

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

September 21st

Unyielding Essences: "A Feminine Odyssey Through Matter and Soul"

By

Leila Pazooki



Untitled, Acrylic on canvas & crystals, 34 x 22 cm , 2023

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce Berlin-based renowned Iranian visual artist Leila Pazooki's solo show, *Unyielding Essences: "A Feminine Odyssey Through Matter and Soul"*, opening on 21st September 2023.

In this exhibition the artist invites you to embark on a journey exploring the profound relationship between humans, especially women, and the enigmatic world of objects, stones, and minerals. "Unyielding Essences" delves into the idea of euphoric maternal relationship or, where the Female's love manifests through unconventional acts of affection for the material world. Where through unconditional love and pain, sudden change in the meaning of each object occurs in her world.

Our modern society, in an alarming postcolonial act, tends to misuse the essence of motherhood; by misusing, normalizing and banalising the unconditional love, hormonal instincts, and biological urges that drive mothers. Amid an increasingly cold and mechanistic society, mothers find themselves misunderstood and irrelevant to society, yet serving as anonymous but crucial social workers in every culture.

"Unyielding Essences" also draws parallels to women's historical roles as healers, magicians, alchemists, doctors, and clowns within society. For far too long, women's powers and passions have been misinterpreted and limited, preventing them from fully expressing their true potential.

Leila Pazooki's work aims to shed light on the intricate, the non-materialistic and perhaps celestial connections between women and the material world, urging viewers to reflect on the profound power and resilience that women possess. "Unyielding Essences" beckons us to question our societal norms, challenge the misconceptions surrounding humanity and its relationship with the world nurturing and surrounding us; and embrace the multifaceted essence of women as nurturers, healers, and agents of positive change in our world.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leila Pazooki was born in 1977 in Iran. She studied painting at the National Art Academy in Tehran following the Islamic Revolution, and continued her education at The Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. After a stint in Mexico, Pazooki currently resides in Berlin, where she also pursued a Master's Degree at the Berlin University of Arts.

In the past decade, Leila's works have gained international recognition participating in major museums and art fairs around the world. These include: Museum of Western Art Tokyo, Moscow Biennale, ZKM Museum, a solo exhibition at Young Artist of Art Hong Kong 2011, a solo exhibition at New Positions at Art Cologne and the Thessaloniki Contemporary Art Museum, and a group show at Mana Contemporary, the Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) in collaboration with Leila Heller Gallery.

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 catalogues 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.

For any press enquiries please reach out to ankita@leilahellergallery.com.