

MAJD KURDIEH

Surrender To Love



About The Exhibition

“Surrender and all the rest of the miracles will be possible before you are defeated by the monster.” Majd Kurdieh

The Workshop and Fann A Porter are pleased to announce their third solo exhibition with acclaimed Syrian artist Majd Kurdieh. Spanning a period of the past two years, this large body of work titled Surrender To Love is characterised by a sense of heightened expressionism, where his characters and his colour palette are liberated from restrictions.

This progression in style and form can be best summarised by his removal of outlines from his wild and creative characters. The elephant, the donkey and the smiling sun are no longer depicted by surrounding black lines, in a move that symbolically removes them from their former ‘cages’.

His use of poetry is also heightened in this newest collection. Kurdieh’s paintings both on canvas and paper are historically given their wonderful, poetic depth and narrative by the accompanying text that the artist writes. In this exhibition, Kurdieh’s poems have evolved to more concise statements such as: “You are the insight”; “ You are the memory”; or “You pour light into my heart”. His primary characters Fagoon and Fasooneh, alongside their animal tribe are also elevated into a journey of spiritual consciousness. It is almost as if, with their liberation, they are also reaching profound levels of awakening and so, becoming infused with love. The artist himself explains this through his use of white space: “In many of my works on canvas I left the white background empty to tell my viewer that it is not important where you are or in what time zone you are in, what is important for me actually is you, in the Sufi sense where we find clarity in nothingness,” Kurdieh said.

In a particularly striking Untitled work, the large pachyderm is painted in a deep-sea green and his trunk swirls towards his turbulent heart from which a white flag emerges. Fasooneh, the little girl character, is firing a flower-tipped arrow into the beast’s heart. The viewer is left questioning if the act is brutal or peaceful but when we read the accompanying poem, we realise that it is love that prevails: “Surrender to Love,” the elephant says.

“My inspiration for this series began in 2015, when one of my characters told me to ‘run away from the lines’ and then I began to think about that in a literal way,” said Majd Kurdieh. “Many of these pieces actually have a spiritual dimension because surrender is also about submitting to a higher power and embracing the strongest human emotion: love. Surrender and all the rest of the miracles will be possible before you are defeated by the monster.”

Ghada Kunash, founder of Fann A Porter said: “This exhibition shows progression in Majd’s work that we are proud to witness. It has been our pleasure to support Majd and watch as he pushes himself beyond his own boundaries and at the gallery, we very much enjoy having all his characters to come and tell their stories upon our walls.”



