

NEW RELEASE

 Nat Muller (Ed.)  
**Walid Siti**

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**First comprehensive monograph of the Kurdish-Iraqi artist presenting his work of forty years**

London-based Kurdish-Iraqi artist Walid Siti's (b.1954) first monograph presents an oeuvre that spans over forty years and traverses the complex terrains of memory and loss, landscape and architecture, as well as issues of identity and belonging. In his site-specific installations, paintings, sculptures and drawings Siti draws on his heritage in relation to current politics in the Middle East. In his work he evokes a set of metaphors and associations that poetically, yet forcefully, address the ongoing changes and challenges in the Middle East.

Siti's work was exhibited internationally, e.g. at Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, at L'Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, at the Sharjah Biennial, and three times at the Venice Biennale. It is included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the World Bank, Washington DC, among others.

*»Walid Siti has had his studio in the London borough of Hackney for close to thirty years. Sketches and drawings are affixed to the walls and lay piled up on tables along-side tubes of glue and paint, brushes soak in cut plastic bottles, boxes are filled with twig, string, cardboard and other materials. There are prototypes and models, bubble wrap, works ready to be shipped across the world, exhibition catalogues and numerous unfinished cups of tea. A closer look reveals that certain images fill, even haunt, this place of work: the mountains and rugged landscape of the artist's native Iraqi Kurdistan,<sup>1</sup> the characteristic Mesopotamian architecture with its ziggurats, and the violence of war and conflict that has tormented Iraq for so many decades. The sorrow and pain that exile has brought Siti, since he left Iraq in 1976, is never*

*far away. And yet, this studio is a place of magic where every single sheet of paper, careful brushstroke and meticulously put-together object means more than the sum of its parts. Siti's art is as much one of lived experience and form, as it is one of fabulation.*

*There is so much more to Siti's forty-year career than can be summarised in one publication. Yet, this book is an attempt to showcase his oeuvre by focusing on what I would like to call his grammar of forms, meaning the visual tropes and conceptual lexicon that have accompanied him over the years and continue to shape his practice to this day.«*

– from the text by Nat Muller

**Exhibitions**

London festival of ArchitectureLFA Digital  
 01.–30.06.2020

*Reflections. Contemporary Art of Middle East and North Africa*  
 British Museum, London  
 01.10.2020–01.02.2021

*Castles*  
 Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich, UK  
 28.11.2020 – 07.03.2021

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## Press images



01 *Ceremonies*, 2016. Plastic figurines and straw. 40 × 40 × 40 cm.



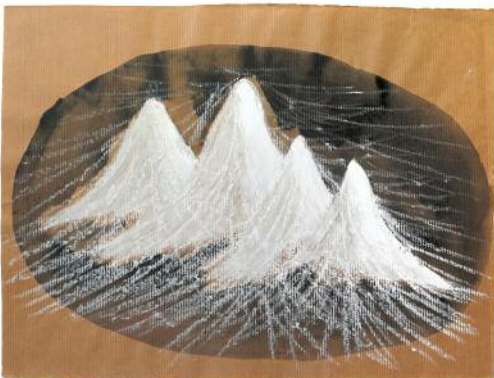
02 *War series*, 1986. Ink and acrylic on paper. 29 × 16 cm.



03 *Tormented Landscape series*, 1991. Ink, pencil and crayon on paper. 20 × 18 cm.



04 *Floodland*, 2017. Grey board, grout, plaster and acrylic on plywood. 250 × 360 × 90 cm. Group exhibition *Age of Terror* at The Imperial War Museum, London, 2017.



05 *Mountains series*, 2014. Acrylic and crayon on paper. 28 × 38 cm.



06 *Mountains series*, 2010. Acrylic on canvas. 146 × 280 cm.



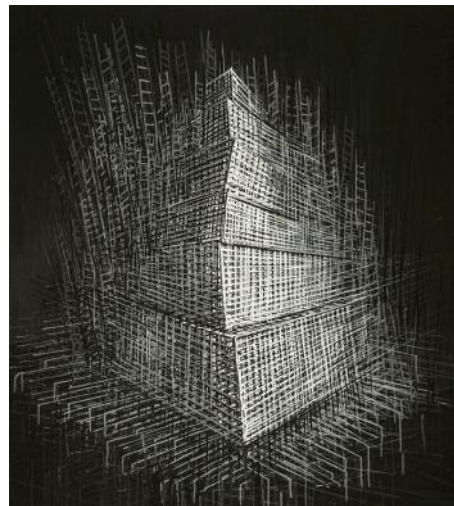
07 *The White Peak*, 2011. Acrylic on paper. 56 × 76 cm.



08 *Untitled*, 2001. Charcoal and white chalk on brown paper. 32.5 × 32 cm.  
Courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum 2009, 6002.1.



09 *Constellation*, 2009. Board, emulsion paint, plaster, thread and nails. 250 × 480 × 25 cm. Group exhibition Planet K at 53rd International Venice Biennale, 2009.



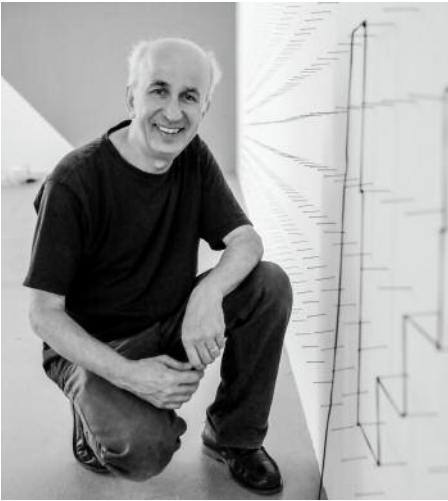
10 *Dialogue of Towers III*, 2013. Acrylic on canvas. 126 × 111 cm.  
Photo credit: Heini Schneepli.



11 *Passage*, 2016. C-print. 89 × 59 cm.



12 *The Tower*, 2015. Site-specific installation. Wood and MDF board. 500 × 500 × 700 cm. Art Istanbul International, Istanbul, 2015.



13 Artist installing his work *Anatomy of Climbing* at Edge of Arabia, London, 2014.



14 Artist in his London studio, 2005.