



Moving Through The Ether
Miramar Al Nayar Solo

25th April - 30 May, 2024
Tabari Artspace, DIFC, Dubai

Tabari Artspace presents the debut solo exhibition of Iraqi visual artist, Miramar Al Nayar, now represented by the gallery.

In *Moving Through The Ether*, Miramar Al Nayar unveils a collection of abstract figurative works on canvas, inviting viewers into a realm of recognition and constant metamorphosis. Each 190 x 120cm canvas serves as a conduit for Miramar's endeavour to encapsulate the essence of the natural formations of the desert. Eschewing representation, Miramar aims to distil the essence of these natural phenomena that also lie within the natural movement; her bodily movement, onto her canvases —the intricate textures, lifeforms, and undulating terrain—evoking a sense of abstracted organic forms.

As viewers engage with her compositions, they embark on an immersive journey of perception, akin to deciphering the cryptic language of nature itself. Miramar's artworks pulsate with kinetic energy, presenting formations that are at once organic and unfamiliar, drawing observers into a dance of recognition and revelation. For Miramar, communing with these natural phenomena becomes an almost spiritual pursuit, engaging in a deep dialogue with the subconscious through the medium of nature. She delves into the recesses of the mind until reaching a state she describes as “zero”:

Every time I attain that emptiness, I connect with a new resonance. It's akin to being at the heart of a circle, encircled by its expansive circumference brimming with infinite possibilities of existence. In this solo, it feels like a threshold moment, between two opposing worlds: the tangible and the metaphysical. Here, I surrender to being a vessel, letting myself dissolve as I sense the unseen realm infusing the canvas with gentle colours and ethereal forms.

- Miramar Al Nayyar



Through layering translucent pigments, Miramar captures the weight and cadence of human movement, instilling a sense of depth into two-dimensional canvases. Her compositions blend organic and abstract forms, resonating with the rhythmic harmony that underpins movement in the natural world.

Miramar's self-developed technique amalgamates an array of approaches to painting, ranging from oil glazing to the thin layering of wet-on-wet paint and airbrushing. Through her process, she aims to encapsulate and share transformative experiences, leading observers to a destination that exists beyond the confines of conventional reality—a space of profound emptiness that's concurrently abundant with possibility.

In a deliberate departure from her previous works, where proportions varied, Miramar opts for uniformity in size and dimensionality across all canvases. This intentional choice provides a cohesive backdrop, allowing the essence of her explorations to manifest unhindered, with the content emerging as the sole variable in the viewer's experience.



Miramar Al Nayyar says:

“Inspired by the fluidity of motion within the motionless sandstone formations, I entered a state of profound clarity, akin to peeling away the layers of an onion until reaching a state of pure emptiness—a state of oneness. Nature serves as the conduit for this subconscious dialogue, guiding me towards a place of egoless communion with all existence.”

“I remember passing through the towering sand rock formations along the desert, feeling a burning curiosity unfold with every pattern in the abstract, organic shapes of the mountains. The formations, endowed with erosion lines and colour variance, lend themselves to pareidolia. In the rocks, I saw ocean waves, movements of dancers, and faces of people I had never met. This experience left me with an awareness of a primordial earthly connection, stimulating unexplored parts of my psyche; I found myself in those formations.”

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Miramar Al Nayyar
B. 1997

Full Biography

Miramar Al Nayyar is a multi-disciplinary artist hailing from Iraq, currently based between Amman and Dubai.

Al Nayyar's three-dimensional works reveal her profound fascination with the interplay between nature, kinematic phenomena, temporality, and spatiality. Recently, Al Nayyar has placed her focus on an introspective examination of the nude topographies of desert rock formations and their relationship to the human body.

In her praxis, Al Nayyar employs an innovative methodology to encapsulate and immortalise the ephemeral choreography of motion she observes within the desert-scape. The artist imbues her works with the ceaseless cadence of natural motion and captures the dialogue between transitory forces and eternal stasis.

Her self-developed technique amalgamates an array of approaches to painting ranging from oil glazing to the thin layering of wet-on-wet paint and airbrushing.

Her work has been showcased at Gallery Ras Ain (2017), The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (2018), NOFA Gallery (2020), among others. She has also been a participating artist at numerous festivals and projects such as Baladk Street Art Festival (2017-2019), Distrito Grafiti Festival (2019), Wall of Contemplation project (2019), the Factory Festival (2019) and Open Art Shuffle street art festival (2021).

ABOUT TABARI ARTSPACE

In 2003, at a time when the UAE art scene was still nascent, Tabari Artspace gallery was founded by Maliha Tabari in Dubai. With a twofold aim of preserving histories of craft emerging from the MENA region, while elevating young artists in the Gulf on a global stage, Tabari Artspace's forward-looking vision situates itself in the contemporary art world's dynamic moment. Tabari, who was trained as an artist herself, has re-envisioned the gallery since 2017 to bridge the storied past with an ever-changing present, with a program that juxtaposes the breadth of Arab heritage with the promise emerging artists hold for the future.

The foundations for this international outlook began with the realization that artists from the Arab region were noticeably absent in the West. Tabari's approach was to represent artists who were creating unique visual vocabularies in their medium and particular contexts. In Egypt, this included the late Adam Henein in sculpture and Omar El-Nagdi in abstract expressionism. In Lebanon, she worked with Hussein Madi before he became hailed for his talent of melding Cubism with Islamic abstraction. Tabari has also launched the careers of artists such as Saudi Arabian artist Ahmed Mater, Iranian artist Farhad Moshiri, Syrian artist Louay Kayyali, and Egyptian artists Mohamed Abla and Adel Siwi, before they became influential. By bridging mid-career artists with emerging talent, Tabari Artspace has succeeded in building an international collector base interested in the region's evolving artistic production across generations.

Moving fluidly between a platform for exhibition-making and artist mentorship, Tabari Artspace has taken an in-depth focus on GCC-specific, female-centered narratives, increasingly working with Kuwaiti, Emirati and Saudi artists such as Alymamah Rashed, Maitha Abdalla, Maha Aljarallah and Lulwah Al Homoud. Tabari Artspace's communal spirit extends to its all-women team, which nurtures and elevates artists who are overlooked at home, placing them in a broader historical context.

Now in its second decade of operation, the artists shown at Tabari Artspace offer a living visual archive of social change, contested borders and aesthetic movements in the region at large. Grounded in the cosmopolitan city of Dubai with a branch in Cromwell Place in London since 2015, the gallery lends visibility to its artists through international shows and residencies, as well as creative collaborations with other spaces. In line with its research-driven approach of enabling artists to grow, Tabari Artspace also functions as an incubator. It has recently partnered with the revamped boutique hotel La Serena in Forte Dei Marmi, launching an artist residency that serves as part-creative sanctuary, part-maker's studio. Located near neighboring marble and stone foundries, this art space offers sites of material exploration that resonate with the gallery's emphasis on contemporary craft.

Constantly embracing new discourses and amplifying the voices of women and youth, Tabari Artspace is committed to documenting and showcasing art practices in MENA, positioning them on a par with those on the international art scene. Its roster of artists have been exhibited in institutions and biennials including but not limited to: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Institut du Monde Arabe, Sharjah Art Museum, Venice Biennale, Sharjah Biennial, São Paulo Biennial, and are part of collections such as the Barjeel Art Foundation, British Museum, Dalloul Art Foundation, The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Lyon Biennale, The Khalid Shoman Collection, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and Yale University Art Gallery.

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