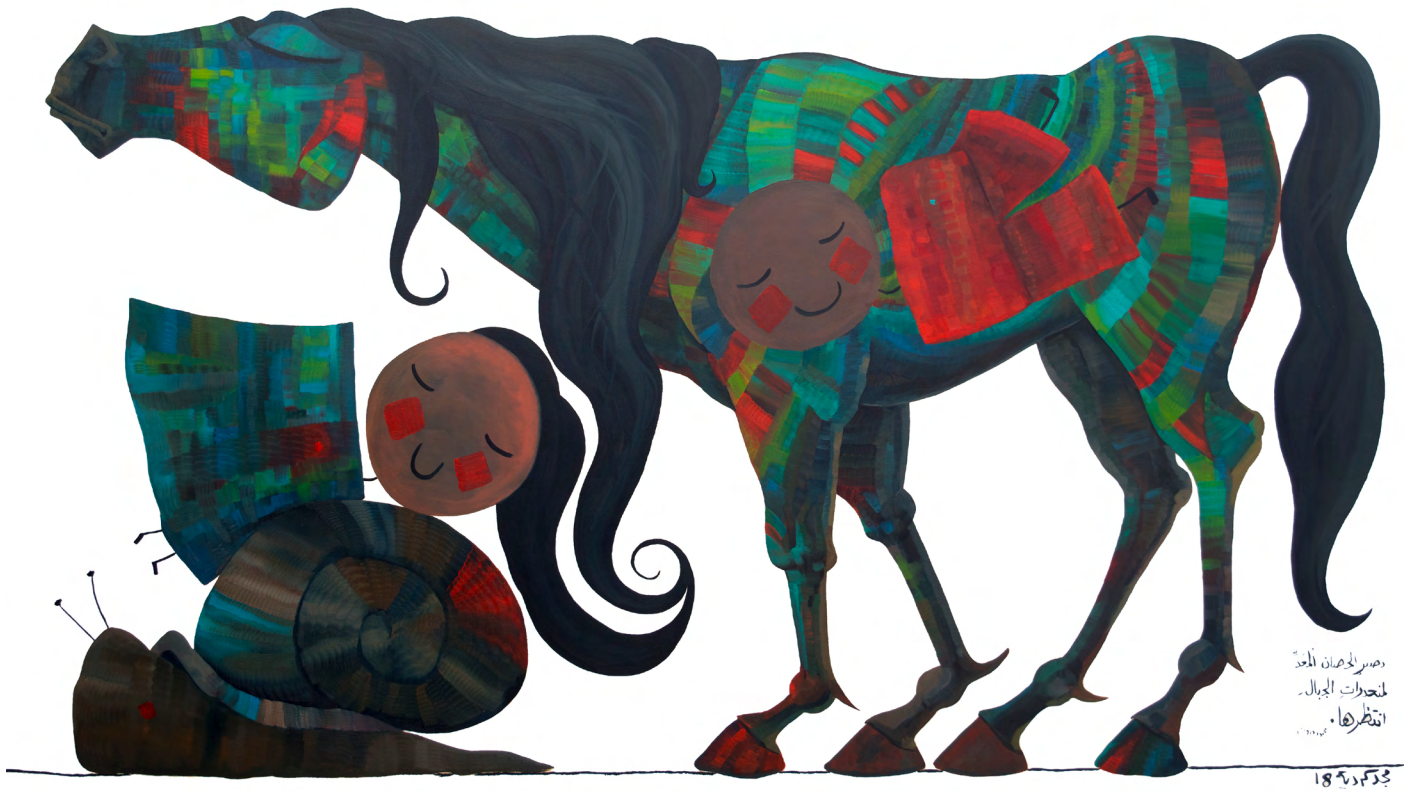
Majd Kurdieh, I've drowned, but my heart lives, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 200 x 130 cm
AED 18,900 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Away flew the house!, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 100 x 125 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)

[With the patience of a horse saddled to descend the cliffs , wait for her]



Majd Kurdieh, Wait for her (Mahmoud Darwish), 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 200 x 125 cm

AED 18,900 (inclusive of VAT)



