

GALERIST

Ibrahim El Salahi

The Arab Spring Notebook

The Arab Spring Notebook, 2011

The Arab Spring Notebook is a series of 46 black, ink drawings originally made in a single sketchbook, that comprise Ibrahim El Salahi's artistic response to the Arab Spring.

As a Sudanese man, a devout Muslim and a former political prisoner El Salahi felt a deep and immediate, common cause with the revolutionary and anti-autocratic spirit that spread through the Arab world at that time, saying, "...when [The Arab Spring] happened I rejoiced... because it brought down a huge mountain of injustice... [and a] pyramid of authority... Power, as we all know, breeds greed and greed breeds corruption, injustice and prejudice and inequality. And inequality leads to oppression, and revolt." For him, as for many, the revolts were a sudden, violent and unexpected outburst of energies long suppressed by the lethally heavy hand of autocracy.

The extraordinary, deep and conflicting emotions and meanings of these events are captured in El Salahi's ink drawings with their grotesque and semi-abstracted depictions of the various tyrants, and, their victims, the people.

Biography

Born in Sudan in 1930, Ibrahim El Salahi is one of the most important living African artist and a key figure in the development of African Modernism. The artist's personal journey began with his schooling in Sudan in the 1950's followed by his international study at the Slade School in London. After a period of research and self-discovery, he returned to Sudan in 1957. There, he established a new Sudanese visual vocabulary, which arose from his own pioneering integration of Islamic, African, Arab and Western artistic traditions. El-Salahi lived in Qatar before settling in England in the 1990s. In 2013 Ibrahim El Salahi became the first African artist to be given a full retrospective at The Tate Modern. His work is included in numerous museums and private collections, globally. His recent work reflects his joy for life, his deep spiritual faith, and a profound recognition of his place in the world.

Work Details

The Arab Spring Notebook, 2011

Ink on paper

46 drawings

Each one, 10.5 x 14.5 cm (unframed) / 14.2 x 18.1 cm (framed)

90.000 GBP



Exposed, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Shattered, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



But what are we left with?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Come on, let's at least try, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Mirror mirror...? 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Sorry mate, no way!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Fallen idols, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



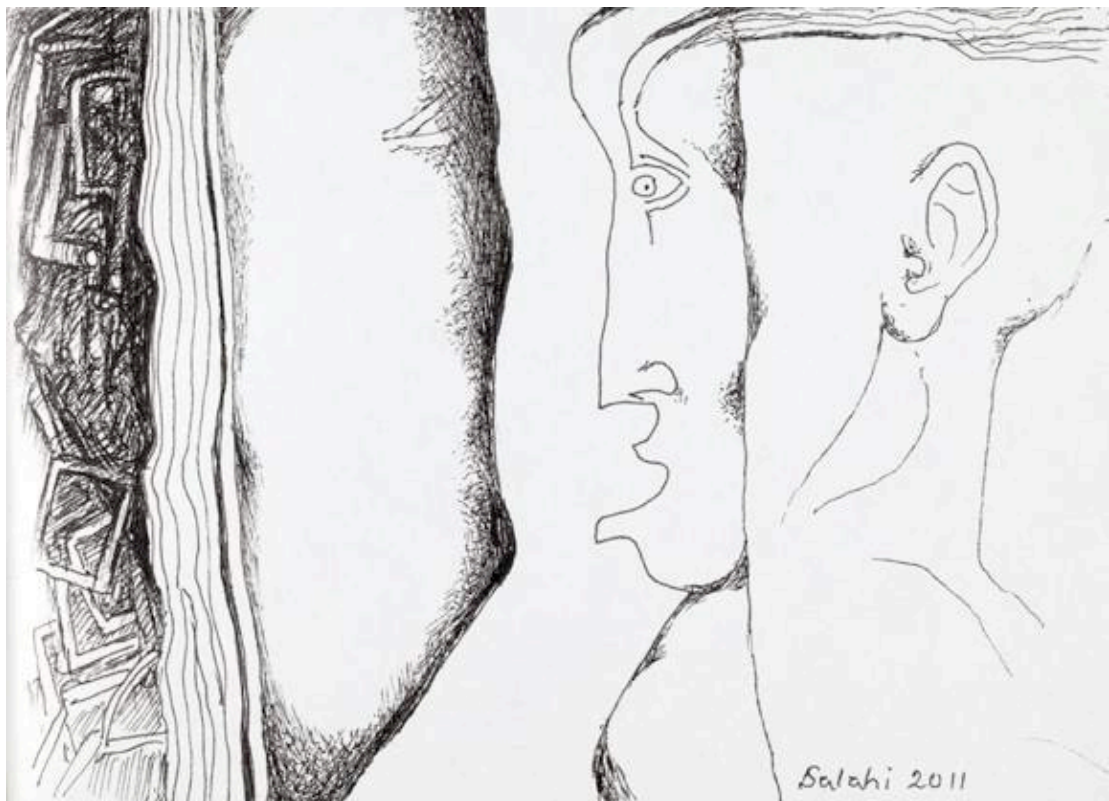
Power comes in many forms, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Say it out loud, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



