

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



2021, oil on paper, 40 x 50 cm

**MAJD KURDIEH: *WATERMELON PEACE***

11 October – 10 November 2021

Opening reception: Monday, 11 October at 7pm

Manara Arts & Culture, Amman, Jordan

Fann A Porter Amman is pleased to present *Watermelon Peace*, the latest exhibition by celebrated painter Majd Kurdieh from 11 October – 10 November 2021 at Manara Arts & Culture in Amman, Jordan.



## About the Exhibition

In this latest collection represented under *Watermelon Peace*, Majd Kurdieh strongly acknowledges humanity's increasing turmoil and restlessness and counteracts with portrayals of unwavering love, belief and discovery of inner peace.

Unsurprisingly, the paintings burst with light and color, offering up an aesthetic as passionate as the topic itself. Since the introduction of The Scary Butterfly Gang and its characters in 2014, and through all his various exhibitions, Kurdieh is masterful in his ability to express our realities through the strokes of his brush and the power of his words.

It is perhaps the visual innocence of the works represented in his collection, coupled with the power of prose and poetry, that deem his work so poignant. As noted by Kurdieh, his art and its characters are of this world, not merely a fantasy. If you care to look deeply enough, he offers a portal to a place of hope and togetherness should you wish to experience it.

## About the Artist

Artist Majd Kurdieh's practice incorporates painting, drawing, and literature using recurring figures that stand to tell a story, usually carrying a strong moral and positive reinforcement that the artist projects into the world.

Kurdieh turned to more childlike paintings in which he incorporates strong literary and storytelling techniques. He paints recurring whimsical characters that seem to narrate a story. Over the past four years, the artist has created a 'cast of characters', the two main ones being the Fasaen (Arabic for 'tiny ones'). The stories told through the representation of these figures are not specific stories that the artist references but rather ones that could apply to any viewer, leaving room for personal interpretation. The Fasaen, one boy (Fasoon) and one girl (Fasoneh), always smiling despite the fact their world is filled with hardships, are usually accompanied by other characters, together known as The Scary Butterfly Gang.



Recently, Kurdieh has featured in solo and group exhibitions at MADS Gallery, Milan, Italy (2021); Azad Art Gallery, Cairo (2021; 2020); Egypt Art Fair (2021; 2020); BBA Gallery, Berlin (2019), Fann A Porter, Jordan (2021, 2020, 2019); Fann-A-Porter, Dubai (2021, 2020, 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, including HE Dr. Zaki Nusseibeh's private collection and Atassi Foundation.

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

### **About Fann A Porter**

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

The gallery's exhibition program includes ten curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media. Fann A Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, museums, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

In 2015, the gallery organized a charity auction Artists for the Kids of Syria under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture and in collaboration with the UAE Red Crescent. The charity auction helped raise over AED 500,000 to help the children in the refugee camps in Jordan. In 2019, the gallery launched Art



for All Collective (AFA) to provide a platform to make quality art accessible through bespoke payment plans, a first of its kind initiative for the Middle East.

By hosting a regular public programming including exhibitions, talks, non-profit initiatives, and by participating in fairs, Fann A Porter has established itself in forefront of the region's exciting arts landscape.

Founded in 2009 by collector Ghada Kunash, the gallery was initially known as Vindemia.art, opened adjacent to and under the umbrella of Vindemia, an antiques and collectibles gallery at Jumeirah Beach Residence, Dubai. In 2010, the gallery partnered with Kempinski Hotel Mall of The Emirates, for a dedicated space for the art. In 2014, under the same trade license of Vindemia Novelties LLC, the art gallery was rebranded to Fann A Porter.

In 2016, Ghada Kunash opened The Workshop Dubai, combining her two ventures – Vindemia and Fann A Porter, a unique community space consisting of a café and design space, providing visitors with a unique artistic and cultural experience. The Workshop Dubai, with its naturally bathed garden, is located in the heart of Jumeirah.

In 2020, with the vision to expand and provide a local platform, Ghada Kunash opened a second Fann A Porter outpost, in Amman, located at Manara Arts & Culture, a creative hub and social space in the heart of Jabal Al Lweibdeh.

For more information and for interviews with the artist, please contact the gallery on +97143412595 , or email [fann@theworkshopdubai.com](mailto:fann@theworkshopdubai.com)