

Profile: Raed Khalil

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“I started drawing seriously in preparatory school,” he explains at his West Damascus apartment as he flips through stacks of cartoon books, most of which showcase his own drawings.

“That’s where I found and established my artistic personality.” A slender man with an impish smile, his artsy persona is accentuated by long black hair, a neatly trimmed black beard, black trousers and shoes, and the quintessential Syrian leather jacket that is, of course, black. But don’t let the Goth attire fool you. Khalil exudes a welcoming aura of humbleness, and bestows upon guests glass after glass of tea and coffee

.Even before preparatory school, he knew he had a knack for art. His talents were first encouraged by an elementary teacher who marked his students’ work using calligraphy, an art form that has long since fascinated Khalil. By the age of eight, he organised a cartoon exhibition for his classmates in his hometown of Hama. In addition to the teacher and his fellow students, the mayor .

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