

Lawrie Shabibi
Unit 21, Alserkal Avenue, Al Quoz 1
P.O. Box 123901, Dubai, UAE
T | +971 (4) 346 9906
F | +971 (4) 346 9902
E | info@lawrieshabibi.com

lawrieshabibi

PRESS RELEASE

Lawrie Shabibi at Frieze Seoul 2023

On View: 6 - 9 September 2023

Hamra Abbas | F7 | Focus Asia

COEX, 513 Yeongdong-daero, Seoul, South Korea

For Frieze Seoul 2023, Lawrie Shabibi presents a selection of new marble inlay works by Hamra Abbas (Pakistani, b. 1976, Kuwait) including a new iteration of her magnificent large-scale series titled *Mountain 6* (2023).

Abbas has for some years been experimenting with marble inlay (Pietra Dura) a decorative art form that involves the use of carefully cut and fitted coloured stones to create intricate images, breaking new ground as she pulls this traditional practice away from its historical function to create a new form of aesthetics. Her works reference Mughal architecture and its traditional use of garden motifs, where idyllic images of landscapes epitomise paradise and perfection, immortality and mortality; an earthly utopia in which humans coexist with nature in perfect harmony; she unearths the symbolic significance of nature imagery in relation to architecture and their interplay in the representation of nature and colour.

Drawing attention to the geographical origins of Lapis lazuli, particularly in Badakhshan, Afghanistan, Abbas investigates its historical significance and sheds light on its utilisation in the history of art, unravelling its cultural and artistic implications. Through her research, she uncovers the rich heritage associated with this precious gemstone, revealing its historical usage beyond its purely visual qualities.

Mountain 6 (2023) is a marble pentptych that captures the iconic imagery of the K2 Mountain in Pakistan. The piece showcases the timeless beauty of white snow, rugged rock formations. It has come to symbolise the pursuit of perfection and truth.

Abbas' *Flower Studies* series, inspired by photographs she has taken on her travels, harnesses her vision to create intricate studies in marble inlay. This traditional technique, deeply rooted in the South Asian region's rich history and fine craftsmanship, becomes her medium for immortalising the essence of each wildflower in stone.

HAMRA ABBAS

Hamra Abbas (Pakistani, b. 1976, Kuwait) received her BFA and MA in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 1999 and 2002 respectively before attending Universitaet der Kuenste in Berlin where she did the Meisterschueler in 2004.

She has exhibited internationally with recent solo and group exhibitions including: *COLOR / GARDEN*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2022), *Color Wheel*, Canvas gallery, Karachi (2021), *Precaution*, ARTER, Istanbul, Turkey (2021); *Tonight No Poetry Will Serve*, Barefoot Gallery, Colombo (2021); *Under Construction*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2021); and *Every Colour is a Shade of Black*, COMO Museum of Art, Lahore (2020).

Her work has been exhibited as part of the Karachi Biennale Karachi (2019, 2017) and the Lahore Biennale (2018). Abbas is an Honoree of the Asia Arts Game Changer Awards 2021. She is the recipient of the Jury Prize at Sharjah Biennial 9, the Abraaj Capital Art Prize in 2011 and was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize in 2009. In 2021, Abbas presented *Garden (2021)* - a large-scale public art intervention commissioned under the Expo 2020 Dubai Public Art Programme, and intended to remain on site as part of the future city of District 2020.

Her work is part of significant collections, including: the British Museum, London, UK; the Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio, USA; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas, USA; 21c Museum Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, USA; USA Art In Embassies Collection, USA; Burger Collection, Hong Kong; Koç Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey; Borusan Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey; Kadist Collection, Paris, France; Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium; Devi Art Foundation, Guragon, India; Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), Saudi Arabia; Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Abbas currently lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan.

LAWRIE SHABIBI

Lawrie Shabibi was founded in 2010 and opened its doors in early 2011 in Alserkal Avenue, located within the light industrial warehouse district of Al Quoz in Dubai. Following the relocation of several renowned galleries, this quickly became the hub of contemporary art in the region, and we have been a forerunner in the development of this contemporary art scene.

The gallery's initial focus was on the practices of emerging contemporary artists from the Middle East and North Africa (the "Global South"), and in the last five years we introduced artists from other regions and generations, yet with the same focus on the "underrepresented". A major focus remains the support of artists from the diaspora who create work in all media to explore issues such as identity, memory, history and socio-political issues specific to the diasporic experience.

Another part of the programme is to organise art historical exhibitions, working with an older generation of artists. Of note are the historic shows presented for the Moroccan pioneer Mohamed Melehi (1936-2020) and most recently Iraqi/French Mehdi Moutashar (b.1943) – both at Abu Dhabi Art Fair and showing works from the 1950s – 1970s. We also work closely with museums and have successfully placed works with The Guggenheim, Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou, The British Museum, Dallas Museum of Art, LACMA and the Cincinnati Art Museum. By integrating older (and less discovered) artists with younger artists we create a context and depth to the programme which we consider important when working with underrepresented regions.

For more information on Lawrie Shabibi please visit:

www.lawrieshabibi.com

PRESS INQUIRIES

For press inquiries please contact Margarita Poroshina:

E. margarita@lawrieshabibi.com

M. +971 56 6066087

T. +971 4 346 9906