

Press release

PORTALS

Alia Farid and Laleh Khorramian

Duo exhibition curated by Margarida Mendes

Galeria Francisco Fino

28.11.2024 – 18.01.2025

'The fugitive remains. In its escapology a practice of futurity.'

The present exhibition displays works by Laleh Khorramian and Alia Farid, in a unique duo presentation in Lisbon. Comprising textile art, collage, and video, the two artists merge languages of ritual and transcendence through space-time conjuring. In doing so they evoke the possibility of physical ascension, from a narrative of displacement and relocalization, to conspire alternate dimensions, and parallel realities.

Laleh Khorramian presents a large-scale installation comprising textile works developed between 2021-22, that the artist composed as scroll paintings, including mixed techniques from stencil to assemblage, that translate painterly techniques reframed as digital technology. This installation is joint by the collage 'Egg Rig', and a new commission, 'Bones in the Garden', installed in the windows of the gallery facade, that envelops the space as a reverberating portal and threshold of light. A portal that acts "as a mirage of a garden in the midst of destruction, where beneath is history, bones, bodies and the dust of centuries is invisible, never-ending."

Alia Farid is showing the video 'At the Time of the Ebb', exploring the tensions between colonial borders, resources, and movement, through a summer solstice ritual shot across Sharjah's waterline, when fisherman fast and give thanks to nature for its bounty.

Laleh Khorramian is an Iranian artist living in upstate New York. Alia Farid currently lives and works between Kuwait and Puerto Rico. Margarida Mendes curates from the Atlantic seashore.

Alia Farid

Alia Farid (b.1985) lives and works in Kuwait and Puerto Rico. She has had solo exhibitions in Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kunsthalle Basel, Basel; Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Missouri; Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam; Portikus, Frankfurt am Main; and CAC Passerelle. Recent and upcoming group shows include participation in the Geneva Biennale Sculpture Garden, Whitney Biennial, Diriyah Biennale, Bienal de São Paulo, Gwangju Biennale, Sharjah Biennial, Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2001 in MoMA PS1, Yokohama Triennale and Asia Pacific Triennial. She recently opened a solo exhibition in Henie Onstad Kunstsenter and has a forthcoming solo exhibition at Contemporary Art Museum Houston in partnership with Rivers Institute and Detroit Institute of Arts.

Alia Farid has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from la Escuela de Artes Plásticas de Puerto Rico (San Juan), a Master of Science in Visual Studies from the Visual Arts Program in MIT (Cambridge) and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies and Critical Theory from the Programa d'Estudis Independents MACBA (Barcelona). In 2023, she received The Lise Wilhelmsen Art Award and is currently the David and Roberta Logie Fellow at Harvard Radcliffe Institute (2023-2024).

Laleh Khorramian

Laleh Khorramian (b. 1974 Tehran, Iran) studied at the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI), received her undergraduate degree at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL), and her MFA at Columbia University (New York, NY).

Khorramian's practice incorporates the cosmological thinking of ancient cultures, their complex mythologies and spiritual vocabularies, with her own imagined worlds, synthesizing them into "histories" that are both futuristic and ancient. Khorramian approaches her work as a series of experiments with the process of chance as a starting point for discovering possibilities of the unknown. Her process often begins with the monotype, made by applying oil paint onto glass, from which a unique paper print is made, whose details and outcomes she then investigates and repositions. In a vacillating process between macro and micro views of these painted landscapes and incidental spaces, Khorramian integrates fiction with spectacle and theater to explore the transience of living matter and examine the essence of their visual forms and emotional content.

Her work of the past decade has spanned stop motion animation films, sound, light, monoprints, drawings, painted landscapes, portraits, and collage. In her stop-motion animations, she uses the latent and textured topographical imagery of her prints to find scenes, objects and figures for her cinematic sagas. By removing cultural or historical specificity from her narratives, she uses the ordinary to portray the epic and the universal, in a search for worlds just beyond the concrete, material one around us.

An innate creative, Khorramian also produces works using found material and textiles; in 2013 she launched the clothing line Lagoon, as an extension of her artistic practice.

Khorramian has exhibited internationally in both solo and group exhibitions including but not limited to; Perpetual Inventory, Volume 1: An Exercise in Looking, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2022); The Vasseur Baltic Artists' Award 2022, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK; The Refracted Body, Liverpool Biennale, Liverpool, UK (2021); Earthly, Esther Massry Gallery, The College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY, USA (2021); Sentients, Fine Art Center Gallery, University of Arkansas, Arkansas, USA (2020); Drawn: Concept and Craft, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston Salem, NC, USA (2020); Unearth, September Gallery, Hudson, New York, USA (2019); Saturns Neckless, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2016); Midnight Moment: Laleh Khorramian, Times Square, New York, USA (2014); to name a few.

Khorramian currently lives and works in upstate New York.

Image

Bones in the Garden, 2024 © Laleh Khorramian

Courtesy of Laleh Khorramian and Galeria Francisco Fino

Additional information

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Opening hours

Tue. – Fri. 12 PM – 7 PM

Sat. 2 PM – 7 PM

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