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Gagosian Presents *The Domes*, an Exhibition of Paintings by Y.Z. Kami in Beverly Hills

Opening June 28, the Presentation Surveys the Artist's *Dome* Series and Introduces New *Messenger* Paintings



Y.Z. Kami, *Messenger (The City II)*, 2023–24, oil on linen, 72 1/8 × 45 inches (183.2 × 114.3 cm) © Y.Z. Kami.
Photo: Maris Hutchinson

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BEVERLY HILLS, June 9, 2025—Gagosian is pleased to announce *The Domes*, an exhibition of paintings by Y.Z. Kami, opening on June 28. The presentation brings together two bodies of work by the artist: a survey of *Dome* paintings made from 2011 to the present, and a group of new *Messenger* paintings. The exhibition marks a meaningful return to the West Coast for Kami—he spent his early years in Northern California after moving to the United States from Tehran in 1973, and Southern California has played host to a number of his institutional presentations, including a solo exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art nearly a decade ago.

The *Dome* paintings interpret architectural structures as painted form, their tessellated rectangles and squares arrayed in concentric rings of white, blue, black, or gold. In some works, Kami additionally creates radiant mosaiclike squares that converge at the compositions' centers. Abstracting the experience of gazing up into luminous hemispheres, these paintings evoke the domes of temples, churches, and mosques—technical triumphs of construction that span enormous light-filled spaces to signify the heavens.

Eliminating spatial perspective, the *Dome* paintings function as mandalas, meditative designs that aspire to infinity. Additionally, their palettes correspond to the four stages of material and symbolic transmutation of elements in the tradition of alchemy. These works emerged from Kami's consideration of sacred architecture in *Untitled (Diptych)* (1996), which was featured in the exhibition *Architecture as Metaphor* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1997. This pair of large-scale photographic prints mounted on canvas juxtaposes two Persian domes to form a spatial vortex. Kami developed the motif of concentric circles further with Rumi, *The Book of Shams E Tabrizi (In Memory of Mahin Tajadod)* (2005), a sculpture of soapstone blocks imprinted with verses by the Persian poet Rumi, and with his series of *Endless Prayer* collages and paintings (initiated in 2005).

Accompanying the *Dome* works are three new paintings from the *Messenger* series, a body of work Kami first began in 2022, of which one entered the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 2023. Inspired by a photograph he took while traveling in India, the series incorporates the motif of a single figure seen from behind. Painted in a soft-focus style related to the artist's portraits, the anonymous individual is caught mid-stride seemingly at a crossroads. In the three works on view here, Kami positions the figures either before the lush greens of forest-covered hills or moving toward a metropolis with skyscrapers that rise like a mirage in the distance. These paintings present a contrast between humanity, nature, and architecture, and perhaps between timelessness and the materiality of the secular world.

Coinciding with the exhibition in Beverly Hills are two exhibitions in France that include Kami's work: *Dans le Flou (Out of Focus)* at Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, on view through August 18, 2025, and *Copistes (Copyists)* at Centre Pompidou-Metz, organized in collaboration with the Musée du Louvre, on view from June 14, 2025, to February 2, 2026.

For Y.Z. Kami's biographical information and exhibition history, [please visit gagosian.com](http://gagosian.com).

#YZKami

Y.Z. KAMI

The Domes

Opening reception: Saturday, June 28, 6–8pm

June 28–August 8, 2025

456 North Camden Drive, Beverly Hills

Press

Gagosian

press@gagosian.com

Hallie Freer

hfreer@gagosian.com

+1 212 744 2313