



## Memory Pictures # 5

Her daughter had painted the view that was hanging outside the window  
Of the house that was not her original one.

[Column](#) [1] / [Hadeel Abu Johar](#) [2] December 3, 2019

This time I opened my email inbox  
And found a letter from Salma!  
I felt a slight tension, simply because  
Usually I am the one who writes to her.

The letter was multicolored,  
As pretty as Salma's cheeks,  
As strange as our lives' journey.  
She wrote about the children and added some complications.

Salma, I am used to writing about wars  
About loneliness and self-loathing,  
About my relationship with the pair of glasses,  
About my mother and her intricate dream of boarding a train.

She wrote that her daughter had started writing letters in all the languages  
She didn't care if she was writing in Arabic or any other language.  
It angered me a bit, but she went on  
That her daughter had painted the view  
That was hanging outside the window  
Of the house that was not her original one,  
But belonged to all the homeless daughters.





The beautiful view of Haifa looked different in Salma's colors  
Neither green nor blue.  
The colors of the spectrum disappeared from the page  
Of a girl not yet in the spring of her youth,  
The drawing I had seen was somewhat surreal.

I smiled, but with fear.  
There are red spots in Salma's painting  
The same red spots I have begun to see myself,  
And in a rush to react to that which had hurt me  
I came back to myself  
Mumbling:  
This red is bothering me  
It had never bothered me before  
Never concerned me  
I always ignored it  
By now I see it with my own eyes!  
Confused, I said, so that together we won't be ashamed:  
Do you think it is right to 'dirty' Haifa up with the red marker, Salma?

[All Columns](#) [3]

**Source URL:** <https://tohumagazine.com/article/memory-pictures-5>

### Links

- [1] <https://tohumagazine.com/publication-types/column>
- [2] <https://tohumagazine.com/profile/hadeel-abu-johar>
- [3] <http://tohumagazine.com/profile/hadeel-abu-johar>