

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Bubble Land'

By

Naeemeh Kazemi



Untitled, 2025 , Oil On Canvas, 90 x 85 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Naeemeh Kazemi, titled *'Bubble Land'* opening on 15th April, 2025.

'Bubble Land' unveils the ocean into a theatrical, disorienting space filled with bioluminescent creatures, clown-like figures, and confetti-like bubbles. Through her hyper-detailed oil paintings, Kazemi transforms the deep sea into a metaphor for modern existence where joy and anxiety coexist, and spectacle conceals fragility.

Naeemeh Kazemi presents a profound shift from the introspection of *La La Land* to an outward confrontation with the absurdities of contemporary life in *Bubble Land*. Her clown-like figures, reminiscent of Ensor's masks or Picasso's harlequins, oscillate between the grotesque and the sublime, mirroring the societal dissonance between outward performance and inner turmoil. And yet, within the chaos, there is a quiet offering: a space to pause, reflect, and immerse in a universe that resists simplification.

The artist's distinctive approach to visual storytelling lies in her ability to blend hyperrealism with dreamlike distortion. Her mastery of oil paint and textural erosion gives each work a tactile depth, drawing the viewer into a world that feels both fantastical and unsettlingly real. In *Bubble Land*, every detail no matter how small is intentional, serving as a fragment of a larger, immersive universe where beauty and unease intertwine.

Bubble Land invites viewers into a richly layered world, where canvases are densely packed with symbols, creatures, and textures that blur the line between reality and illusion. Kazemi challenges us to slow down, look closer, and engage deeply with her intricate narratives. In this immersive underwater realm, escape is possible but only by surrendering fully to its depths.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Naeemeh Kazemi (b. 1981, Tehran, Iran) is a multidisciplinary artist known for her transition from sculpture to painting, with work that explores the intersection of fantasy, memory, and psychological depth. Holding an M.A. in Painting from Alzahra University, her practice gained renewed momentum during the 2020 pandemic with the creation of her *LaLaLand* series – lush, symbolic canvases addressing themes of environmental anxiety, feminism, and the human condition. Kazemi has participated in Iran's Cultural Exchange Project as a children's art expert, and is a member of the Association of Iranian Painters, Iran Visual Art Institute, and the Institute for the Protection of Artists, Journalists, and Writers.

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.