



Gardens and Jungles
Tagreed Darghouth Solo

Tabari Artspace, DIFC, Dubai
September 1- 30, 2023

Tabari Artspace is delighted to announce, Gardens and Jungles, the solo exhibition of Lebanese painter Tagreed Darghouth.

For this highly anticipated solo exhibition, powerful female painter, Tagreed Darghouth has produced a body of work that responds to the militarisation of civil society. Inspired by Stephen Graham's ideas on warfare, political violence, and the transformation of cities by military and security imaginaries, Darghouth presents a thought-provoking body of work. Building upon her previous investigations into state surveillance and the profound effects of war on everyday life, influenced by her personal experiences in Beirut, Lebanon, this series delves deeper into these themes.

The title of the exhibition draws from the controversial remarks made by Josep Borrell, the outspoken foreign policy chief of the European Union. Borrell described Europe as an idyllic "garden" of prosperity, juxtaposing it with the rest of the world, which he referred to as a "jungle." Darghouth challenges this outdated binary perception, suggesting that the traditional understanding of developed and developing nations has lost its relevance. Instead, she argues that new partitions, walls, borders, and divisions have emerged, creating a world that is neither safer nor more appealing than before.





Through a collection of acrylic paintings on canvas, ranging in size from smaller 29 x 21cm pieces to larger 3 x 3m works, Darghouth seeks to defy this new world order. Her paintings employ gestural impasto layers and depict landscapes, flowers, trees, and birds, all painted atop a camouflaged print on fabric or paper. By juxtaposing nature with camouflage, Darghouth engages in a process of deconstruction and resurrection, symbolising the resilience of the natural world. In some of her works, she incorporates icons like Ares, the Greek God of War, military helicopters, tanks, and toy soldiers, hinting at the performative masculinity and gamification associated with conflict.



Reflecting on her art as an act of resistance, Darghouth says:

"This exhibition celebrates humanity's brightest achievement - the creation of art - in the face of its darkest moments. Through artistic expression and civil endeavours, humanity has the power to triumph over enforced militarism and separatist cultures."

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Press to access images



About Tagreed Darghouth
B. 1979

Painter, Tagreed Darghouth, uses abstract impressionism and impasto layers applied with gestural brushstrokes to tackle topics concerning structural violence, popular culture, and the marginalised.

Her modernist approach to contemporary topics conflates far-flung modes of inspiration. Darghouth mines the output of artists such as British portraitist Lucian Freud and controversial German artist Georg Baselitz as well as old masters such as Rembrandt Van Rijn and Gustave Courbet; and modernists Chaim Soutine and Willem De Kooning. Drawing influence and forming connections across cultures and time, she also regularly reflects upon figures from philosophy, music, literature and subaltern histories.

Darghouth studied Superior studies - Painting and Sculpting at the Lebanese University of Fine Art, Beirut, Lebanon in 2000 followed by Space Art at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD), Paris, France in 2003. She trained under Syrian-German artist Marwan Kassab Bashi at Darat Al Funoun in Amman in 2000 and 2001. The artist has exhibited extensively internationally. Selected exhibitions include: Arteclassica ,3era. Feria de Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2006; Subtitled: With Narratives from Lebanon at the Royal College of Art in London in 2011; Re-orientation II, Rose Issa Project, London, UK in 2012; Thin Skin: Six Artists from Beirut at Taymour Grahne Gallery in New York in 2014; and 100 Chefs d'Oeuvre de L'Art Moderne et Contemporain Arabe, La Collection Barjeel, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France in 2017.

About Tabari Artspace

A Bridge Between Worlds

For the last two decades, Tabari Artspace gallery has played a central role in connecting international audiences to the modern and contemporary artists of the MENA region and its diaspora. Advanced by an all-women team, Tabari Artspace foregrounds marginalised perspectives and lesser-known narratives in contemporary art.

Programming

Tabari Artspace has chartered the evolution of MENA art from the early 2000s towards the emerging artists of today. Our represented artists are conceptually engaged with issues pertinent to the human condition and are united through fine art quality and hand touch.

The cultural ecosystem in the UAE has been central to the Tabari Artspace trajectory. The gallery is committed to contributing to the region's cultural vision through the identification and advancement of artistic talent residing in and reflecting upon the GCC.

Community

Community engagement and wider social access to MENA art are at the core of Tabari Artspace's missions.

The gallery has fostered relationships between artists and art appreciators, establishing a dynamic community that crosses generations. Physical programming is supplemented by digital counterparts, talks, publishing, workshops, and community events. The Tabari Artspace international residency programme encourages the artists of the region to expand their practice amid new contexts.

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