

# STEVE TURNER

## PRESS RELEASE



Shadi Al-Atallah: *Rapture*

November 30–December 30, 2023

Steve Turner is pleased to present *Rapture*, a solo exhibition by London-based Shadi Al-Atallah which features recent paintings that depict enigmatic figures within domestic spaces which have everyday objects or sterile environments which contain medical and electrical equipment. The figures are in a state of ambiguity, their forms entwined and indistinguishable. They appear to be at the edge of a quarrel or an affectionate embrace, captured in a moment of heightened emotional intensity. Al-Atallah's compositions are inspired by Mesopotamian and Greek depictions of wrestling and they represent the complex terrain where desire and fear collide. According to Al-Atallah, *Rapture* addresses both the everyday fear of end-of-world self-destruction and a yearning for tenderness and vulnerability that transcends the physical.

Shadi Al-Atallah (born 1994, Saudi Arabia) earned a BA at the University of the Arts, London (2018) before earning an MA at the Royal College of Art, London (2021). They have had solo exhibitions at Steve Turner, Los Angeles (2022); Guts Gallery, London (2021 & 2023); Hammond Projects, London (2020) and Cob Gallery, London (2018). Their work was also included in two museum exhibitions in 2023, one at Goldsmiths CCA, London and one at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, New York.

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Shadi Al-Atallah  
**A tight grasp**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink and pencil on canvas  
27 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 27 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (70.2 x 69.9 cm)  
s.al-atallah013327



Shadi Al-Atallah  
**The scorch of the sun**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink and pencil on canvas  
27 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 27 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (70.2 x 70.5 cm)  
s.al-atallah013329



Shadi Al-Atallah  
**Endowed with strength**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink and pencil on canvas  
16 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 13 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches (42.2 x 34.6 cm)  
s.al-atallah013445



Shadi Al-Atallah  
**From every elevation they swarm down**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink, oil pastel and pencil on canvas  
81 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 63 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (207 x 161.9 cm)  
s.al-atallah013447



Shadi Al-Atallah  
**No such thing as forever**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink, oil, pastel and pencil on canvas  
67 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 86 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (171.5 x 219.7 cm)  
s.al-atallah013448



Shadi Al-Atallah  
**The protectors of the sun**, 2023  
Acrylic, ink, oil, pastel and pencil on canvas  
79 x 63 inches (200.7 x 160 cm)  
s.al-atallah013449

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Shadi Al-Atallah

***When the stars fall***, 2023

Acrylic, ink, oil pastel and pencil on canvas

83 x 63 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (210.8 x 161.3 cm)

s.al-atallah013450



Shadi Al-Atallah

***Creatures from the earth***, 2023

Acrylic, ink, oil pastel and pencil on canvas

82 x 63 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (208.3 x 161.9 cm)

s.al-atallah013451



Shadi Al-Atallah

***Goring like an ox***, 2023

Acrylic, ink, oil pastel and pencil on canvas

51 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 83 inches (130.8 x 210.8 cm)

s.al-atallah013453



Shadi Al-Atallah

***Over, and over again***, 2023

Acrylic, ink, oil pastel and pencil on canvas

49 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 72 inches (125.7 x 182.9 cm)

s.al-atallah013454