

***Ever in Reform* | في تحول مستمر**

Mayar Obeido | Solo Exhibition

19 April – 24 May 2025

Opening Reception:

Saturday 19 April; 5 - 9 PM

Fann À Porter is proud to present our second solo exhibition with Syrian artist **Mayar Obeido**, showcasing new mixed media works, charcoal and ink studies. This body of work plays with the idea of an infinite process of reformation and repetition, expanding on the artist's depictions of his characters, to arrive at reimagined versions of these motifs. *Ever in Reform* is the outcome of the artist's ongoing research into the effects of time on elements, and how elements influence each other's form.

At the forefront of the exhibition is the reconfigured table, presented as an independent element for the first time in his practice, with an accompanying series of black ink and colored paper studies. Through his intuitive process, Obeido found that the table progressively transformed like a frame-by-frame animated sequence, constantly shapeshifting. In some studies, the table legs take the form of his characters' hands; in others, the table asserts itself as a distinct entity.

At this stage, the information within the newspaper cuttings has been absorbed by the characters, enabling a shift toward new, colored spaces. Therefore, newspapers are less prominent in this series, though their presence is subtly suggested through colored collage paper, reflecting the artist's thoughtful approach to continuity in his practice. The resulting geometric background grid introduces an architectural dimension, allowing him to distinguish between the flat grid and the three-dimensional element. Multiple viewing points create an illusion of movement that is a visual manifestation of his concept of infinite reformation. This contrast has led to the emergence of a triangular shape, which takes on a striking presence that is both figurative and abstract.

Black charcoal remains the dominant medium throughout, its malleable nature allowing Obeido to erase and rebuild lines and shapes freely, fostering an organic and automatic mode of expression. As a concept and in practice, repetition plays a key role, as he lets his subconscious take over, often depicting characters that serve as self-portraits. Obeido poses the question: What is a shape capable of? His process aims to capture and record every state of an element in a never-ending exploration of reform.

While his previous work was embedded with themes of time, context, and the mutual influence of elements, this series introduces a focus towards place, location, and grounding. The artist navigates a state of shifting environments and fragmentation, where borders and limits are suddenly flexible, reflecting the inherent tension between stability and transformation.

Founder of Fann À Porter, **Ghada Kunash**, says:

"I look forward presenting Obeido's second show solo exhibition with us, it has been beautiful to see his practice evolve and introduce new elements. These artworks have an expressive, cathartic quality to them that speaks to the emotions many of us are experiencing currently."

Fann À Porter is approaching its tenth anniversary at Villa 45, Jumeirah 2. Over the years, Kunash has drawn from her background in architecture to shape a versatile gallery space with moveable walls. For this exhibition, she invited Obeido to take over the secondary space to showcase larger canvas works, covering the ground with sand, in a nod to the exhibition theme of a limitless process of reform. Kunash's open approach to gallery programming underscores Fann À Porter's commitment to supporting dynamic and innovative artistic expression.

For press inquiries, images, or other information, contact Zoya Zalatimo:

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About the Artist

Mayar Obeido is a Syrian artist and a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus. He works fluidly through painting, drawing, and sculpture, producing a cohesive yet ever-evolving body of work. In his recent pieces, his focus has expanded beyond anonymous humanoid figures and their relationships with their surroundings to explore the concept of infinite shape shifting and reformation.

Across his paintings, drawings and sculptures, Obeido continues to combine abstraction and figuration, employing a raw yet deliberate craftsmanship that lends his work its distinctive energy. His sculptures further animate the objects repeatedly depicted in his works, bringing a three-dimensional depth to his explorations. This multimedia investigation offers viewers a deeper insight into his subject matter, creating an immersive and thought-provoking experience.

Obeido has participated in solo and collective exhibitions at art spaces and galleries in his native Syria, in addition to exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates.

Born in 1995, Damascus, Syria

Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

About Fann À Porter

Fann À 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 eight curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media. Fann À 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 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 À Porter has established itself in forefront of the region's exciting arts landscape.

Founded in 2006 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. The same year, in partnership with Kempinski Hotel Mall of The Emirates, a dedicated space for the art, Fann À Porter, was formed at the hotel.

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

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