



### **Azad Nanakeli; *Highlighted Memory***

Vernissage: 13 November, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: 13 November 2017 – 9 January 2018

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce Azad Nanakeli's first solo exhibition in Dubai. The Iraqi artist will show works of a variety of mediums; painting, photography, video and installation. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artists on Monday 13 November from 6pm – 9pm. Nanakeli will be available for interviews and tours from 3 November to 16 November.

### **Highlighted Memory**

An international artist and a citizen of the world, **Azad Nanakeli** has focused his visual pattern on a multi-layered artistic discourse, at the crossroads between an impressive variety of media – painting, photography, video, installation – and an equally powerful narrative, which gives all his work an almost spiritual touch of coherence and unity. Born in Erbil, today part of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in Iraq, currently living in Florence, Italy, Azad illustrated his trans-national mix of identity in around a hundred of international exhibitions, culminating in three editions of the Venice Biennale: the Kurdish pavilion in 2009, the Iraqi pavilion in 2011 and the Iranian pavilion in 2015.

***Highlighted Memory***, his current exhibition in Dubai, is an invitation to an overview of Nanakeli's major topics of reflection and a highly representative illustration of his innovative technique based on the overlapping of narrative and mixed media layers. The exhibition proposes a new frame where the artist can freely develop his own timeless connections between personal and trans-individual experiences, between the past and the present, between memory and identity. In Nanakeli's view, art becomes a recording and a critical process, able to contribute to a comprehension of the social role and the meaning of the artistic practice, proposing a series of reflections on how much art can contribute to the configuration of the modern world representation; interrogating itself at the same time on how the artist can make a correlation between the political reality and the social dramas through their artistic representation. In every layer of pictorial, or sound, or video matter of his works, the artist turns himself into a sort of archaeologist, able to dig and unveil the 'ghost' and unexpected faces of the personal and collective experience: it is as if, together with the artist, the viewer would enter his artworks from the back-door of the memory and have access in this way to a privileged and magical storytelling.

Claudio Scorretti  
Collector, Art Advisor

### **About the XVA Gallery**

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, SH Contemporary, Singapore Art Fair and Abu Dhabi Art in 2014, in order to further expose Middle Eastern contemporary art.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. For three years XVA was located in DIFC, and has now expanded its premises in Al Fahidi.

### **XVA Gallery Contact**

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