

The Iranian American artist Amir H. Fallah presents his first solo exhibition ‘You Can’t Teach What You Don’t Know’ in Athens.

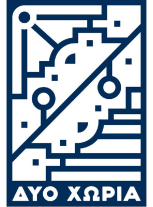


August 30, 2021—Dio Horia Gallery announces the solo exhibition of Amir H. Fallah titled **You Can’t Teach What You Don’t Know**. This is the first solo exhibition of the artist in Athens and the second with Dio Horia Gallery. The exhibition opens on Tuesday, September 7 and will run until October 4 2021.

‘You Can’t Teach What You Don’t Know’ presents **Amir H. Fallah**’s virtuosically multifaceted compositions that bring together disparate elements of popular and traditional cultures into to create intricate, visually delectable ensembles that reflect on the irreducible complexity of identity and character.

While always deeply personal by design, this new body of work comes from a place of a special intimacy for the artist, focusing on Fallah’s family and close friends. The exhibition also marks the first time his figurative work is shown alongside a new corpus of what the artist refers to as “grids”, highlighting the kinship between their respective philosophical foundations. The latter jettison the individual figure in favor of a complex interweaving of references and cultural touchpoints that together reflect on the structures and founding processes of private value systems.

Fallah’s work is as much embedded in the legacy of traditional Persian miniatures as it is in that of Robert Rauschenberg’s “flatbed picture” and in its embodiment of the complicated jumble of



personified memory, heritage passed through tradition, and the intrusive cultural forces of our commercialized visual matrix jointly constitutive of person-formation.

Visually delectable, opulent, and, above all, joyful, the works in the exhibition, immediate accessibility is what renders them both relatable and irresistible. A few of the titles are, in fact, meditations addressed to the artist's son (he is present throughout himself, observing the proceedings through an avatar of a cartoon piglet from his favorite childhood book), *The Only Devil in Your Way Is Apathy*, *What Hurts You Blesses You*, or *Build Borderless Worlds* – coded messages that carry meaning within every single one of their purposefully selective founding elements, becoming decipherable in a million unique and different ways singular to their viewer.

All of these works are borne of a lengthy, deliberate process that begins with the artist laboriously collecting, collaging, and arranging endless clippings, sketches, photographs, and sampled patterns into multi-layered, dizzyingly complex Photoshop assemblages. These files are then dexterously reproduced on canvases in a technique that knowingly rewards close contemplation by employing a loosely expressive painterly detail that belies its initial impression of seamless luster – just like the seemingly ad-hoc nature of these works' imagery belies the profound and poetic deliberation of their composition.

— END —

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. Selected solo exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tucson; South Dakota Art Museum, Brookings SD; Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland OR; San Diego ICA; and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland KS.

In 2009, the artist was chosen to participate in the 9th Sharjah Biennial. In 2015, Fallah received the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. In 2019, Fallah's painting *Calling On The Past* received the Northern Trust Purchase Prize at EXPO Chicago. In 2020, Fallah was awarded the COLA Individual Artist Fellowship and the Artadia grant. In addition, the artist had a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, accompanied by a catalogue, and a year long installation at the ICA San Jose.

The artist is in the permanent collection of the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, Miami; McEvoy Foundation For The Arts, San Francisco; Nerman Museum, Kansas City; SMART Museum of Art at the University of Chicago; Davis Museum, Massachusetts; The Microsoft Collection, Washington; Plattsburg State Art Museum, NY; Cerritos College Public Art Collection, CA; and Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE.



—**Dio Horia Art Platform** 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 has two exhibition spaces in Athens, Greece.

— Exhibition info

Amir H. Fallah: You Can't Teach What You Don't
Know
Solo show
Dio Horia Athens
September 7 – October 4, 2021

Dio Horia Project Space Athens
Mantzouraki 16, 11524, Athens, Greece
Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 - 19:00
Saturday, 11:00 - 15:00
Tel: +30 2106714827

Dio Horia Mykonos
Panahra Sq., 846 00 Mykonos
Hours:
Daily, 19:00 - 00:00
Tel: +30 2289026429

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Dio Horia Athens
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Solo show
Dio Horia Athens
November 7 – December 10, 2021

Lauren Wy
Solo Project
Dio Horia Athens
November 7 – December 10, 2021