

Naeemeh Kazemi  
**Bubble Land**





LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



*Naeemeh Kazemi*  
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## *Naeemeh Kazemi: Aquatics of Refuge and Revelation*

In the realm of contemporary art, few endeavors are as audacious as the creation of new worlds. Iranian artist Naeemeh Kazemi, a former sculptor turned painter, accomplishes this with a visionary precision that blurs the lines between discovery and invention. Her upcoming exhibition at Leila Heller Gallery in Dubai unveils *Bubble Land*, a series that plunges viewers into the labyrinthine depths of the ocean and the human condition marking a striking evolution from her earlier *La La Land* series, which featured the endless uncertainty of mortal concern. Through her work, Kazemi invites us not merely to observe, but to wander, to lose ourselves in the intricate tapestries of realms that oscillate between void and spectacle.

Her work centers its escape from reality in its visual deception: her mastery of oil and the depth of her erosion make for an ease for the very to melt and become again in her worlds. It's a departure from formal hyperrealism: she scoffs at and confronts reality with a jarring, unwinding travel into a reality she's forced your hand into, for you can't deny its substance and presence.

Kazemi's *La La Land* emerged as a sanctuary forged in solitude. Amid the claustrophobia of pandemic lockdowns, geopolitical turmoil, and the dissolution of her sculptural practice a 15-year endeavor abruptly halted she turned to painting as both refuge and reckoning. The endless, horrifying expanse of the ocean is the new reality she entraps us in, beyond the stupefying nature of her hyperrealism. She both relieves the viewer of their worldly problems while sinking them into another universe under the ocean. She meets the viewer with a choice: you can escape, for a moment, into my world but you must contend with my void.

If *La La Land* was a retreat inward, *Bubble Land* is a confrontation with the cacophony beyond. Post-quarantine reality, for Kazemi, mirrors a disorienting carnival a realm of clamor, absurdity, and performative masks. Translating this vision into the ocean's abyss, she renders the deep sea not as tranquil void but as a teeming theater of entanglement. Bioluminescent creatures morph into carnivalesque figures; tentacles intertwine with confetti-like bubbles; faces flicker between grins and grimaces. The ocean, infinitely mysterious, becomes a metaphor for contemporary existence: a place where laughter masks fragility, and chaos conceals fragile pockets of order.

Kazemi's clown-like figures, adrift in this aqueous circus, evoke both the grotesque and the sublime. Their exaggerated smiles reminiscent of Ensor's masks or Picasso's harlequins hint at the dissonance between societal performance and internal tumult. Yet within the chaos, there is respite: the bubbles, translucent and buoyant, suggest moments of fleeting relief, temporary shelters in a world unmoored.



A question often posed to Kazemi - why the obsessive detail, the relentless filling of every centimeter reveals the core of her practice. She describes her canvases as “snapshots” of discovered realms, captured with the fidelity of a documentarian. Each swirl, creature, and shadow is not embellishment but evidence, a fossil of the worlds she unearths. A speckled fish’s eye might reflect a half-hidden face; a cluster of seaweed could unravel into calligraphic script. The density is deliberate, an invitation to look closer, to decode the artist’s cartography of hidden narratives.

Kazemi’s journey from La La Land to Bubble Land mirrors a universal trajectory: the shift from inward sheltering to outward grappling. Yet her worlds remain linked by a refusal to simplify. In an era of soundbites and scrolling, her paintings demand slowness, rewarding those who linger with revelations both intimate and expansive. As we navigate the layered currents of Bubble Land, we are reminded that art, at its most potent, does not provide answers it immerses us in better questions.

It is on view at Leila Heller Gallery in Dubai from April to September.





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
220 x 160 cm









Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 240 cm



Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 210 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 260 cm



Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 200 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 225 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
90 x 110 cm