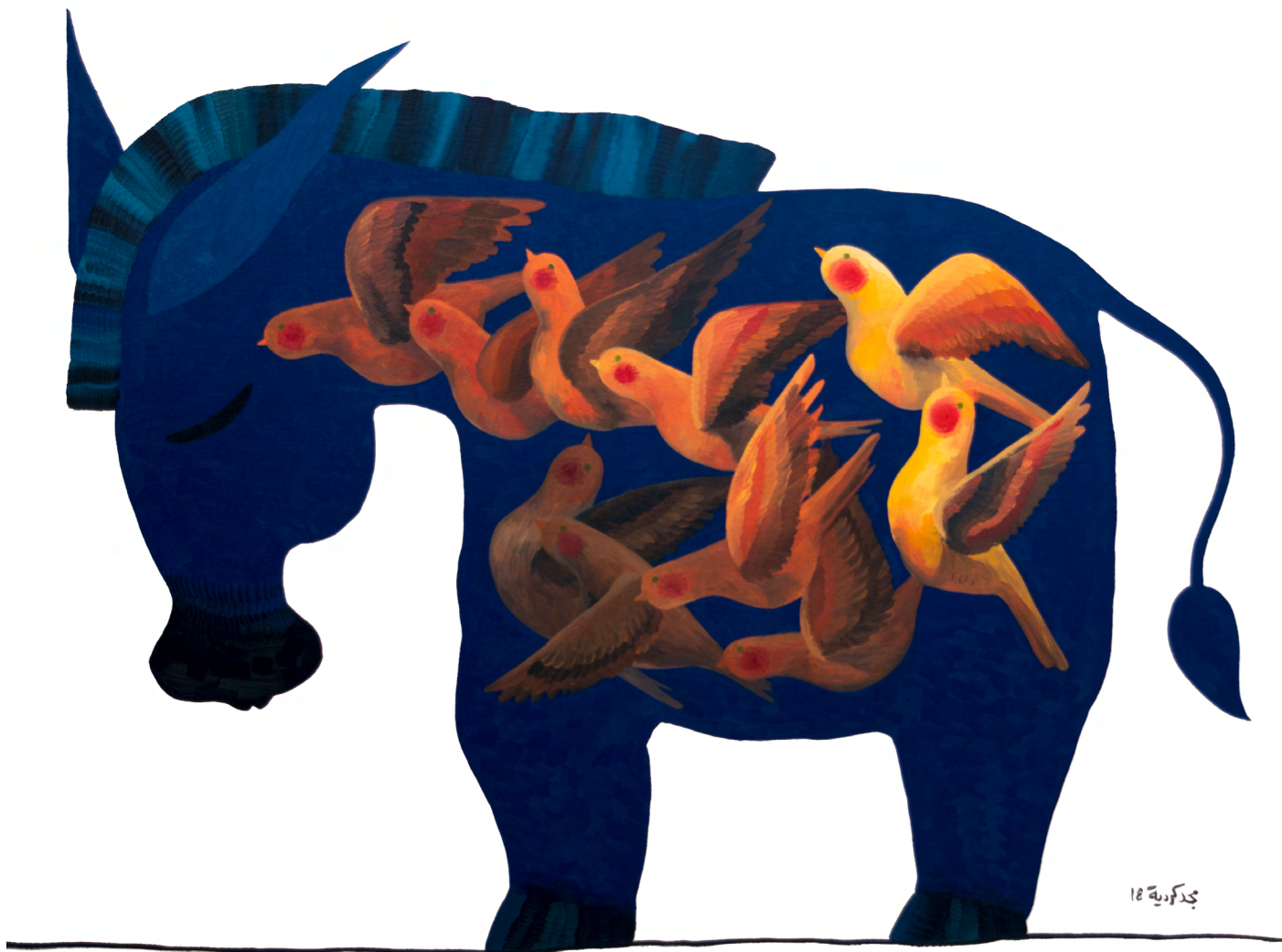
Majd Kurdieh, An ethereal soul, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Overcome by Longing, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 100 x 125 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, I may have no wings, but flocks of birds flutter inside me, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 100 x 125 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



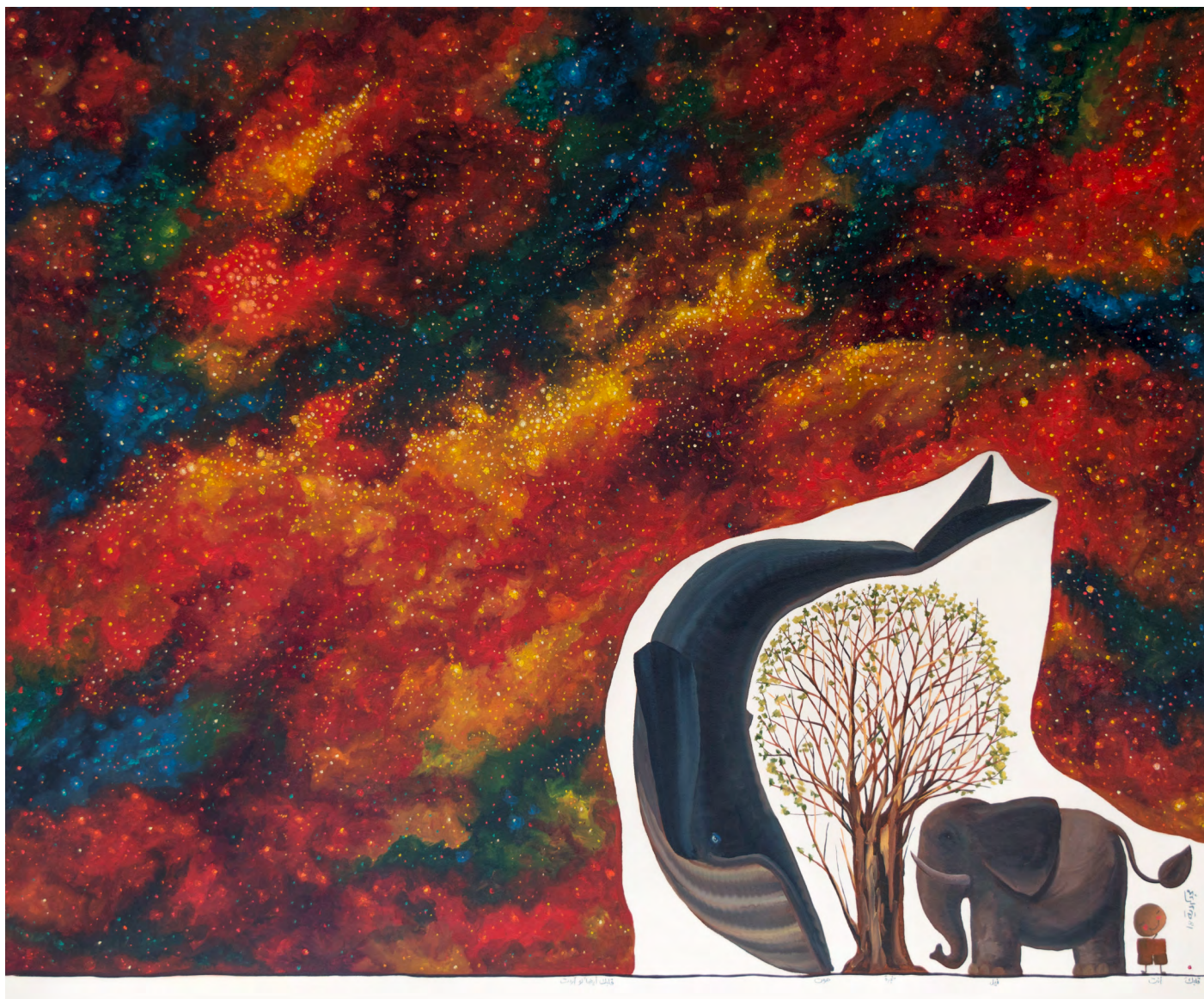
Majd Kurdieh, Night is endless for the love-smitten (Al Mutanabbi, Classical Arabic poet), 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 200 x 1.00 cm

