

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

‘Enrapture’

by Darvish



LUV_S TRUCK; 2025; Oil on linen; 100 cm x 100 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition, a curated selection of artworks by Darvish titled Enrapture opening on 27th January 2026.

Enrapture is an unfolding of the soul—a masterly crafted mélange of paint and performance that invites the viewer into a state of weightless reverie. It serves as a visual dialogue, suspended between Occidental heritage and Oriental sensibilities. The exhibition is rooted in the belief that love is a direct conduit to the Divine—a state that dissolves societal constructs and expectations, dismantling the walls they build between our true nature and the infinite.

The work represents a quiet refusal to be shaped or subdued by worldly constructs. Turning away from the discordant noise of the mundane, the artist aligns instead with a primordial pulse—a deep, indwelling frequency that guides the spirit into a state of heightened clarity. Through this refined awareness, cultural boundaries blur, and the language of longing becomes a universal bridge, leading us back to a single, shared source.

W. P. Teasley

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Darvish is a half-Iranian, half-American artist whose work ranges from painting to movement art. In his practice, he amalgamates disparate cultures by overlaying various concepts and aesthetics through interference, which can take the form of movement, paint, or text. Throughout all his work, he fuses Western techniques with Eastern philosophies, such as incorporating Persian poetry into oil paintings or converting a skateboard into a flying carpet.

He calls his movement art “gentle civic disruptions,” inspired by the practice and image of the whirling dervish. In these works, much like the interference found in his paintings, he cross-pollinates aspects of his Iranian heritage with his Western upbringing. He challenges preconceptions by mocking stereotypes through humor and invention and uses lightness and concepts of flying as metaphors for accessing ideas of freedom.

He has exhibited and performed internationally, included at The Armory Show in New York, and is in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London. He currently lives and works in Brighton, UK.

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.