creates the real and honest person, and the artist must be a first-class person.»

«Our society, artistic and non-artistic, is filled with loud voices... selfish voices and even voices of hatred

and envy raised by some traditional artists who have entered the art world by recopying and trying to belittle the importance of successful works. The best we can hope for from our dedicated artists is that they come closer to each other... Real art work could facilitate a cultural atmosphere whereby the masses would sense their own civilized presence among the contemporary art trends in the world.

«We should not eliminate what is good in any art trend. There are artists of quality in realism, as well as expressionism, symbolism, surrealism and abstract art... Great works will remain distinguished by their vision and technical creation. There will continue to be controversy about their excellence and as to whether they transform into a general trend which affects the real direction of the plastic arts movement. Good art, as we view it through historical study, may have inferior aspects, but the real victory is seen in those geniuses who try to achieve the

mission of the masses through great art work.»

On the subject of critique, Gaben said, «In my opinion, critique is a unique achievement; it has its own difficult conditions... it is not at a lower level than art work itself. In fact, there are serious critique writings aimed at crystallizing the ideas of art and qualitatively adding to its human level. There are writings we should not call critique on the other hand... and a lot of old judgements have to be revised... Rejecting criticism is an oppression, a mistake which no artist should commit. Objective criticism is not personal criticism, and the artist should prove his originality, objectiveness and dedication to art and his aims. Rough, offensive criticism will ultimately affect the critic, while creative art will stay above any incorrect, subjective criticism, because it conforms with the character of life. Art corresponds to life and, at the same time, competes with it.»

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