

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Symphony of Birds'

By

Maryam Lamei



Efflorescence, Acrylic on canvas, 250 x 180 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Maryam Lamei, titled *'Symphony of Birds'*, opening 23rd January 2024.

The exhibition features a diverse array of paintings that seamlessly blends the rich tradition of Persian miniature painting with a modern sensibility. *'Symphony of Birds'* draws inspiration from the revered Persian painting genre known as "Negargari," focusing on the harmonious interplay between flowers and birds. Maryam Lamei elevates this traditional art form, infusing it with a contemporary essence that resonates with the present-day world. In her interpretation, the delicate fusion of flowers and birds transcends mere aesthetics, evolving into a profound dialogue reflecting the ongoing conversation between love and the beloved. The exhibition, both visually captivating and conceptually profound, invites viewers to explore a nuanced dialogue between nature, love, and the human experience.

In *'Symphony of Birds'*, Lamei expertly weaves symbolism, portraying birds as revealers of divine secrets and guardians of wisdom. The intricate narratives within her paintings go beyond traditional spiritual interpretations, embracing justice, peace, ethical salvation, and freedom in the tangible, worldly realm.

Each brushstroke carries the weight of tradition while embracing a contemporary lens that breathes new meaning into age-old symbols.

Maryam Lamei's paintings transcend the confines of time, aiming to draw attention to the contemporary human experience. Through themes of hope, humanity, and resistance against oppression and injustice, the art envisions a brighter future. 'Symphony of Birds' becomes a medium to heal the wounded hearts of beings worldwide, offering a unique perspective that goes beyond conventional Iranian painting interpretations.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Maryam Lamei, born in 1985 in Iran, is a distinguished artist who achieved national recognition in 2015 by earning the prestigious national emblem. Holding a degree in Graphics, she further distinguished herself by receiving the 2nd art emblem from the Iran Ministry of Science and Research.

Maryam's inspiration roots back to the rich Iranian tradition of "Flower and Bird" (Golomorgh) in her artwork. Her creations beautifully blend historical Golomorgh techniques with her innovative approach, surpassing traditional methods and establishing her unique artistic style.

An active contributor to the Iranian art scene, Maryam is a valued member of prominent organizations such as Iran's Miniaturist Association, Tehran Visual Arts Association, and Zanjan Visual Arts Association. Her artistic journey has seen her participate in over 20 Iranian painting exhibitions held in esteemed art museums, galleries, and cultural centers. Among her notable achievements is the holding of individual exhibitions in Paris in 2009, showcasing her talent on an international platform. In addition to her remarkable achievements, Lamei holds an honorary doctorate in miniature painting. Currently, Maryam lives and works in Istanbul, adding a global dimension to her artistic endeavors.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment over four decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting a creative dialogue and exchange between Western artists and Middle Eastern, Central and Southeast Asian artists. It has garnered a reputation for identifying and cultivating the careers of artists leaving a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture. Currently representing a diverse roster of Western, Central Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European, and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. In November 2015, Leila Heller Gallery opened its first international location in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. At 16,000 square feet, the state of the art gallery features three exhibition spaces, making it the largest gallery in the UAE. Showcasing leading regional and international artists, many of whom will be presenting their work in the Middle East. In addition to presenting a dynamic exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery actively organizes shows with world renowned curators, hosts educational panels and film screenings, and produces catalogs and books with scholarly essays. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as a platform for exploring new conversations within a wider context of galleries, artists and institutions. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in leading institutional collections worldwide.