



## **In *Worlds Apart*, Amir H. Fallah's immigrant subjects trek the globe to share their unique narratives.**

**Mykonos, 10 August 2019** — Dio Horia gallery is excited to announce **Amir H. Fallah's** solo exhibition *Worlds Apart* in Mykonos. The exhibition *Worlds Apart* includes paintings and works on paper from the artist's series that explore the diverse immigrant community living in America. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Greece and the culmination of his two-week long residency at Dio Horia in August 2019. The exhibition opens on August 23 at 20:00, in the presence of the artist.

Since 2017, Iranian-American artist **Amir H. Fallah** has worked on a series of paintings of multi-racial and immigrant families who have made America their home. Though not directly political, Fallah's work is a reaction to the current political climate, examining what it means to be American today where issues of White Nationalism and Islamophobia have been exasperated by the Trump administration.

Fallah's technique deconstructs the concept of art historical portraiture by allowing objects, and not figures, to tell the narrative of the subject. He starts by visiting his subjects, learning their stories and taking in their surroundings. It's an intimate process of exploring the objects, tapestries and symbols that are significant to the subject of the painting. The process is a kind of interview, where he unearths the hidden meanings of these objects and collages them to create a portrait that tells the subject's unique immigrant story. Rather than depicting his subjects' likenesses, he veils their faces and in the end the final works are symbolic collages of conceptual and formal elements that describe the subjects' identities, commenting on the generational experiences of movement, trauma, hope and celebration.

Drawing inspiration from Islamic art, western graffiti, Dutch and Flemish Golden Age and others, Fallah's approach to portraiture is a remix of elements that have appeared throughout Art History into the modern age. In doing so, his work possesses a hybridity that reflects his own background as an Iranian- American immigrant straddling cultures. Drawing from his Iranian roots, the influence of Persian miniatures is seen throughout Fallah's work in the decorative borders, the push and pull of flatness and depth, and the framed edges of the paintings. Much like a DJ samples music across genres, Fallah mixes imagery from a cross section of cultural and historical references. Through this, he creates maximalist and socially engaging work that explores race and identity in modern America.

In **Amir Fallah's** exhibition *Worlds Apart*, Persian rugs, heirloom jewelry and collaged photographs stand as mementos of previous lives that were carried over into the immigrant's new experiences in America. Working in Mykonos and continuing this series of works in Greece, a very small country far away from America that is experiencing a similar socio-economic turmoil, Fallah's work examines and comments on the humane aspects of mobility in our global society.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Amir H. Fallah** (b. 1979, Tehran) received his BFA in Fine Art & Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art and his MFA in painting at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions across the United States and abroad. In 2015, Fallah had a solo exhibition at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and received the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. In 2009, the artist was chosen to participate in the 9th Sharjah Biennial. Fallah's painting *Calling On The Past* received the 2018 Northern Trust Purchase Prize at EXPO Chicago and is now part of the permanent collection at the SMART Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. In 2019 Fallah was awarded a permanent public art commission by the LA Art Commission and won the COLA Artist fellowship. The artist is also in the permanent collection of the Neuman Museum, Kansas City, The Microsoft Collection, Plattsburg State Art Museum, Plattsburgh, NY, Cerritos College Public Art Collection, Norwalk, CA and Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE. The artist has a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson in 2020.

— **Dio Horia** is a gallery for contemporary art and culture that was inaugurated in 2015. Dio Horia Gallery strives to be at the forefront of cultural experimentation both in Greece and the world beyond, by representing young emerging artists from small peripheral countries. At the same time, Dio Horia is running an international residency program and also organizes group shows and publications with established and emerging artists that have not exhibited in Greece. Finally, Dio Horia engages in collaborative projects developed as a result of associations with artists, curators, non-profit organizations and cultural carriers. These fall into categories ranging from social, cultural and literary studies to music and performing arts. The gallery is based in Mykonos, Greece, and in the second half of 2019 it will open a new location in Athens.

### — Exhibition info

Amir Fallah: *Worlds Apart*  
Solo & residency show  
August 23 - September 30, 2019

### Dio Horia Gallery

Panahra Square, 846 00 Mykonos, Greece  
Tel: +30 2289026429  
Email: [info@diohorias.com](mailto:info@diohorias.com)  
<http://www.diohorias.com/>

Hours:

August: Daily, 19:00 - 02:00

September: Daily, 18:00 - 01:00

### — Now showing at Dio Horia Mykonos

Sam Friedman: *Days of Kindness*  
Solo & residency show  
July 25 - August 23, 2019

Joakim Ojanen: *Island*  
Solo & residency show  
July 25 - August 23, 2019

### — Upcoming at Dio Horia Athens

Hulda Guzmán: Solo show  
Inaugural Show in *Athens Space*  
Fall 2019

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