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ayyam gallery



Farzad Kohan, *Migration Stories #21*, 2016, Mixed Media on canvas, 148 x 116 cm

SUMMER COLLECTIVE

*Strata*

1 June - 10 September 2021

Ayyam Gallery is pleased to present "Strata" a collective exhibition featuring works by Asaad Arabi, Abdul-Karim Majdal Al-Beik, Farzad Kohan, Mouteea Murad, Tammam Azzam, and Thayer Helal.

### **About the exhibition**

The word "stratum" comes from the Latin meaning "something that has been laid down"; a stratum is a layer, whether abstract like the social strata of humanity or one of several physical parallel layers arranged one on top of another like cells in an organism. What the exhibition's multi-media artworks have in common is the focus on strata. Not only does each layer reference significant themes in each artists' work, but it also highlights essential techniques from each artists' practice.

The physical layers of acrylic paint, glue, sand, collage, and paper are metaphors — each stratum becomes abstract, representing emotion and memories. In Mouteea's work, each color illustrates a sentiment and point of view. The contrasts create a more extensive timeline, emitting a broader picture of reality and the artist's struggles and triumphs. At times the layers represent chronology, layers of moments and instances. Just like sedimentation catalogs the globe's past, the artists catalog their lives in the artworks. Thayer's Untitled sculptural works echo strongly with this idea, as a matter of fact, the work is strongly influenced by the physical attributes of natural settings. Abdul-Karim Majdal Al-Beik's works archive stories by depicting Middle Eastern walls through the years, recording layers of posters, papers, and graffiti - creating a storyline.

Tammam and Farzad's works highlight the idea of "Strata" through style. Both artists focus on collage in their practice, whether digital or conventional, Tammam's introduction of material against the cityscape backdrop creates a function, aesthetic, and process. Farzad and Asaad make out their shapes and figures through superimposed color while focusing on narratives of identity.

### **About Ayyam Gallery**

Founded in 2006, Ayyam Gallery is a leading arts organization that manages the careers of diverse established and emerging artists. Blue-chip art space in Dubai, a series of collaborative projects in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and a multinational non-profit arts program have furthered the gallery's mandate of expanding the parameters of international art. With its widely respected multilingual publishing division and a custodianship program that manages the estates of pioneering artists, Ayyam Gallery has also contributed to recent efforts that document underrepresented facets of global art history.

### **Exhibition Facts**

Exhibitions Dates: 31 May - 10 September 2021

Regular Hours: Sun - Thur : 10 am - 6 pm

Location: Ayyam Gallery, B11, Alserkal Avenue, Street 8, Al Quoz 1, Dubai

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