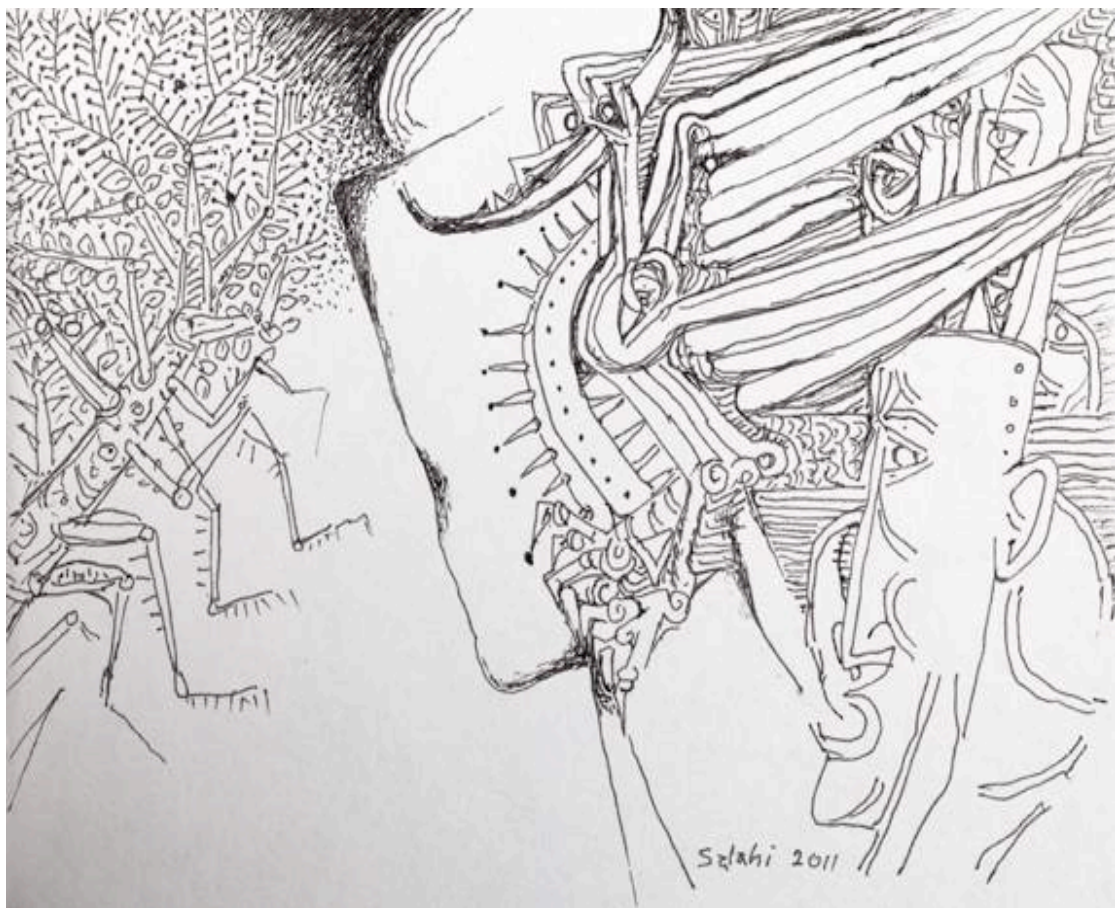
Don't let them get away!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Solid as rock?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



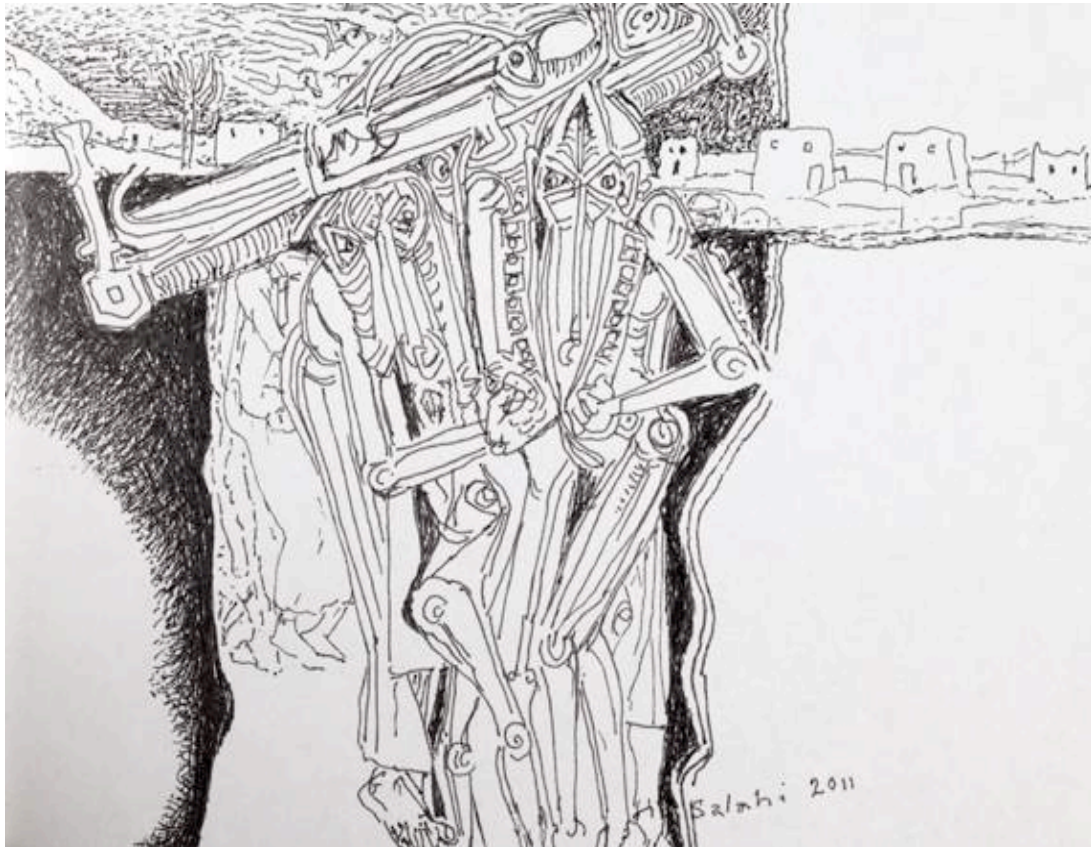
All it needed..., 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Doubt, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



How Ungrateful!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



The door might not be wide enough, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Some things never change, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