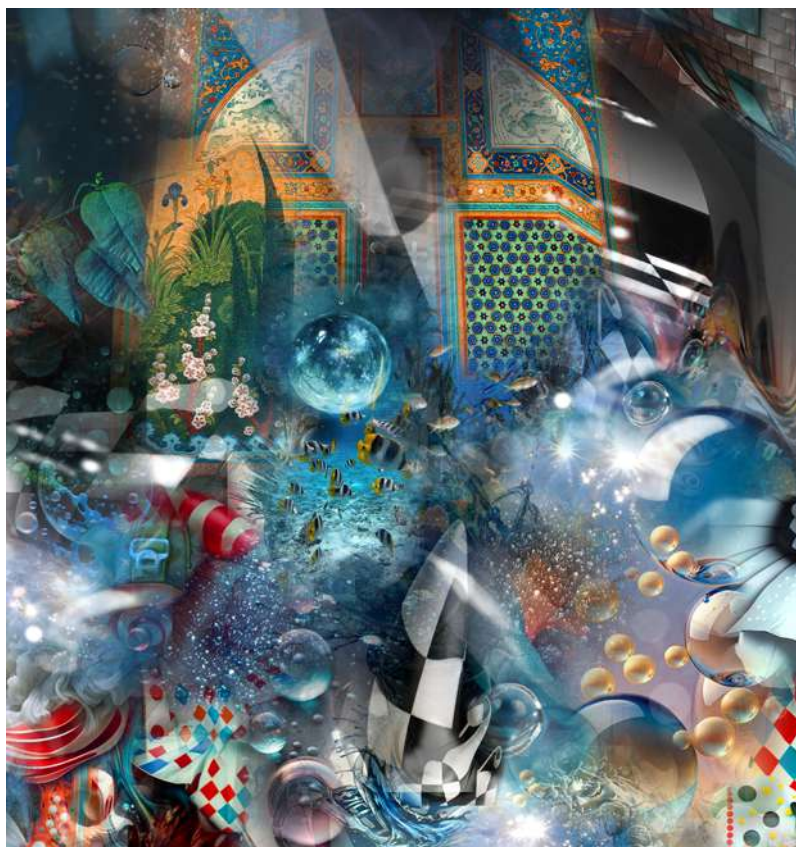




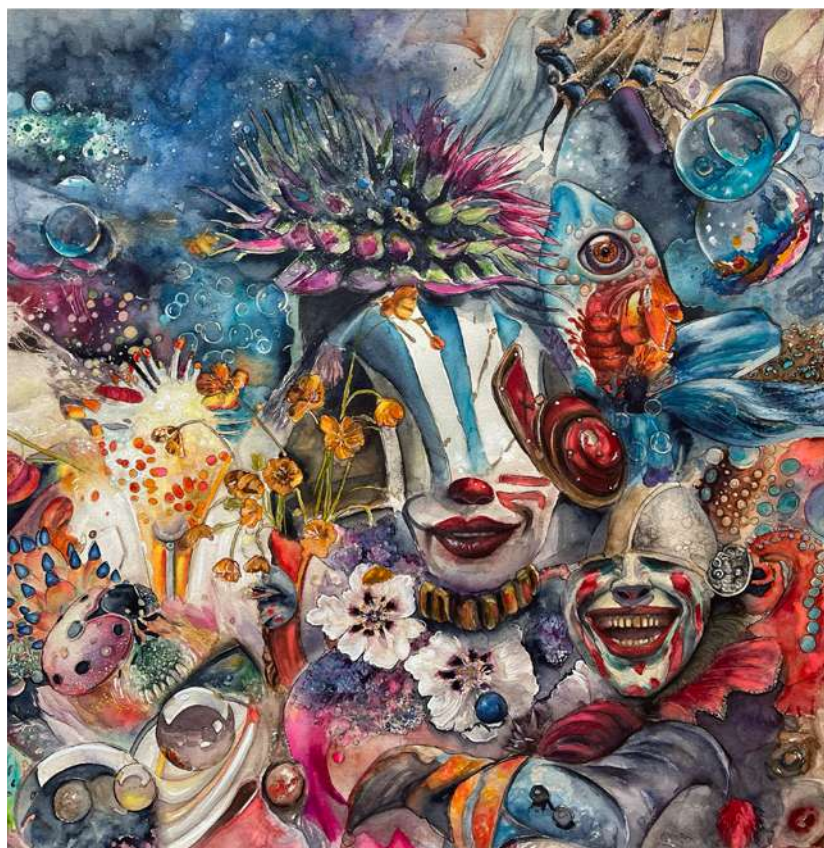


Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
90 x 85 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
90 x 85 cm



Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 45 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 45 cm



Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 45 cm





Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 45 cm



Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 40 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
18 x 34 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
55 x 65 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
55 x 53 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
30 x 58 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
40 x 50 cm



Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
40 x 40 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
65 x 55 cm









Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
54 x 55 cm



Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
28 x 32 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
55 x 50 cm



Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
45 x 50 cm





Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
37 x 40 cm



Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
35 x 37 cm



*Published on the occasion of the exhibition:  
Bubble Land  
April 2025*

*Catalogue design by Aarya Pramod*

*Front cover image:  
Untitled  
Bubble Land series  
2025  
Oil on Canvas  
90 x 85 cm*

*Back cover image:  
Untitled  
LaLa Land series  
2025  
Watercolour on Cardboard  
37 x 40 cm*

*Conceptual Statement by  
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