



Rohan Khanna: *Sensations of Space*

Vernissage: 25 May, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: 25 May 2017 – 26 June 2017

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce *Sensations of Space*, emerging artist Rohan Khanna's first solo exhibition at XVA Gallery. The exhibition will present both small and large-scale paintings on canvas. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artist on Thursday 25 May from 6pm – 9pm. Khanna will be available for interviews and tours from 20-27 May.

Khanna was born in Washington DC to a diplomat, and as such moved around frequently with his family. From a young age he learnt the distinct energy that different spaces hold. Through this understanding, Khanna has managed to create fully immersive spaces that explore feelings and sentiments, affected by relations with people, space and time. Emotion is Khanna's most important tool, focusing on the feeling induced by an environment or relationship.

Khanna uses layers of colour to both hide and reveal, playing with the notion of space, either vibrating out into the room or deep into the canvas. The process employed starts with extensive mark making. These marks are then coated by multiple layers of pigment until they can barely be seen; only to be identified the longer one looks into the dark pools of colour. Khanna paints this way to challenge the viewer to spend time interpreting the work and allowing them to experience a visual metamorphosis.

Khanna's aim is to create work that submerges the viewer within his original sentiment, but allows freedom and time to unravel and discover the layers of sensations present within. The work, that appears dark and dangerous at first, may be found to be soothing, serene, disconcerting, calm, haunting, dismal, jovial.... And so Khanna sincerely explores the depths within himself, exposing himself with a vulnerability that is tangible and alluring, and resulting in work that is grand, emotional and enlightening.

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

Banna Sifri, Public Relations Coordinator

E: banna@xvagallery.com

E: xva@xvagallery.com

T: +9714 353 5383

M: +971508860100

Eleanor Smith, Gallery Director

E: ellie@xvagallery.com

E: xva@xvagallery.com

T: +9714 353 5383

M: +97150 153 3813