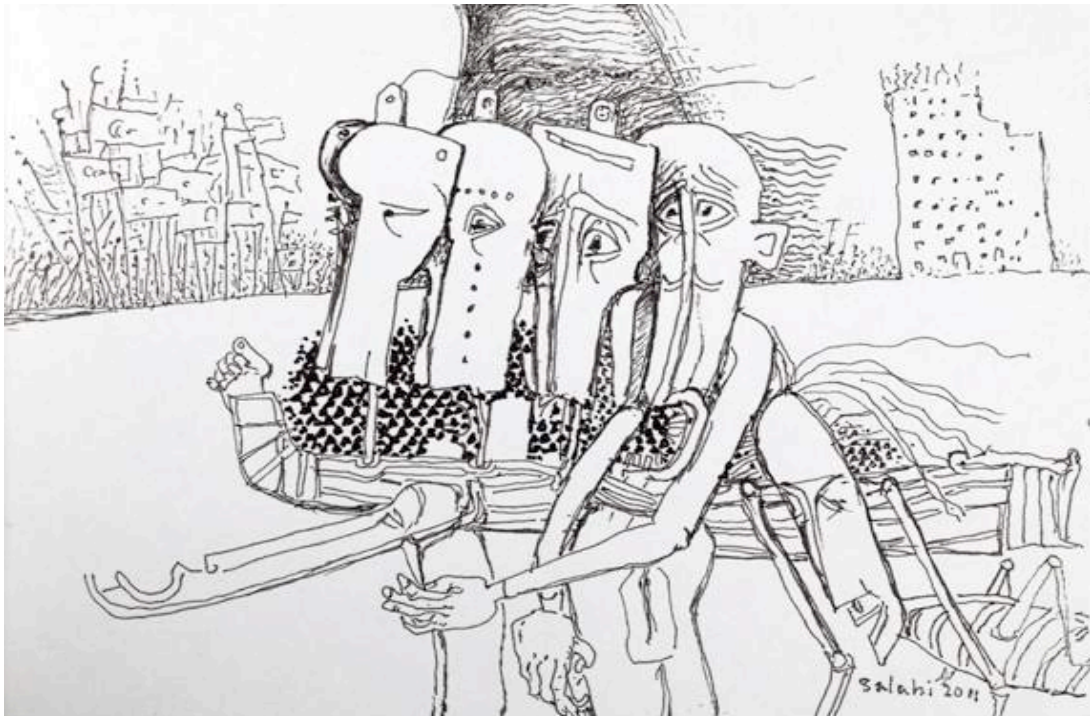
Are you sure?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Is it safe to come out now?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Who says i'm crazy?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



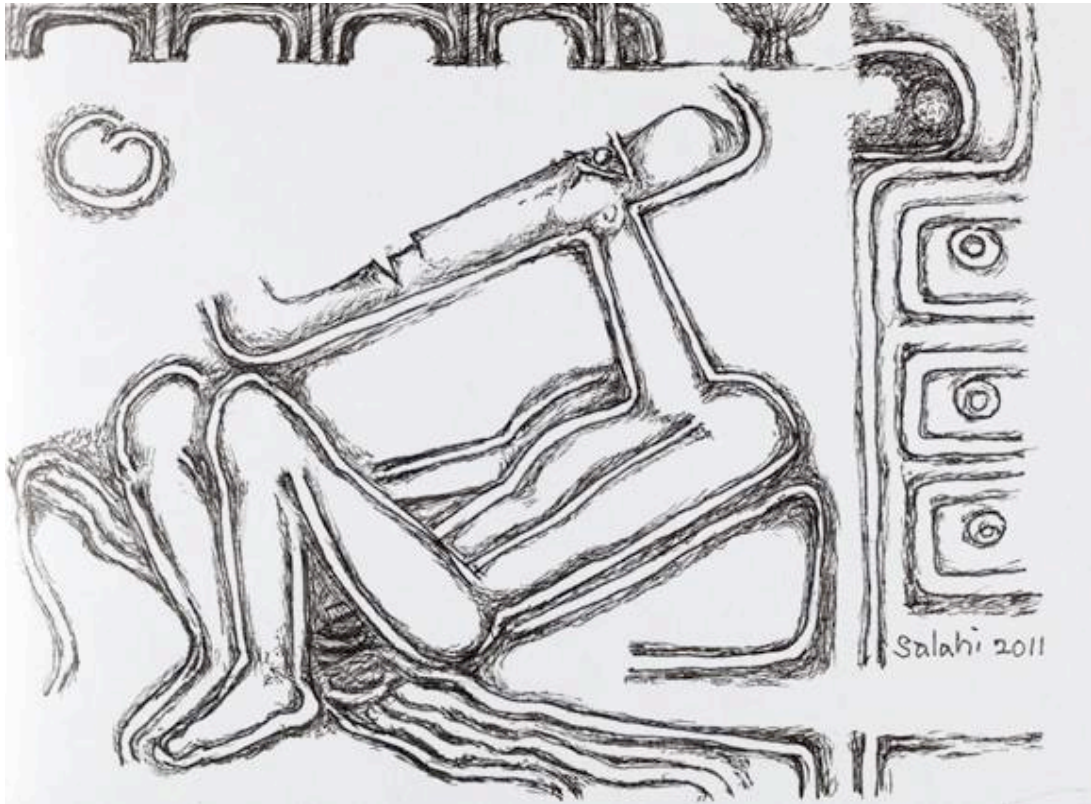
Down to the last mask, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



