

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

‘Ancestral Algorithms’

by Bahar Sabzevari



Avian Network; 2020 - 25; Oil on canvas; 183 cm x 122 cm

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

Ancestral Algorithms explores the evolution of communication across time—from myth, nature, and ancestral memory to artificial intelligence and constructed systems. Drawing parallels between ancient storytelling and contemporary technologies, the series reflects on how both myths and machines are human-made frameworks designed to transmit knowledge, shape belief systems, and ensure survival. By bringing together organic forms, mechanical structures, and symbolic networks, the work situates the viewer in a space between nature and technology, where memory, awareness, and connection continue to reorganize themselves in new forms.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bahar Sabzevari is an Iranian-born visual artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Drawing from Iranian mythology, storytelling traditions, and her diasporic experience, her multidisciplinary practice spans painting, drawing, and object-making. Her work explores cultural memory, power structures, and the role of myth and narrative in shaping collective belief systems—particularly in relation to nature, technology, and contemporary disconnection. Sabzevari’s work has been exhibited internationally across Europe and the United States and has been featured in publications including The Brooklyn Rail,

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Aspire Magazine, and Maize Magazine. She has received recognition and support from institutions such as the Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation, TED's Immigrant Diaspora Series, the China Academy of Fine Arts, and Civitella Ranieri in Italy.

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.