

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

*'Metempsychosis
The Soul's Journey Through Material'*

By

Zeinab Alhashemi



Nexus A,C,B , 2024, Bronze Green Patina , 80 x 20 cm, 80 x 20 cm, 90 x 20 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Zeinab Alhashemi, titled *'Metempsychosis: The Soul's Journey Through Material'*, opening 14th November 2024.

"Metempsychosis" is a reflection on transformation, where the raw materials of industry and history meet personal healing. This body of work represents Zeinab Alhashemi's ongoing exploration of the elements that shape her artistic practice, while also responding to the trauma of a life-altering car accident. Metal, now a permanent part of her body in the form of screws and hardware, is exposed in her sculptures as a metaphor for the structures that define contemporary existence. These elements highlight the impact of human intervention in reshaping the environment.

At the heart of the exhibition are sculptures made from PVC Roman pillar molds, enveloped in camel hides, a material that symbolizes the tension between heritage and industrialism, death and rebirth. The visible screw bolts serve as both functional elements and symbols of mechanization, echoing the hardware in her own body. These bolts, a recurring motif in Alhashemi's work, ground her in the industrial era while transforming personal trauma into art.

Bronze sculptures in the exhibition further challenge the traditional role of monumental sculpture by elevating industrial objects, particularly nut and bolt, into iconic symbols of modern strength and resilience. This casting reflects the times we live in, where industrial materials have become monuments of human ingenuity.

"Metempsychosis" is a meditation on the transformation of material, memory, and self. It captures the tension between the natural and industrial, while also delving into the intimate process of healing. Alhashemi's work stands as a testament to resilience, reminding viewers that even the harshest forms can hold beauty and meaning in their transformation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Zeinab Alhashemi is a conceptual artist based in Dubai, UAE. Her multidisciplinary practice explores themes of cultural identity, heritage, and environmental sustainability. Through her site-specific installations and sculptures, Alhashemi seeks to create immersive experiences that provoke thought and dialogue about the evolving landscape of the Arabian Peninsula. With a focus on materials and structures, her work serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of cultural traditions in the UAE.

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.