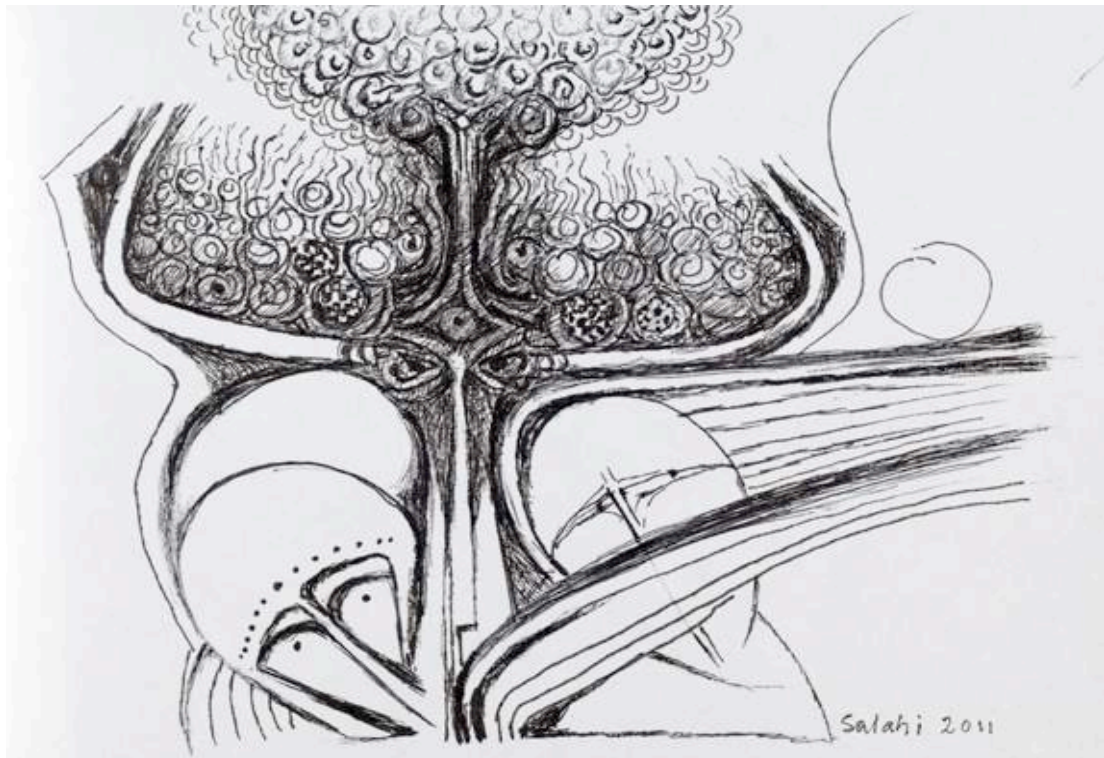
What are they leaning on its dark outside, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



What will become of us?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Still tempted, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



How much longer?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



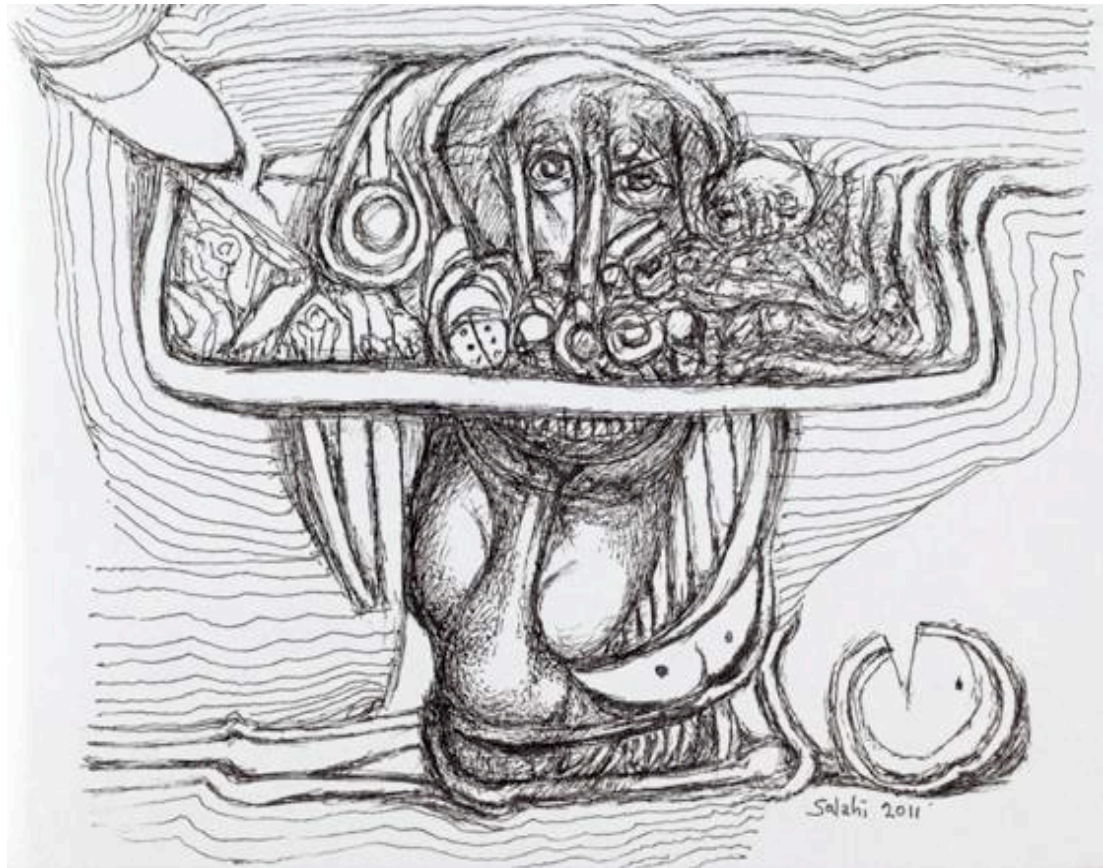
Charge!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



