

**LEILA HELLER GALLERY.**

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# Kevork Mourad

Born in Qamishli, Syria, in 1970, Kevork Mourad lives and works in New York City. He received his Master of Fine Arts from the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts in Armenia. He is the only visual artist in Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.

Known for his multi layered artworks, Mourad's exhibition Immortal City was on view at the Rose Art Museum (2018), the exhibition Time Immemorial was shown at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris (2019), Seeing Through Babel at the Aga Khan Centre in London (2019), and Memory Gates at the Cantor Art Gallery at Holy Cross College (2020). Employing his technique of live drawing and animation in concert with musicians, Mourad has also developed a performance practice and has performed in many venues around the world.



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# Memory Gates

“Memory Gates” explores arches and doors as metaphors for memory, migration, and cultural continuity. Suspended in the exhibition space, the installation draws on Mourad’s memories of Aleppo, Syria, and references ancient sites like Babylon and Iraq’s Ishtar Gate, where animals once adorned monumental walls.

The fabric also recalls the Syrian Civil War, when cloth was hung over streets to shield civilians from snipers, transforming a tool of protection into a powerful symbol of resilience and memory. At the heart of the installation is a symbolic door, imagined as a precious heirloom passed down through generations which acts as a threshold between past and future. Mourad invites viewers to reflect on the importance of openness, cultural exchange, and preserving memory through art.

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*Memory Gates*, 2021  
Acrylic on cotton, hand-cut  
290 × 700 × 400 cm | 114 × 275 × 157 in.

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