



Gazmend Kalemi & Miriam Humer; *Interlud*

Vernissage: 11 January 2018, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: 11 January – 4 March 2018

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery welcomes back husband and wife, Gazmend Kalemi and Miriam Humer, for their second joint exhibition in Dubai. The artists will present separate bodies of work that have been developed side by side. Through their practice they explore concepts that interlock and weave apart, they ask questions, challenge, and support one another, as ideas take shape and become more apparent. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artists on Thursday 11 January 2018, from 6pm – 9pm.

Interlud

For the past two years Kalemi has produced, and keeps producing, a continuously expanding volume of small, medium and large size works of abstract watercolour on paper. From the very beginning, explains Humer, she found them to be 'so good, and true, and strong, and to be the best work that he has ever done.' This is despite Kalemi's own ongoing doubts as to whether this body of work should be what he is pursuing, especially when he compares them with his large scale detailed drawings, in which he captures concrete architecture and landscapes.

Through this debate Kalemi and Humer found the title for the exhibition *Interlud*. An interval in time, a certain pivotal moment in which you are doing something that is different from what has happened, what you did before, and so alters the after.

'When I looked up the word interlude, I found out that it is also a synonym for a breathing pause.' Explains Humer. 'I have such strong feelings towards the work Gazmend is doing. Something in myself deeply responds to it. Phenomena I was always fascinated by: What does exist? What is? What radiates? When do things become apparent, and when do they fade away and disappear into invisibility, but are still there, and are just covered? What is necessary for things to become manifest, what is manifestation? And then the idea of the vessel, the container, humans as vessels; what is knowledge, what is experience, where is what is captured and stored, the layers and sediments within us... What connects the inside and the outside?'

Humer finds herself, amongst the craziness of everyday life, sorting through boxes and cardboard trays containing all kinds of paper pieces, fragments, layers of different periods of time; another may consider them as leftover trash, used or dirty, but to her, paying attention to these pieces, that she has kept safe for many years, is an integral part of the process. Using this material, integrating it, combining it with 'new' or 'fresh' material, trimming the pieces into geometrical compatible players that she can join, merge and balance is all key. Structure and chaos were, and always will be, strong poles she is torn between, where she is trying to balance in daily life materialized surroundings as well. Working with geometric shapes and patterns, like the equilateral 'stable' triangle, has therapeutic value for her.

Kalemi compares their work to music. The single pieces in a series are like tones which you can put together, and a certain melody will arise, and then adding more the play of composition starts. It works the same way when integrating Humer's work. For example, a small colourful, minimal but vibrant, etching of a bundle of lines by Humer, next to a big watercolour painting of Kalemi. 'It's like a certain string you pull, the initial source of sound, or atmosphere, you tune something and from there you follow it up and expand the sound guiding what to place next...'

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

Eleanor Smith, Gallery Director

E: ellie@xvagallery.com

E: xva@xvagallery.com

T: +9714 353 5383

M: +97150 153 3813