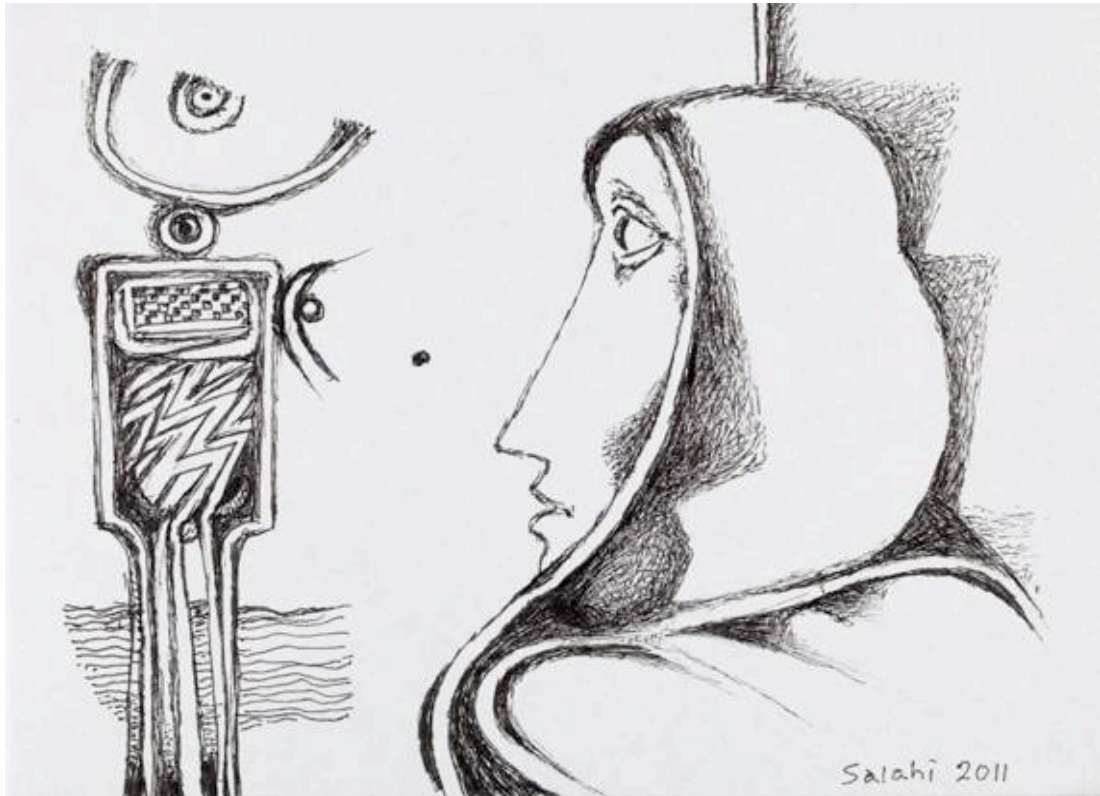
Oh no you don't, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



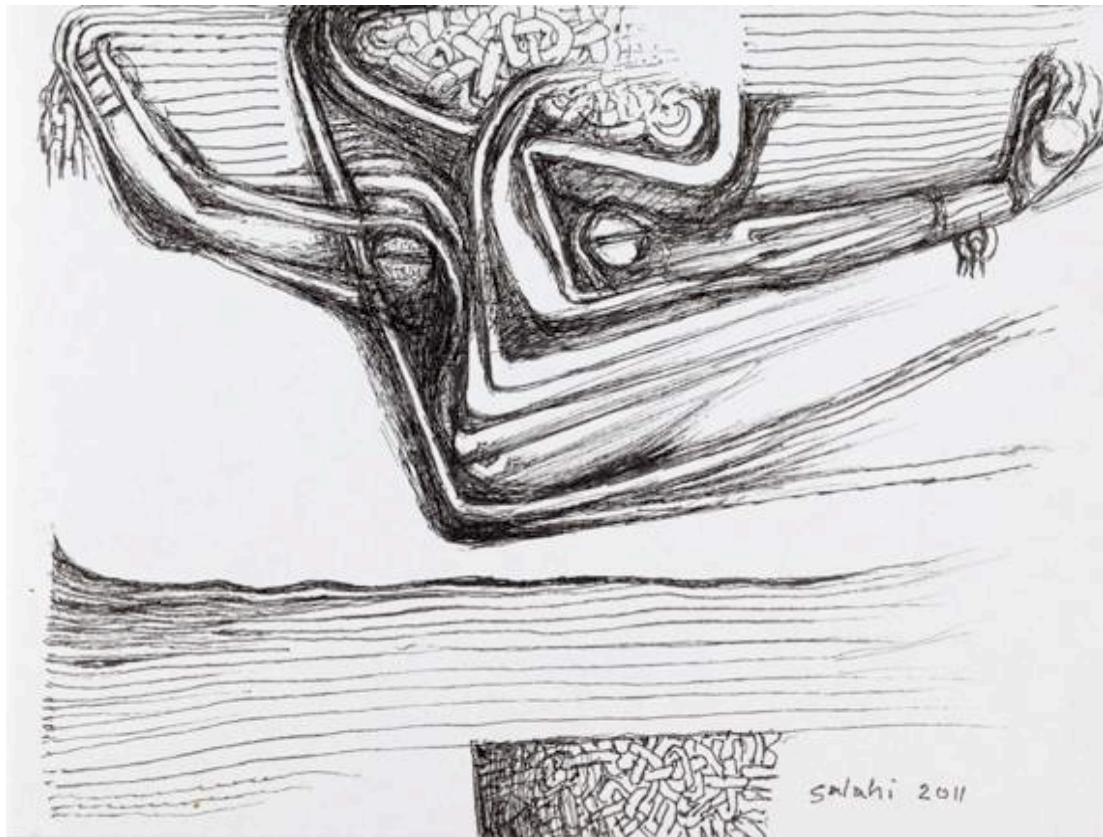
Reaping the whirlwind, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



