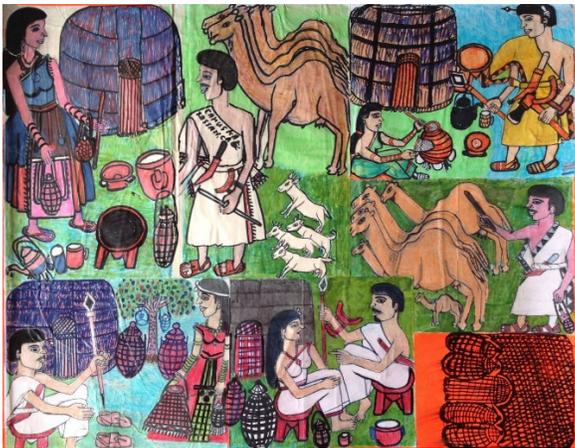


Third Thursday Global Issues Activity
Thursday, April 19, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia)
2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404
Meet in Mia's lobby by 6:55pm to join the Tour!!

Exhibition: "I Am Somali": Three Visual Artists from the Twin Cities



Hassan NOR (b. 1937)
Untitled ("Vignettes of Life in Somalia")
Color marker on paper; Collection of the artist



Ifrah MANSOUR (b. 1987)
Video still from
"Can I Touch It," 2016

In Somalia, poetry has long been the preferred medium for artistic expression—in fact, the country is sometimes called “the land of bards.” This is in part because of Somalia’s long Islamic tradition, which discourages the visual depiction of people while embracing the power of the spoken word. Yet Somali artists have also turned to other media, including drawing, painting, photography, and video.

This exhibition celebrates the work of three Somali visual artists from the Twin Cities: Hassan Nor (81), Aziz Osman (69), and Ifrah Mansour (30). Nor and Osman were born in Somalia and grew up there, migrating to the United States in the 1990s after the outbreak of civil war at home. Their drawings and paintings look to the past, depicting life in Somalia before the war and in transit, on the way to their new country. Mansour, on the other hand, was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Minnesota. Her video addresses the cultural ignorance and stereotypes she encounters in her daily life. All three share stories of exile, memory, identity, pride, and resilience.



Jan-Lodewijk Grootaers, Mia Curator of African Art, ‘Arts of Africa and the Americas’ Department Head, and organizer of the “I Am Somali” exhibit, will provide us with a private group tour of the “I Am Somali” exhibit, as well as other Somali and Islamic artwork from the permanent galleries.

Artist **Ifrah Mansour** will join us to talk about her work.

