

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Abu Dhabi Art 2025

“As if the World Were Listening: Modern and Contemporary Dialogues”

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to present two sections for Abu Dhabi Art 2025. The contemporary presentation brings together artists whose practices span painting and sculpture and explores themes of materiality, memory, and cultural transformation. From Mehdi Farhadian’s evocative landscapes to Melis Buyruk’s intricate ceramic worlds and Katya Traboulsi’s sculptural narratives of resilience, the booth reflects a dynamic dialogue between tradition and experimentation. Azza Al Qubaisi engages with local identity and environmental concerns, while Behrang Samadzadegan and Morteza Khosravi confront political histories through layered visual languages. Katya Emelyanova contributes nuanced reflections on spirituality and structure, rounding out a presentation that foregrounds the multiplicity and depth of contemporary art from the region and beyond.

The modern presentation will include masterworks by Bahman Mohasses, one of the most prominent Iranian artists of the 20th century, who was inspired by dysmorphic creatures, Greek mythology, and high tension narratives. Charles Hossein Zenderoudi’s graphic style, inspired by the movement of Arabic calligraphy, will also be shown. Wassef Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian architect and artist whose geometric abstractions merge structural precision with lyrical color will be present, among other pillars of modern art including Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Farideh Lashai, and Marcos Grigorian.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment in New York City in 1982, Leila Heller Gallery has gained international recognition in fostering creative dialogue between Western and Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and Southeast Asian artists, and specializing in modern and contemporary masters. In 2015, the gallery expanded to Dubai, opening a 17,500 square foot space, the largest gallery in the Middle East. The gallery presents dynamic exhibition schedules in collaboration with world-renowned curators, often hosting panels and film screenings, as well as producing catalogues and books for each exhibition. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in institutional collections such as The Metropolitan Museum, The Tate Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Brooklyn Museum, LACMA, MOCA LA, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the British Museum, Centre Pompidou, S.M.A.K. in Ghent, and the Sharjah Art Museum, among many others.