AED 18,900 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, You're a bright star on a horse's forehead, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Your Heart - You- Elephant - Tree - Whale - This heart is yours too if you wish], 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 150 x 125 cm
AED 18,900 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Put the sun "Samsh" to dry!, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, All things red are beautiful, except for blood, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 100 x 125 cm

AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019, Surrender To Love series, oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm
AED 12,600 (inclusive of VAT) - SOLD



[You are beautiful even under
ultra-watermelon rays]

Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019,
Surrender To Love series, oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm

AED 3,412.5 (inclusive of VAT)



[I wish time could bring closer my beloved ones
just like it brings closer my misfortune]

Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019,
Surrender To Love series, oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm

AED 3,412.5 (inclusive of VAT) - SOLD



[You are the root of dawn.]

Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019,
Surrender To Love series, oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm

AED 3,412.5 (inclusive of VAT)



[We carry the memory along.]

Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019,
Surrender To Love series, oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm

AED 3,412.5 (inclusive of VAT)



Majd Kurdieh, Untitled, 2019,
Surrender To Love series, oil on paper, 50 x 70 cm
AED 3,412.5 (inclusive of VAT)



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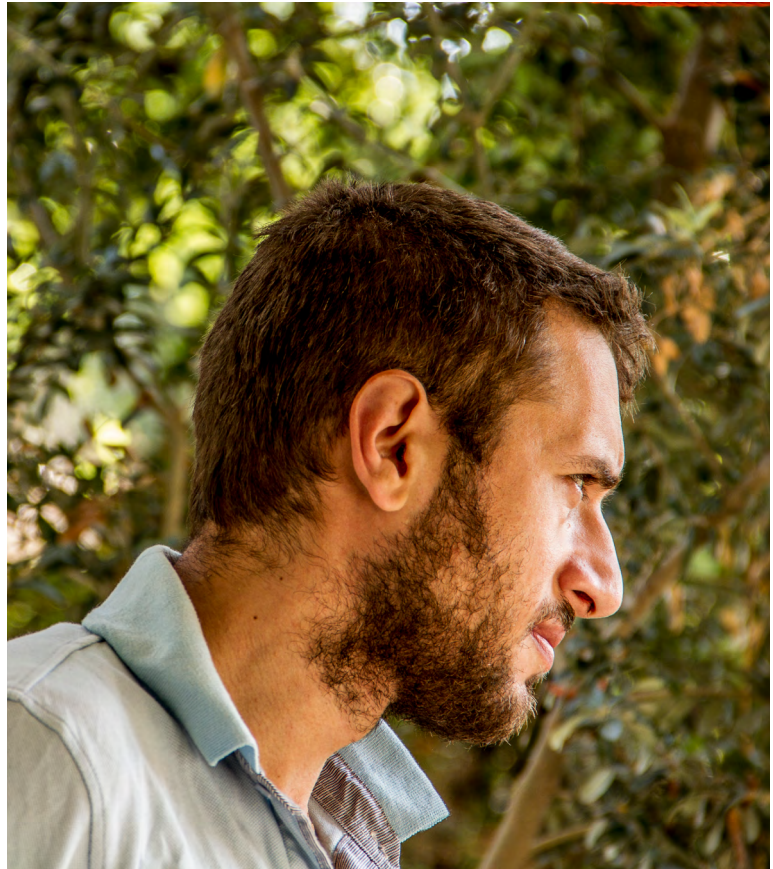
Majd Kurdieh (b. 1985, Syria)

The artist has a whimsical and fantastical style for which he has created an entire cast of characters to tell the compelling and sometimes tragic story of his life and homeland. The protagonists in this story are Fasaeen (Arabic for 'tiny ones') and they are always smiling despite their world being filled with hardships. They are usually accompanied by other characters and poetic phrases written in Arabic. At first glance, the works seem cartoonlike and simple, however, upon further investigation, it is clear that the artist is using this device to unpack the complex experience of living through civil unrest and also to convey strong messages of hope and action.

He continues to develop his characters that gain depth as he progresses in his own practice. At the centre of his practice is a sense of duty to make the world a better place, whether through art, discourse, or creating moments where the viewer forms a connection with his Fasaeen.

Recently, Kurdieh has featured in solo and group exhibitions at BBA Gallery, Berlin (2019), Manara Arts & Culture, Jordan (2019); Fann-A-Porter, Dubai (2019, 2018, 2016), El-Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo (2019), and Athar Al Farasheh, Aleppo (2011), Sikka Art Fair, Dubai (2018) and Art Bahrain, Manama (2019, 2018). His works are housed in public and private collections in the Middle East and abroad.

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1985, Kurdieh lives and works in Amsheet, Lebanon.



Fann A Porter

Founded in 2006, Fann A Porter is a contemporary art gallery at The Workshop Dubai that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists.

Fann A Porter is a contemporary art gallery that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists. The gallery aims to nurture the burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through quality exhibitions, non-profit events, auctions, and an active community programme. Fann A Porter has locations in Dubai, UAE and Amman, Jordan.

The Dubai gallery is based at The Workshop, a unique inter-disciplinary community space consisting of a cafe, art gallery, sustainable store and design space, providing visitors with a diversified artistic and cultural experience. Bathed in natural sunlight with its garden, The Workshop is located in the heart of Jumeirah in Dubai.

Fann A Porter Amman is located at Manara Arts & Culture, a creative hub and social space in the heart of Jabal Al Lweibdeh.

فن آ بورتيه

هو جاليري فني معاصر يمثل مجموعة متنوعة من الفنانين العالميين والإقليميين الناشئين. يهدف الجاليري إلى رعاية المشهد الفني المعاصر المزدهر والديناميكي من خلال إقامة المعارض ذات الجودة العالية، والفعاليات غير الربحية، والمزادات، والبرامج المجتمعية الفاعلة بفرعيه في دبي - الامارات العربية المتحدة و عمان الاردن.

يقع الجاليري في دبي ضمن "ذا ورك شوب"، وهي فضاء مجتمعي متعدد التخصصات فريد من نوعه، يتألف من مقهى ومعرض فني ومساحة مستدامة للتصميم، وحديقة ممتدة تحت أشعة الشمس الطبيعية في قلب منطقة جميرا في دبي. ليوفر للزوار تجربة فنية وثقافية متنوعة.

أما فن-آ-بورتيه عمان فيقع ضمن "منارة - فن وثقافة"، وهو مركز إبداعي وفضاء اجتماعي في قلب جبل اللوييدة.



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