

SEVEN PANELS OF COLLAGE

“Dispossession - Parts of a Whole”

The following seven panels of collage depict the dispossession and struggle of the Palestinian people through symbolic and photographic images. Each panel is presented as parts of a whole, and viewed together, they tell the story of the cumulative disintegration of Palestinian society under the crushing weight of occupation. Yet, despite all attempts to diminish them as a people, the Palestinians have maintained their dignity and strength of purpose. From the very rubble come the stones of resistance because that is all that they have to fight their oppressors. The Palestinians will not be silenced. Their voices are gradually gaining momentum as more and more people world-wide acknowledge the injustice of a people denied the land of their birth and their heritage. Against the tyranny of fabricated lies, truth will prevail and with justice will come peace. The Star of Bethlehem flower is the recurring symbol of that peace as well as symbolising the unrelenting struggle of the Palestinian people against the mighty forces of pen and gun.

The panels are a *Women for Palestine* initiative and concept, and these ideas have been powerfully expressed in the composition and application of gathered material by Melbourne artist Ms Dora McPhee. Without Ms McPhee's fine sense of artistry, the material would never have had the arresting visual impact that such a story demands. Ms McPhee put aside work on her own series of paintings, which is the medium through which she is known, to embark on what she described as "art on demand". It was a relentless exercise over a period of two weeks, working long days and well into the nights. We hope that the panels will capture your imagination and immerse you in the incredible sequence of events spanning well over half a century and leading to a situation that can only ever be resolved if the people of the world finally speak out against this terrible injustice after years of silence.

Sonja Karkar
Women for Palestine

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Women for Palestine would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the content of the collages. In particular, we would like to thank Ms Mai Sarraj for donating the dress used in one of the panels; to various members of the Palestinian community for allowing us to copy and reproduce their original documents and photographs; and to those people who collected some of the building materials used in the panels.

Thanks also to:

Elizabeth Maryam Clarkson of *Creacom* (8302 8098) who photographed the panels for the catalogue.

Ralph May of *Scriptus Art and Design Pty Ltd* (9824 8888) who designed the layout of the catalogue.

REFERENCES

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SHAML - Palestinian and Diaspora Refugee Centre,
www.shaml.org/album