

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Four Birds and One Soul'

By

Melis Buyruk



The Peacock (Symbol of Pride and Vanity), 2024 , Porcelain, 81 x 66 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Melis Buyruk, titled *'Four Birds and One Soul'* opening on 30th January, 2025.

'Four Birds and One Soul', delves into the complex interplay between the natural world and the human spirit, drawing on both Melis Buyruk's mastery of porcelain and the timeless teachings of Rumi's Masnavi.

The collection is inspired by the story of the four birds from the fifth book of the Masnavi. Each bird represents a different aspect of the human condition, Rooster- lust, Goose- greed, Crow- materialism, and Peacock- pride. These are the metaphorical birds that humans nurture within their soul symbolizing the inner struggles and ego that hinder personal liberation. Through Melis's unique porcelain sculptures, Buyruk transforms these symbolic concepts into tangible forms. Her works juxtapose the fragility and strength of porcelain to echo the tension between human limitations and the potential for transcendence.

Melis is known for her intricate and otherworldly creations, she has long explored the themes of harmony and individuality in nature. This new body of work, however, takes a more introspective turn, reflecting on the barriers that humans create within themselves.

Four Birds and One Soul is a profound exploration of the relationship between the natural world and the human spirit, serving as both a testament to Melis's exceptional artistic skill and an invitation to embark on a journey of introspection. Through her delicate yet powerful forms, *Four Birds and One Soul* inspires audiences to confront their inner limitations and consider the possibilities of self-liberation and transformation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Melis Buyruk (b. 1984, Gölcük, Türkiye) is a ceramic artist based in Istanbul and Dubai, whose work explores the possibilities of porcelain as a medium within contemporary art. Through her large-scale, nature-inspired sculptures, she brings together elements of the natural world to create imagined landscapes that highlight the beauty and intricacy of organic forms.

Melis studied ceramics at Selçuk University, where she gained a comprehensive understanding of traditional ceramic production techniques. Building on this foundation, she has developed a practice that combines technical expertise with a contemporary artistic vision, transforming porcelain into a medium for exploring form, texture, and scale.

Her works have been exhibited internationally, including at the Taiwan Ceramic Biennale, as well as in prominent venues across Turkey, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, her sculptures are part of several significant collections, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum, demonstrating their resonance within both regional and global contexts.

Melis Buyruk's practice reflects a deep engagement with the materiality of porcelain, offering new perspectives on the relationship between craft, art, and the natural world. Her work serves as a thoughtful dialogue between tradition and innovation, contributing to the evolving discourse in contemporary ceramics.

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.