

## *Be Fekret Hastam*

XVA Gallery - Al Fahidi Neighbourhood, Dubai, UAE

Friday, April 26 to May 19, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 27, 6-8 pm

Naz Shahrokh's latest solo exhibition at XVA Gallery further investigates conceptual works that range from upcycled sculptural objects to site-specific installation and embroidered works. Her artistic practice is closely aligned with her research, both of which reflect upon Metaphysics, Sustainability, Land Art, Site-specificity and cultural traditions.

Works in the exhibition include ***A Brief History of Time***, an assemblage of digital photography and acrylic on approximately 200 silver maple leaves installed on the wall in a configuration referencing compositionally the flight of swifts during migration. This work offers miniature snapshots of the natural environment where the artist documented the fleeting landscapes in the last 16 years.

***Spice Line*** includes 324 glass vial jars filled with spices and herbs installed on a shelf. The project is in direct reference to the Silk Road. It celebrates the richness of human culture, as the materials assembled from collected spices and herbs are inspired directly by the Emirates and neighbouring countries. As the artist describes "The Emirates has been a nomadic landscape for centuries as the Silk Road was as a journey from the east to the west, and many travelled through the region leaving behind or adding their material culture in the United Arab Emirates of which was assimilated to various forms and traditions".

***We Are One*** are embroidered face masks that reference Byron Kim's study of skin tones and the experience the planet witnessed with COVID-19 shared experience. ***Dream with Care*** is a collection of 111 ties assembled with fishing line. This work is dedicated to the artist's late mother and carries a political reflection of our current time in the region and the role of patriarchy while questioning colonialism.

***Map Tree (we're all connected)*** is an interactive, collaborative work within one of XVA's central courtyards on a tree. This project includes approximately 11,000 collected maps in recycled plastic envelopes, where the public has added their own voice and written or drawn their reflections. This project was initiated at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., in 2022 with its final installation at the Al Fahidi District. As the artist describes, "The maps in this current project have been collected, and each is reminiscent of a specific moment and place for the past 30 years. This project was inspired by Yoko Ono's *Wish Tree* and Joseph Beuys' *7000 Oaks*. Congruent conceptually, my project investigates further the notion and conversation of the collective consciousness, and our place today within time, as I believe we are all interconnected".

For more information: [www.nazshahrokh.net](http://www.nazshahrokh.net)

Please contact the gallery for further information and sales lists: [xva@xvagallery.com](mailto:xva@xvagallery.com) or telephone +9714 3535383