

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Elevated State'
By

Katya Emelyanova



Jackson, 2025, 210 x 40 x 40 cm, Ceramic glazed , Metal base.

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Katya Emelyanova, titled **'Elevated State'** opening on 3rd October, 2025.

With *'Elevated State'*, Katya Emelyanova invites viewers to experience sculpture as an open channel bypassing words and logic, awakening a sudden understanding of the hidden nature of reality and offering a sense of inner freedom.

Drawing on the visual language of totem poles, the sculptures from the Oliver People series evoke primal layers of human nature. Each piece is built from modular segments rounded, spherical, or cylindrical stacked vertically to form fragile yet commanding towers of color and shape. This multiplicity echoes the complexity of personality itself; the artist describes each module as a living embodiment of different states of being.

The artist sees her practice as an exploration of Joy not a superficial lightness but a deep, luminous force that fills space with vibrant color and energy. Every series, every form she creates is an attempt to touch this feeling and share it with others.

"I believe in art that speaks directly to a person's intuition," she notes. "My works are capsules of luminous states, the energy of life that needs no explanation."

Emelyanova's minimal yet precise lines recall the creativity of childhood, where entire universes emerge from small objects. Her training at Saint Martins sharpened this approach, teaching her to trust simple constructions when form is not function but voice, and when color becomes energy rather than decoration.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Katya Emelyanova (b. 1984) is a Moscow-based artist working primarily in ceramic sculpture. Her practice channels a deep, authentic joy through simple yet resonant forms. Drawing on modular structures reminiscent of totem poles, her Oliver People series explores layered states of human being.

Emelyanova studied Art History at the Russian State University for the Humanities (BFA), and completed a long-term internship at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. She has exhibited widely, including the Fourth Moscow Art Biennale (2012), Saatchi Gallery in London (2023), and solo shows at MMOMA and MAMM in Moscow.

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.