



XVA Gallery presents *The House Is On Fire*, a solo exhibition by Celina Teague, opening 25th October 2020.

- Large scale text-based paintings add urgency to the climate change emergency.
- Teague gives a voice to conventionally marginalized creatures.
- Her use of bright colour palette captures audience attention.

"I don't trust fashion; it goes in and out like waves. Right now, the environment is 'in'. It's in to talk about climate change; to talk about plastics and waste; to be 'an activist'. Greta interests me because she is beyond fashion. She understands that we don't have time for issues like climate change to go in and out of fashion. I accept her wrath and her challenge." Celina Teague - Artist

14th September 2020, Dubai, UAE // XVA Gallery is pleased to present *The House Is On Fire*, a solo exhibition by *Celina Teague*, comprised of paintings from two ongoing series pivoting around Teague's personal interest in climate change and environmental catastrophe as well as the mainstream public debate on these increasingly pressing subjects.

Using a palette of bright colours and large text as central components of her paintings, Teague's works feel urgent, addressing the viewers directly and compelling them to consider their own actions and impact.

The large oil-on-canvas pieces take their cue from young activists - slogans borrowed from banners at public protests and, particularly, from the words of the renowned face of the present day climate change movement, Greta Thunberg. Selecting some of Greta's most impactful quotes from the infamous speech she gave at the UN Climate Action Summit, Teague asks us to contemplate the differing faces of activism and the complex nature of the dissemination of information in the digital era. In this age of algorithms and curated newsflow, Teague asks us to ponder on what is filtered out and foregrounded - and to what effect.



Additionally by repeating Greta's forceful messages, coupled with striking and bold imagery, Teague reframes the words and asks us to look at them afresh, adding impetus to what is becoming an ever-more critical cause.

The second series picks up on these themes by focusing on conventionally unappealing or lesser known animals and giving them protagonist status. Here, the portraits incorporate poems, written by the artist to reveal an inner life to these sentient and often misunderstood beings. Her animal characters, including a cassowary, pigeon and lapwing, become unexpected heroes and parallel the experience of the young Greta. Teague has given the animals a voice and in doing so, has reminded us of the need to play close attention to nature.

Anna Seaman, curator: "Celina is an extremely perceptive artist; while she paints instinctively, she understands her audience and has an innate ability to communicate to her viewers. The two series in this show represent parallel lines of thought that intersect as well as stand alone. The fight against global warming and Teague's passionate love of the animal kingdom are incredibly important and cannot be overstated, especially as humanity hurtles through crisis after crisis in the 21st century. The house really is on fire and if we don't try to put it out, we will all perish in the flames."

Grace Hauser, Director, XVA Gallery: "Celina's works capture the zeitgeist but are also universally relevant. If anything, the events of 2020 and the outbreak of COVID-19 have taught us all that we are powerless in the face of nature. It is our duty to take action and to sit up and listen to the voices of the activists. This exhibition reminds us of this but in a visually appealing and attractive way."

Exhibition Dates: Opening 25th October 2020.

XVA Gallery established in 2003, is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world 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.

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.

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