

An elderly woman with short, curly white hair is sitting on an orange scissor lift. She is wearing a vibrant purple long-sleeved top and black pants. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a wall covered in large, abstract, colorful brushstrokes in shades of red, yellow, blue, and green. The scissor lift has orange handrails and a platform. A small white label with red and blue text is visible on the lift's frame.

Canvas visits Palestinian artist Samia Halaby in her high-ceilinged studio that doubles as her home in Lower Manhattan. In the midst of preparation for her first solo at Ayyam Gallery London opening on 9 October, she immerses herself in abstraction with her vibrant paintings.

SAMIA HALABY

STUDIO VISIT

I mix my paints in these plastic buckets I get from my favourite Thai restaurant in Chinatown.



When I was painting my very large works, I kept falling off the ladder so I bought an industrial one with hand rails.



Sometimes when too much colour is left in the bucket, I slap the paint on the kitchen wall for fun.

I spent 2012 making these drawings of Kafr Qasem [village in Palestine]. I revisited the series, which started in 1999 and I think it brings the series to a close.



Photography by Saif Alnuweiri.



I keep the studio walls as clean as I can so I can focus only on the paintings.

Samia A. Halaley