



Halim Al Karim; *Exiles in Hidden Worlds*

Vernissage: March 16th, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: March 16 – April 23, 2019

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *Exiles in Hidden Worlds* by Halim Al Karim in the main courtyard of XVA. The Photographic exhibition will be accompanied by the installation *Anunnaki Secrets* by the same artist. This show will run alongside our two person exhibition, Samira Abbassy's *Glimpses of the Oceanic* and Imran Channa's *Badshahnama*, located in the gallery space, and Naz Shahrokh's installation *piece Wish Tree (The Sacred Space Between the No Longer and the Non Yet.)*

The exhibition will open with a reception for the artists on March 16, 2019, from 6pm – 9pm. Halim Al Karim will be available for interviews and tours from March 16 to March 30, 2019.

Exiles in Hidden Worlds will feature the work of two series; *Exiles in the Fifth Dimension* and *Survivors of Love*.

'During my exile in the Iraqi desert, my time was punctuated by the shock and panic that I faced alone. That period of horror separated me from reality, and forced me to find imaginary secret passages to escape to hidden worlds for refuge.

My journey is comparable to that of Anunnaki, who, according to the Sumerian Antiquities and the interpretation of Zecharia Sitchin, landed on planet Earth with a mission to save the planet Nibiru.

Like Anunnaki, I found my way through imaginary secret passages to another hidden world, and saved my nine hearts.

There, between the orbits of hidden worlds, I lived many ages with the Sumerian goddess of love, existing in a different time line, in another dimension. Only there was I able to control the frequencies of the big bangs inside my nine hearts.

In this exhibition I interpret my conviction and belief that only those who believe in love can heal the sins of our history, and can tame the beasts inside us.

Halim Al Karim, 2016

Anunnaki Secrets

This installation is another chapter of Anunnaki's migration to planet earth. It's a visual metaphor for migration, exile, belonging, and the secrets of freedom.

In his migration to planet earth the Anunnaki has created and hides the code of the goddess of love, and all women surrounding him try to obtain this code so they themselves can transform into the Goddess of love to escape to the freedom of the hidden worlds.

Halim Al Karim, 2019

Halim Al Karim Biography

Born in Najaf, Iraq in 1963, Halim Al Karim has held many solo exhibitions in Dubai, Paris, Holland, Switzerland, Istanbul, USA, Jordan and Lebanon. The artist was nominated for the 2010 Sovereign Art Prize and was awarded the jury prize in the International Cairo Biennale in Egypt. He is one of the six artists whose work was featured in the Iraqi Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale – the first Iraqi Pavilion in 36 years. His work is in the collections of major museums including the Arab Museum of Contemporary Art in Doha, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Saatchi Collection in London, Darat Al Funun in Amman, L'Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, Artron Art Museum in China and Yinchuan MoCA in China. He lives and works in Dubai and Colorado, USA.

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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