LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Art Unmuted Exhibition'
Curated by Jasmine Melamad

Najme Kazazi: Heart-Devouring Love; Acrylic & Oil on Canvas; 90 x130 cm

Dubai, UAE — Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to present Art Unmuted, a thoughtfully curated group exhibition initiated and led by young curator Jasmine Melamed. As part of the gallery's ongoing commitment to supporting new perspectives within the cultural landscape, Leila Heller Gallery is offering its space as a platform for an emerging curatorial voice to engage with contemporary artistic practice.

Art Unmuted is an exhibition project rooted in care, connection, and the belief that art is not only meant to be seen, but also to be listened to. Bringing together diverse practices and perspectives, the exhibition invites audiences to experience visual art as a form of dialogue—one that conveys lived experience, emotion, and nuanced ways of seeing the world.

While the artists featured are established and active practitioners, the curatorial vision behind Art Unmuted reflects a distinctly young perspective—one driven by curiosity, sensitivity, and a strong belief in inclusivity and representation. Melamed's approach emphasizes presence and visibility, offering artists the space to speak in their own voices, on their own terms.

The exhibition features works by Shiva Babaei, Mina Hamdani, Najme Kazazi, Hilda Kheirabadi, and Bardia Moradi, whose practices span painting, mixed media, and interdisciplinary approaches. Collectively, their works explore themes of memory, nature, fragmentation, resilience, and transformation. Through dynamic compositions, unexpected materials, and bold visual language, the exhibition examines the shifting relationship between image, narrative, and contemporary aesthetics.

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Curatorial text by Mahta Azimi frames Art Unmuted as an exploration of the sounds and sensations embedded within visual imagery — echoes of movement, rupture, and renewal. The exhibition encourages viewers to move beyond static observation and instead engage with the processes, tensions, and emotional landscapes that shape each work.

By hosting Art Unmuted, Leila Heller Gallery reinforces its commitment to mentorship, education, and the cultivation of future voices in the arts—not only through artists, but through curatorial practice. The exhibition highlights the importance of providing space, trust, and institutional support to the next generation, shaping how art is experienced and interpreted.

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.