

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

"Library." *Canvas Daily*. (November 18, 2015).

daily *Canvas*

18 NOVEMBER 2015 | ISSUE 2 | ABU DHABI ART EDITION

LIBRARY



GHADA AMER
EARTH.LOVE.FIRE
PUBLISHED BY
OFSET YAPIMEVI
\$50

Launching during Abu Dhabi Art 2015 is Ghada Amer's publication *Earth.Love.Fire*. A catalogue accompanying a major exhibition of the same name at the Leila Heller Gallery (A7) new space in Dubai, the book introduces readers to Amer's most recent art exploration into ceramics, placing the works within her decades-long artistic practice. Context and analysis is provided by two scholarly essays by the gallery's Dr Shiva Balaghi, a cultural historian, and Adam Welch of Greenwich House Potter in New York, alongside photography by Brian Buckley. Published in both English and Arabic, the book is the result of a year-long curatorial collaboration between the artist and the two writers, and confirms Amer as one of the leading female artists of her generation. The Egyptian artist is known primarily for her abstract work, which combines paintings with embroidery and addresses issues

surrounding femininity, sexuality, postcolonial identities and Islamic culture. Explaining the title of her show and book, Amer puts it simply: "It's a passionate title, because I feel passionate about my ceramics." There is passion too in Amer's view of painting as a male-dominated genre, and in her development of the medium for herself by using thread and needles. This exhibition pushes the rebellion further by painting with clay. *Earth.Love.Fire* provides an extensive look at Amer's practice, complete with images of the artist in her studio space, page-by-page shots of her ceramics, sculptures and embroidered paintings, as well as memorable lines and facts into her process of research and world of art making between the 1960s and 70s.

To order visit www.leilahellergallery.com