

Floating Drawings by Bassam Kahwaji

Drawing is central to Bassam Khawaji's practice, used primarily as a preliminary tool to put out into the world what is inside, and to gain a formal relation to his internal world through that process. His compositions in paint, as well as the relief works of wire and plaster on display in the Upper Gallery, are shaped through this systematic drawing process, the white reliefs highlighting the simplicity of form before colour, when shape is the key axis. Pulling away from the paper but not yet emerging onto canvas, wire lines become simple forms, encased then in thick white coverings. These works might be first sketches, and yet they speak a language that is complete, formed from the manipulation of wire which is frame and support as well as composition and line.