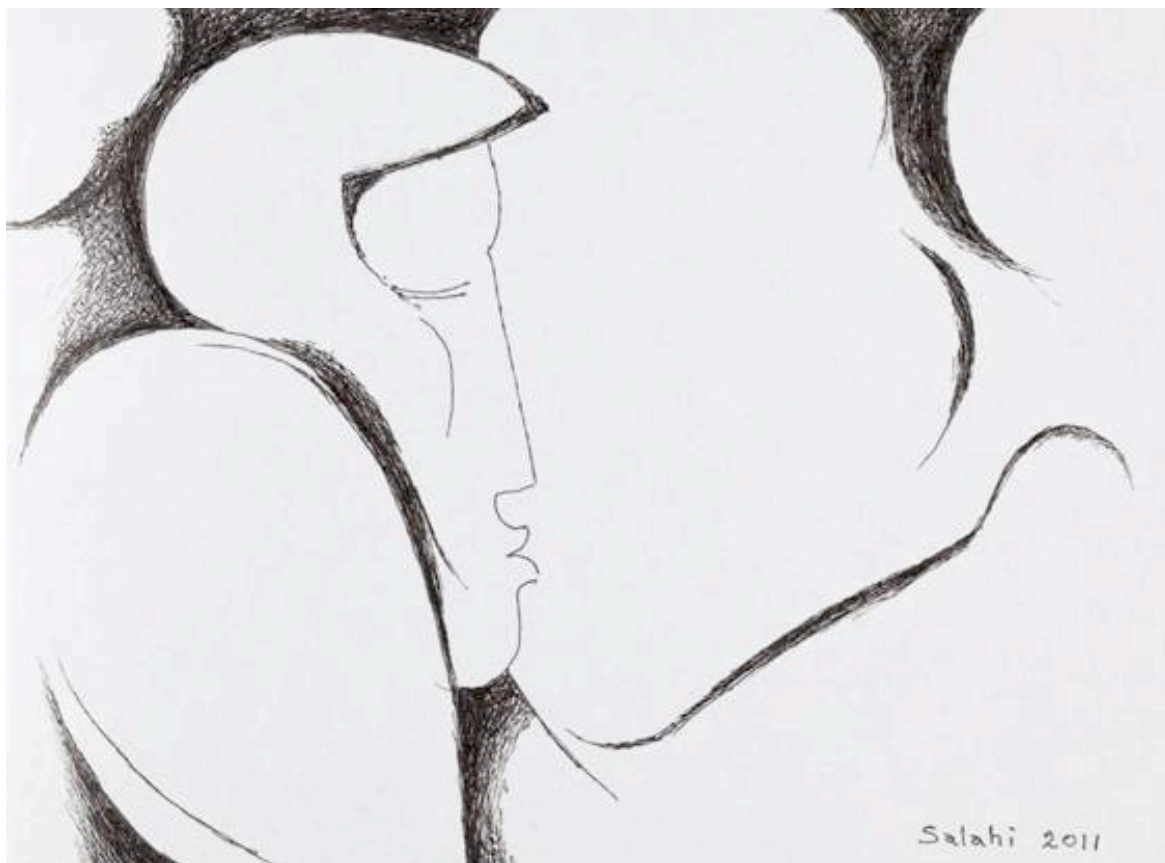
As expected, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



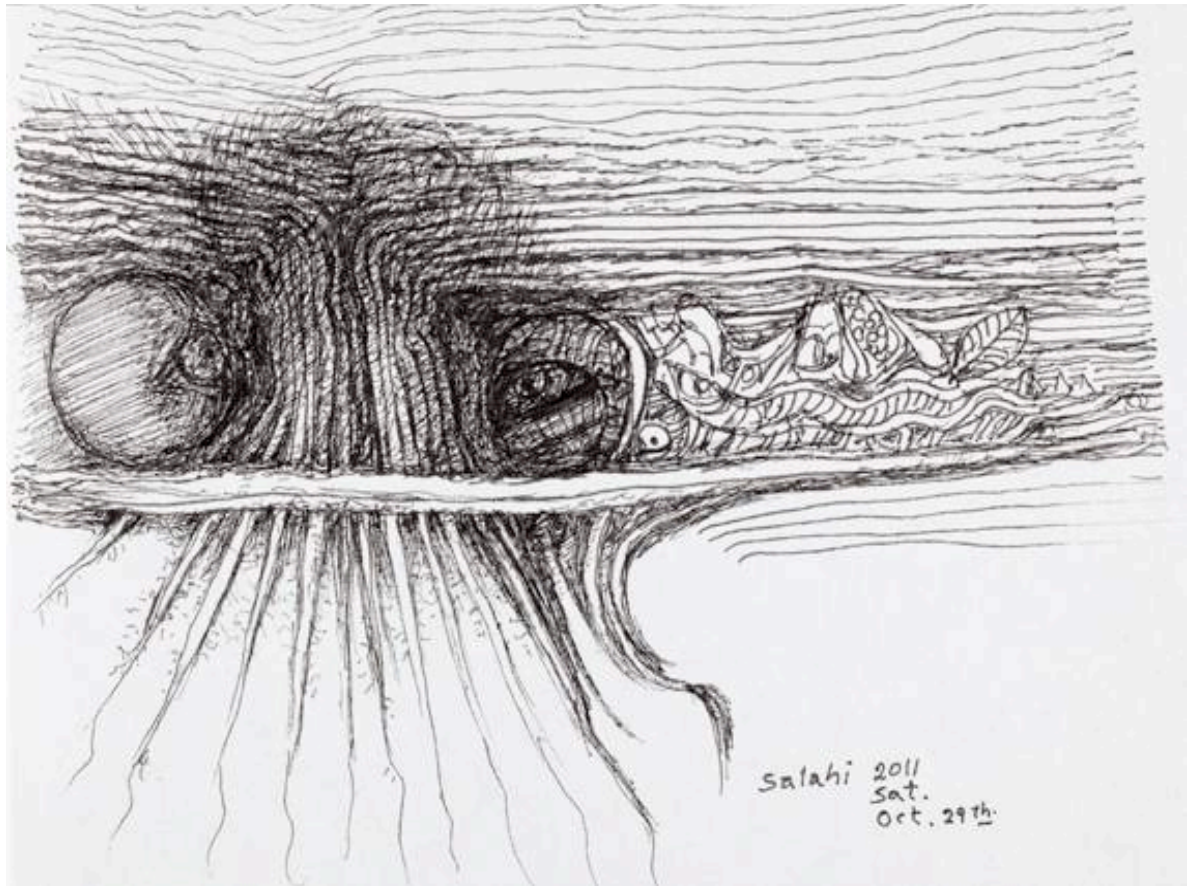
But..., 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Still many chains to shed, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



A whisper of hope, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Arab Spring, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



The hyena's house is never short of bones, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



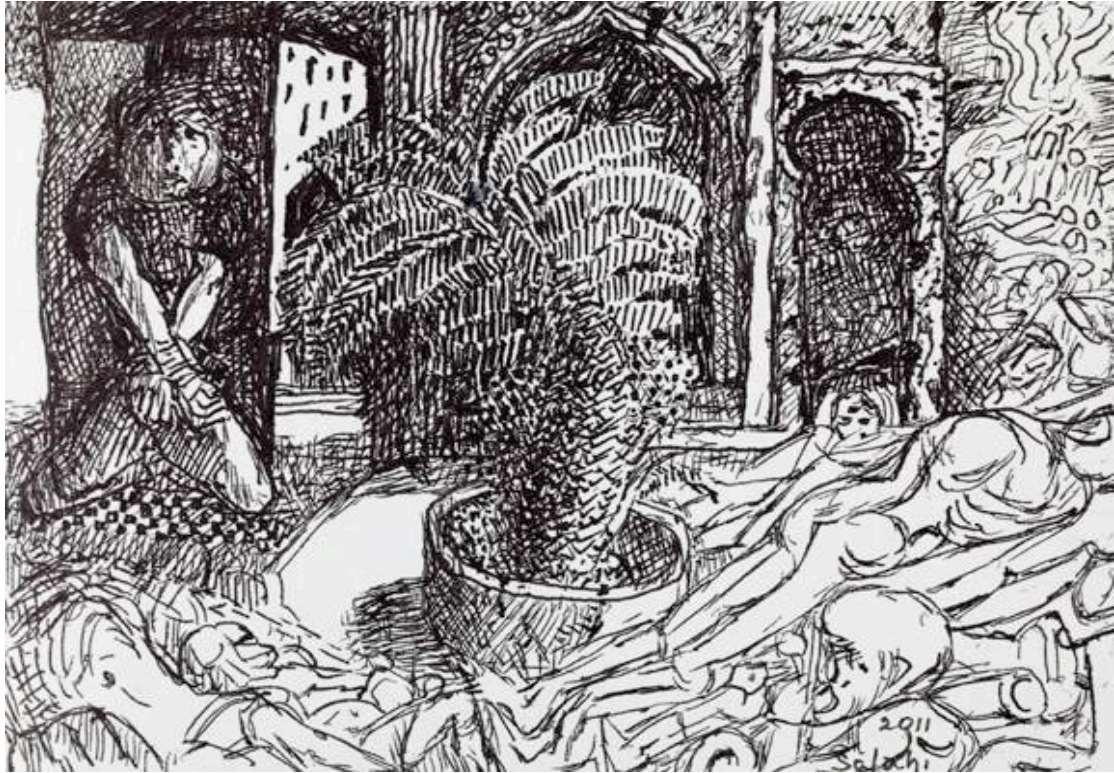
The Point Of No Return, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Too Late To Cry Now, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



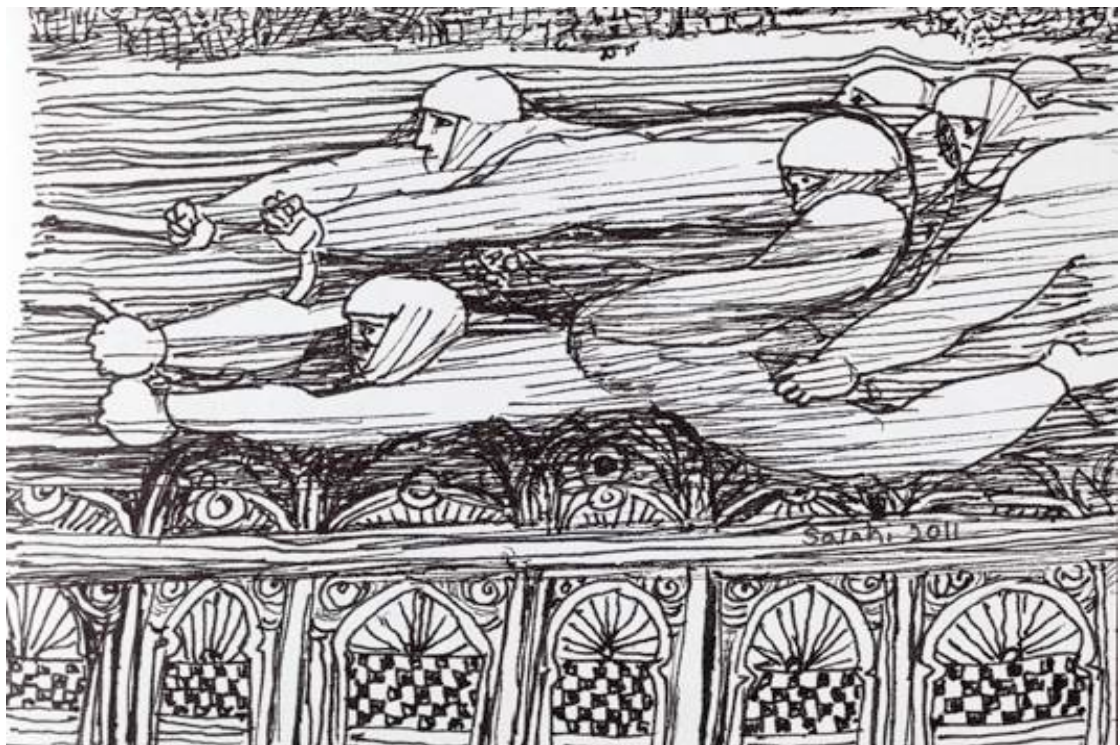
The emperor's new clothes, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



A Pictorial Parallel to the Arab Spring: No-fly zone, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



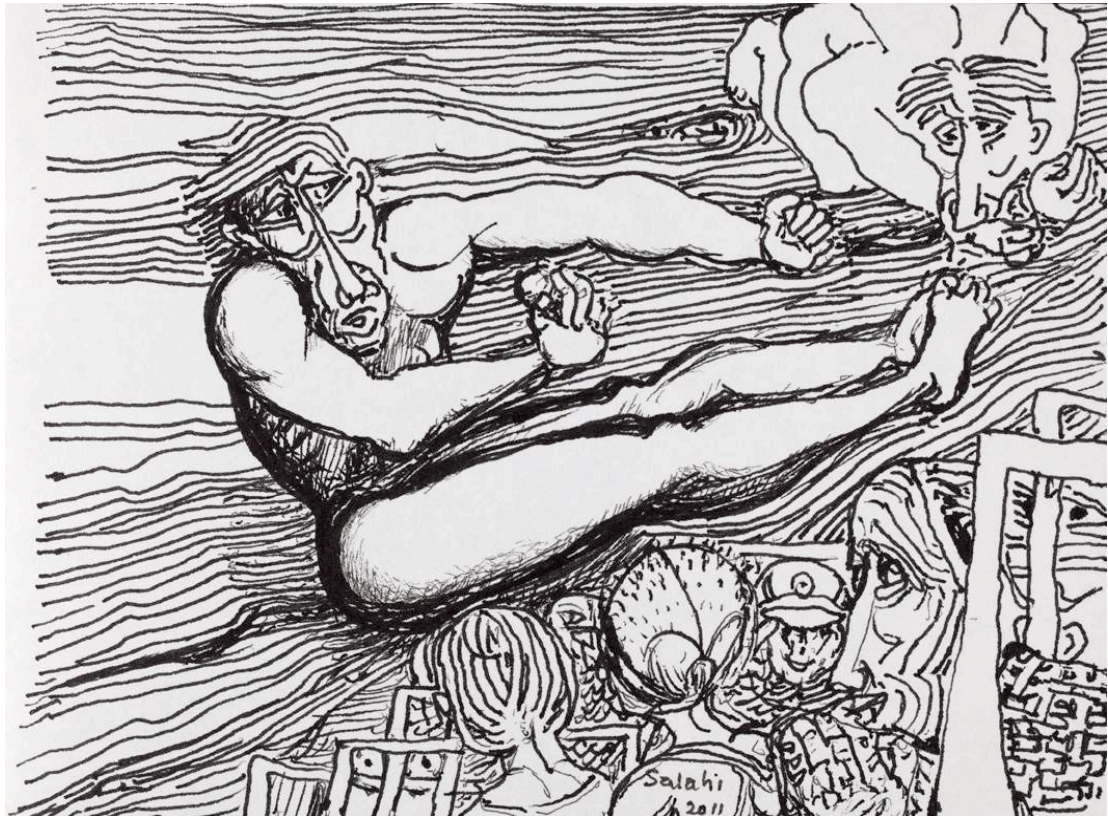
Here we come!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Hold on for dear life, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



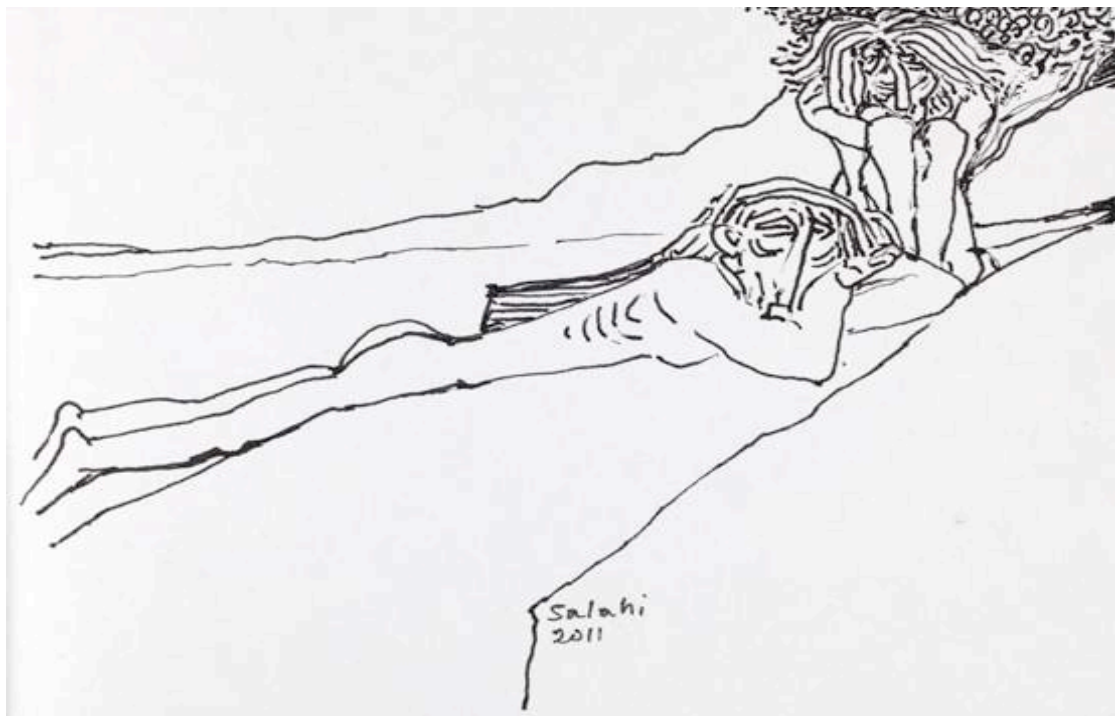
Temptation, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



You and your forbidden fruit!, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Shall we, shan't we?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Now what?, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



Hmm, let me see..., 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



This way gentlemen, no, don't look left, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm



I wish I were invisible, 2011
Ink on paper
10.5 x 14.5 cm