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WAR AND DEMOCRACY

"A barbaric era is upon us once again. An era of power. Democracy is in retreat. I think back to the '90s ... At that time, it seemed to all of us—to you, and to us—that we had entered a safe world. Today that all seems like a pretty fairytale. We are witnessing a new clash between good and evil. We are both witnesses and participants."

—**Svetlana Alexievich**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature,
at the Nobel Banquet in 2015

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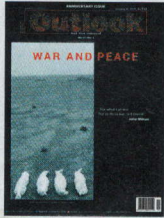


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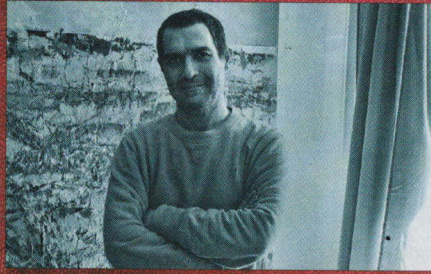
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ON THE COVER:

'Destruction Without Identity' by Tammam Azzam

"After the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, it became easier to witness the sheer scale of destruction that engulfed the country—how cities and villages were burned and obliterated entirely. The images we see today are not merely remnants of war, but testimonies to decades of oppression and tyranny that led Syria to this devastation.

In my early works, the scenes of destruction in Syria were powerfully present, almost like the seed that would later define entire series of works. These pieces reflected the immense tragedy and suffering endured by the people. However, they went beyond documenting the destruction of one nation to encompass the devastation that afflicts the entire world.

Destruction has no identity. The house brought down on its inhabitants in Syria is the same as the one destroyed in Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, or any other place around the globe. The pain is the same, the loss is the same, regardless of geography or causes. These scenes compel us to reflect on the magnitude of losses societies endure due to wars and conflicts that seem endless, as if destruction were a recurring human fate, repeating itself across time and space."

—Tammam Azzam

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Born in Damascus, Tammam Azzam lives and works in Berlin. Initially working in mixed media, Azzam found himself looking for new ways to create art and express his feelings about the loss of his home country. He began to focus on the depth and tragedy of the destroyed cityscape that used to be home to so many people.

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