

*Colour, Love and Mind* is my third exhibition in the series of *Colour and Mind* exhibitions which I started nearly four years ago. The first took place at the Castle Museum in Nottingham, 2004. The second, which was called *Colour and Mind – Static and Dynamic* was held at the Richard Attenborough Centre/Leicester University, in 2006. My main purpose with this ongoing project is to enhance my understanding of colour-and-mind phenomena.

In the past twenty-three years, colour has been the main focus of my practice. I have been interested in colour in the past, i.e. art history, and the global, cultural heritage; the future, i.e. science and technology; and in the present, i.e. in my own existence, where I live and where I travel. In the past twenty-nine years, since I left my native country Iraq, I have lived in different countries and cultural environments. These three points of view have helped me to develop my own understanding of colour, colour history and the meanings of colour. It can be quite difficult for us now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to understand how colour perception and colour observation has changed through history, without reference to colour theories.

Colour theories have been developed mainly by scientists but also by artists. Colour theories themselves do not usually have a big impact on artists' work, because most artists develop their understanding through experience and practice. But colour theories can give our understanding of the relationship between our physiology and the physical world and art objects more depth and breadth. Therefore, it has felt very important for me to look at different theories of colour and to let them inform my painting.

The theme of the present exhibition is *Love*. By this I don't mean only love between two individuals, as in romantic love, but love as a deep human sensation which is, in my belief, what unites us globally. Colour is a sensation and not a physical thing that we can touch or have. It is a sensation which reaches us through our eyes, and our visual brain. These two sensations, colour and love, have both a universal meaning and very individual interpretations, but the basics of both have not changed in all of human history. For example, the eight basic colours of light and the three basic colours of pigments are the same today as millions of years ago but our perceptions of them differ depending on our point of view. Similarly with love.

In the present *Colour, Love and Mind* exhibition I am displaying fifteen paintings. Ten of them I made in 2007, and five are from previous exhibitions. Three of the latter are large and give the viewer a background glimpse of the development of the theme and technique compared with the ten new paintings.

Most of the paintings are acrylic on canvas, but one is oil on canvas, two mixed-media on canvas and two acrylic on paper.

**Satta Hashem**  
**October 2007**

1. *Colour, Love and Mind*, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, 13-Oct-2007 – 25-Nov-2007