



Oona Hassim

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26th February - 13th March 2011

My work examines the movements of pedestrians passing through the urban landscape. A sea of people gliding through a tourist centre or thoroughfare, isolated individuals carving out their route. It is concerned with the varying rhythms of individuals or groups interpreting the environment around them, racing through, briskly pacing, slowing to a stop, waiting, each with their private experiences weaving the story of the urban landscape as anonymous authors of its text. The richness of the visual experiences in a city, the urban furniture as well as the crowds passing through, are blinding in their vibrancy and their constant state of flux. A dirty faded pavement gleams with iridescent city lights in a sudden downpour; colourful crowds are suddenly obliterated by the arcs of black umbrellas and the tempo races, as people flee the rain.

I see the urban crowd as a force that is at times terrifying in the extent of its power and madness, and at times sublime in its rippling beauty. I am drawn to the tempestuous and emotive qualities of directional crowds such as protest marches, or swarming football supporters keyed up for a game, where the crowd can dissolve the identity of an individual, sweeping in a colossal wave to its destination.

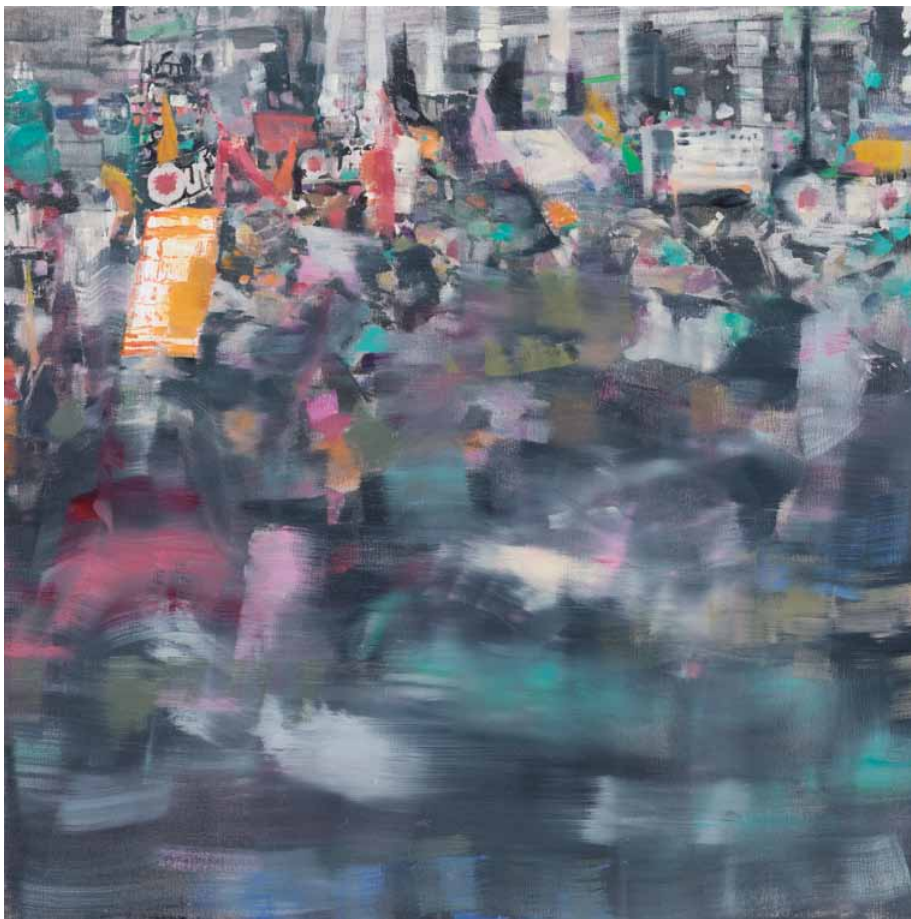
My technique involves layering and mark making into a painterly surface. Marks and colours are at times chopped repeatedly, echoing the constant repetition and fragmentation of the city; bright carrier bags spilling out of a store, rippling billboard ads, neon messages repeatedly scribbled across looming edifices. These bright frenetic moments are interspersed with softer more intimate ones; the subtle hues of buildings and streets and the filmic blurs of the camera lens. These shadowy marks appear to hang ambiguously as the lingering traces of those who have left them. It is these disparate qualities of tempo, tone and atmosphere that I seek to describe.

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Cover: **G20 series - 4 (detail)** oil on canvas 61 x 61 cm



**May Day 2010: Clerkenwell Green** *oil on canvas* 152 x 152 cm



**G20 series - 5** oil on canvas 61 x 61 cm



**Leicester Square: Saturday Night** *oil on canvas* 31 x 31 cm

## **OONA HASSIM**

1998 – 2000 BA Fine Art at Central Saint Martin's College of Art (including Erasmus placement in the University of Barcelona)  
Awarded Kate Barton Scholarship for Painting at Central Saint Martin's College of Art

## **EXHIBITIONS**

2000 "Future Map 2000" exhibition at the London Institute Gallery  
2001 "Directions" exhibition at the Lethaby Gallery, Central Saint Martin's College of Art, London  
Group Show, KPMG, London  
Solo Show at Cassian De Vere Cole Fine Art Gallery, London  
2002 Painting leased to BBC through The London Institute  
Fresh Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London  
2003 Group Show, Ohio, USA  
Group Show, Woolff Gallery, London  
Group Show, Campden Gallery  
2004 Art Holland, Netherlands  
Art London Fair, Woolff Gallery, Chelsea, London  
2005 Works on Paper: Royal College of Art, Woolff Gallery  
Group Show, Campden Gallery  
2006 Works on Paper: Royal College of Art, Woolff Gallery  
2007 "At home" Open Studio show  
2008 Candid Art Fair, Islington, London  
2009 London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, Woolff Gallery  
Chicago Art Fair, Woolff Gallery  
Summer Exhibition – Royal Academy of Arts  
Solo Show, Woolff Gallery, London  
2010 Open studio show, London  
Art Miami, USA



**Oxford Street: Saturday** *oil on canvas* 41 x 41 cm



**Urban Space: Linger** *oil on canvas* 76 x 102 cm



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Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.30pm Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm