

# Traces

Lamya Gargash

April 30 – May 29, 2014

The Third Line is pleased to welcome back Lamya Gargash, who will be showing her new body of work in the gallery Project Space. Lamya's recent photographs expand upon her interventions in internal and external living spaces, seeking human presence in otherwise empty compositions.



Lamya Gargash, *Entangled Tree*, C-print, 60 x 60 cm

Lamya's practice has been concerned with the extensive study of identity and perception, and often documenting forgotten spaces in public and private realms in Emirati society. Finding herself caught in the chaos of daily life and the demands of motherhood, as well as the loss of several deaths in the family in the last three years, *Traces* echoes her longing for silent, stationary moments. The images showcase the artist's heightened sensitivity towards finding beauty in the mundane.

The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs taken at various points in time, celebrating the visibly banal. These are spaces that still show signs of someone having left a mark of their presence – in effect also highlighting their absence: used plates after a family lunch, a motionless mickey mouse ride serenely staring off into nothingness, dirty drapes from Lamya's now demolished house, and more.

As a photographer, Lamya finds that these poetic instances suggest moments of physical interaction of some sort and communicate our human-ness. They point towards the fragility of life, which strongly states the inevitability of mortality, and in the end the traces left behind are mere moments that will also fade with time.

## About Lamya Gargash

Lamya Gargash graduated from the American University of Sharjah in 2004, followed by a Masters degree in Arts in Communication Design from Saint Martins in the UK in 2007.

Lamya has won a number of awards for her work in film and photography. In 2004, she received first

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prize in the Emirates Film Festival, as well as the Ibdaa Special Jury Award for her movie titled *Wet Tiles*. Lamy's first artist book, *Presence*, is a photographic series which documents recently vacated houses and structures in the United Arab Emirates that have been abandoned or left for demolition.

Lamy has held solo exhibitions in Italy and UAE and has participated in various group exhibitions in Canada, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan, and France as well as within the UAE. In 2009, she participated in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale as the featured artist of the UAE's first ever national pavilion, and in the 9<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Biennale. In 2014, she participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> international FotoFest Biennial in Houston, USA.

Lamy lives and works in Dubai.

### About The Third Line

The Third Line is a Dubai-based art gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally and internationally. The Third Line also hosts non-profit, alternative programs to increase interest and dialogue in the region.

The Third Line also publishes books by associated artists from the region. Books published to date include *Presence* by photographer Lamy Gargash (2008), *In Absentia* by Tarek Al-Ghoussein (2009), *Cosmic Geometry*, an extensive monograph on Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, edited by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Karen Marta (2011), and most recently the self-titled treatise Huda Lutfi about the artist's Cairo based practice.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtakar, Amir H. Fallah, Arwa Abouon, Babak Golkar, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Golnaz Fathi, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Laleh Khorramian, Lamy Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Pouran Jinchu, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sherin Guirguis, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Youssef Nabil and Zineb Sedira.

### Media Contact

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## LAMYA GARGASH

### BORN

1982 Dubai, UAE  
Lives and works in Dubai

### EDUCATION

2007 Masters of Arts in Communication Design from Central Saint Martins School of Art & Design, London, UK  
2004 Bachelor of Science in Visual Communication from the American University of Sharjah, UAE

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012 *Through the Looking Glass*, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE  
2011 *Presence*, Galleria Marabini, Bologna, Italy  
2010 *Presence Series*, Galerie Brigitte Schenk, Cologne, Italy  
2009 *Familial Series*, UAE Pavilion, 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
*Majlis Series*, Sharjah Biennale 9, Sharjah Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
2008 *Presence*, The Third Line, Doha, Qatar  
Creek Art Fair, Dubai, UAE

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2013 *I exist (in some way)*, the Bluecoat, Liverpool, UK, in partnership with Look/13, the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and Belgian Nomadic Arts Centre, Moussem  
*Encounter: The Royal Academy in the Middle East*, Katara Cultural Village, Doha, Qatar  
2012 *Wet Tiles*, Malmo Arab Film Festival, Malmo, Sweden  
The Third Line booth H-10, Frieze London, Regents Park, London, UK  
2011 *The Heart of Phoenix: Art and Culture of the United Arab Emirates-Sharjah*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea  
*Wet Tiles (2003)*, Shubbak Festival- Iniva, London, UK  
2009 *Collection Dubai*, SMART Project Space, Amsterdam  
*Emirati Expressions*, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi  
2008 Artist Residency Program with Tashkeel Artist Studio and the Goethe Institute in Berlin, Germany

