

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fann A Porter to Host Solo Exhibition of Works by
Syrian Artist Rabee Kiwan



Rabee Kiwan, Untitled, Black series, 2022, mixed media on canvas, 140 x 130

BLACK | Rabee Kiwan

19 September – 16 October 2022

Opening Reception: Monday, 19 September at 7pm

Fann A Porter, The Workshop Dubai

Titled *Black* the works mark the artist's first showing in Dubai and reveal his explorations of the human figure in various states of emotion grappling with the changing state of the world

About the Exhibition

Fann A Porter has announced that it will host a solo exhibition for Syrian artist Rabee Kiwan at its Dubai gallery from September 19 until October 16. The exhibition, titled *Black* on display recent works by the artist revealing the human face and body in various states of heightened expression all painted with varying amounts of black paint. The figures, often forlorn and melancholic, sometime with facial features and sometimes without, seemingly contemplate with awe, surprise, sadness and even shock, the various rapid effects of change that are affecting the world around them. Besides his subjects' expressive positions as they ponder and at times writhe through their questioning of the state of things around them.

While some carry expressions of astonishment, other figures appear locked within their own inner world—somehow protecting them from the chaotic changes outside. Notable is the shape of the eyes for each subject. With their wide oval shape, they are reminiscent of the Arab world's ancient civilizations, such as found on Sumerian sculptures where the size of the eyes signified a person's socio-economic status. Here, in Kiwan's work, these eyes, while reflective of the region's ancient origins, are emblematic of the vast transformations taking place at a societal, environmental, and cultural level.

Each work is made from a mix of canvas, collage, and various media. The painting, explains Kiwan, is made of various surfaces using fabrics on top of the canvas or on different parts of the human figure that he paints beforehand. “I create my art by searching through various materials, including different paints, fabrics and canvas, to achieve a form that contains an aesthetic and intellectual content derived from my life experience, my relationship with objects, people and my visual memory.” In so doing, Kiwan creates palimpsests of different materials and subject matter by using techniques of collage and installation. While the different material Kiwan uses is important, the human figure or face is still the protagonist. He creates his men and women in black on a raw surface and then adds bits of color heightening their emotional and figurative sense of expression.

Black marks the artist’s first exhibition in Dubai. The exhibition will open on Monday, 19 September at 7 pm at Fann A Porter, gallery space located at The Workshop Dubai, located at Villa 45 - St. 23b - Al Wasl Rd opposite Box Park - Jumeirah 2, Dubai, U.A.E.

About the Artist

Born in 1984 in Damascus, Syria, Rabee Kiwan studied at the painting department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus where he graduated from in 2008. He has lived and worked in Beirut and Paris and now divides his time between Dubai and Swaida, a city in southwestern Syria. The main element of his abstract figurative work is the human figure in its various emotional states. Earlier in his career he was inspired by observing reality and trying to imitate what he saw through his works. In recent years, he has preferred abstraction that



lends itself better to portraying heightened states of emotional through facial expressions and the human body. He works primarily on canvas in acrylic and oil painting and in mixed media, incorporating various fabrics, paints and other items to create his work. Kiwan has shown his work at Lab 44 Gallery in Paris, France; Europia in Paris, France; Adiacenze Gallery in Bologna, Italy; Marc Hachem Gallery in Beirut, Lebanon; Kozah Gallery also in Damascus, Syria; World Bank exhibition in Washington DC, USA; the French Cultural Center in Damascus and the Arab Cultural Center in Abu Rumana, Syria.

About Fann A Porter

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.

For more information and for interviews, please contact at fann@theworkshopdubai.com.