- Dubai Next*, Curated by Jack Persekian and Rem Koolhaas, The Vitra Museum,  
Wil Am Rhein, Germany
- My Father's House*, Curated by Lucy Till Awny of the British Council, Held in  
the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Yemen
- 2007 *Life Drawing*, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE  
*A Light In to Nations Photography Show*, Toronto, Canada  
Central St. Martins Final Degree Show, London, UK
- 2006 *Untitled*, Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland  
*See It Like It Is*, YMCA photography exhibition, London, UK
- 2005 *Hyper Real*, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE  
*Wet Tiles*, Osaka Film Festival, Osaka, Japan
- 2004 *Wet Tiles*, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE  
*Wet Tiles*, Amsterdam Arab Film Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Wet Tiles*, Paris Arab Film Festival, Paris, France
- 2003 *Wet Tiles*, Emirates Film Festival, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Ibdaa Exhibition, Dubai, UAE  
Photography Exhibition, American University in Sharjah, UAE  
*Bon a Tirer*, AUS printmaking exhibition, American University in Sharjah, UAE
- 2000 Dubai Chamber of Commerce Art Show, Dubai, UAE

## PUBLICATIONS

- Limited Edition Sketchbooks*, Lamy Gargash & Diana Hawatmeh, series of 8  
sketchbooks crafted by LA Digital
- New Vision: Arab Contemporary Art in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, London: Thames & Hudson,  
2011 ISBN 978-095-679-422-2
- Arabesque 2: Graphic Design from the Arab World and Persia*, Die Gestalten Verlag,  
2011, ISBN: 978-389-955-330-7
- Soura Magazine Turns 5 The Book*, Unexplored Publishing, 2010
- Presence*. (2006 - 2007). Page One Publishing. Ltd. *Works on Paper*, The Third Line.  
ISBN 978-981-245-768-4

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2012 Lord, Christopher, The National, arts&life *Interiors of a more disturbing kind*, 7  
May, 2012, pg 8-9
- Yusuf, Muhammad, The Gulf Today, *In a mirror, darkly*, 3 May, 2012
- Duggan, Rachel, Classic with Colour, *Through the Looking Glass*, 26 April, 2012
- MacGilp, Alexandra, AsiaArtPacific, *Lamy Gargash: Emirati Estrangements*,

May/Jun 2012, pg 92-93

- 2011 Hawatmeh, Diana, *Arabesque 2: Graphic Design from the Arab World and Persia, Handmade*, pg. 8 & 42
- 2010 Soura Magazine, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, *Forgotten Spaces*, pg. 6 - 8, April 2010  
Barret, Nyree, *Your Guide to Art Dubai*, Time Out, March 2010  
Domit, Elie, *A Culture That Came to Bloom after the Oil Boom*, the black snapper online photography magazine, <http://www.theblacksnapper.net/>
- 2009 Contemporary Practices, *Profiles: Lamy Gargash*, pg. 24 - 25, Volume 5, 2009  
Jarvie, Catherine, What's On, *Local Hero*, pg. 47, November 2009  
Valbonesi, Ilari, *Art e Critica, L'Arte Politica Dell'Ospitalita - The Political Art of Hospitality (Tehran, Dubai, Venice)*, August 2009, pg. 44 - 46  
Stoney, Elisabeth, Contemporary Practices, *Under Construction: Dubai City of Culture, Review of Dubai Next: Face of Twenty-first Century Culture*, March 2009, pg. 42 - 47  
Kilston, Lyra, *Modern Painters*, May 2009, *UAE Pavilion*, pg. 54 - 59  
The National, m Magazine, *New Ways of Seeing the Future*, pg. 18 - 23  
Rawlings, Asia Art Pacific, Ashley, *Preview of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale: Making Brave New Worlds*, May / June 2009, pg. 98 - 107  
Walsh, Callaghan, L'Uomo Vogue, *Emirati Arab Unis, Lamy Gargash*  
The Guardian, *United Arab Emirates confronts stereotypes in Venice Biennale debut*, June 2009  
Hume, Jessica, The National, *Venice stirs up Emirati artists*, March 14, 2009  
Art Collection + Design, Hong Kong, *Art Market*, March 2009, March 14 2009, pg. 16 - 20
- 2008 Fekri, Reem, *Urban Artists*, brownbook, May - June 2008, pg. 35 - 47  
Kadry, Mohamed, Khaleej Times, City Times, *Past Forward*, 16 March 2008  
Barrett, Nyree, *Inside Out, Extinction*, June 2008, pg. 120 - 123
- 2007 Art Tattler Online, December 2007 [www.arttattler.com/uae.html](http://www.arttattler.com/uae.html)  
Canvas Guide, *Mixed Media*, November - December 2008, pg. 10  
Vali, Muratza, Bidoun, *Life Drawing: Review*, Spring - Summer 2008

#### AWARDS

- 2004 Ibdaa special jury's award for Movie, Wet Tiles, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 First place prize, the Emirates Film Festival, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Ibdaa winner in photography, Dubai, UAE