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Creative Reveries: COSMODREAMS

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As part of her ongoing immersive art project entitled *Cosmodreams*, Russian artist Marina Fedorova is bringing her latest solo exhibition – *Cosmodreams: Elementa* – to Dubai, on view at Fann A Porter until 20 January 2025.

Touring the globe since 2017, *Cosmodreams* by Marina Fedorova has merged fine art with modern digital technology to explore the boundaries of humanity's developing relationship with space, technology and the future. By placing contemporary art in dialogue with the latest computer technology, Fedorova is inspired to express deep personal reflections on humanity's progress and development and provide a platform on which the viewer is at once the observer and the creative collaborator, helping to shape meaning and understanding.

She is one of Russia's most prominent and sought-after contemporary artists, with works held by many major art institutions, as well as distinguished private collections, and exhibited all over the world. Her broad appeal – to both art experts and the general public alike – can be attributed to her unique ability to stay consistently relevant, tapping into the current zeitgeist while at the same time retaining her trademark painting manner, as well as the extraordinary inventiveness of her own artistic vision.

Over the course of a career spanning almost a decade and a half, Fedorova has created a truly impressive body of work, blending inspirations as far-reaching and varied as American hyperrealism, Japanese woodblock prints, pop art and modernism. At the same time, however, she cleaves to the notion that art is a fluid and ever-developing field and one that must embrace the new in order to avoid becoming alienated or stagnant.

"All my paintings from the *Cosmodreams* series," Fedorova told Canvas, speaking in relation to her *Ethereal Echoes* exhibition in 2023, "are related to people's desires, dreams and aspirations. Everyone is invited to join us in dreaming, finding inspiration and

working together to make our world a better place.” New technologies are central to her practice. “For me, digital tools – in the AR and VR formats in particular – offer new opportunities for self-expression by complementing artworks with an interactive experience,” she continued. “Technology is increasingly penetrating our everyday lives, and at such lightning speed that we do not even notice it. Many of us are constantly glued to the screen – if not a smartphone, then a work laptop – and there is nothing wrong with that. This is a new reality, a ‘new norm’ to which one needs to adapt. Artists should adapt also.”

Through this combination of both traditional art and technology, investigating themes like space exploration and human connection, Fedorova’s *Cosmodreams* project has contributed significantly to the MENA region’s increasing interest in innovative art practices. Hosted at Fann À Porter Gallery, *Cosmodreams: Elementa* hones in on the classical elements of water, air and earth, examining them as both vital fundamentals of the existence of life and as factors shaping human consciousness, culture and civilisation. The showcase brings together a dazzling array of media – from paintings and graphic art, to 3D printing and digital pieces enhanced with augmented reality – to captivate a diverse audience, bridging the divisions between generations through the universal appeal of art.

The disparate creative elements of Fedorova’s artistic repertoire work are unified through her own unique perspectives on nature, natural phenomena and the cosmos, not only as a physical space, but as a transcendental, metaphysical experience. Through her works, she presents viewers with a range of rich, multifaceted pieces that vary wildly, both in subject matter and execution, highlighting the overall diversity of her project while demonstrating the incredible range of different artistic techniques that she makes use of within her practice.

Within the specific purview of *Cosmodreams: Elementa*, Fedorova takes inspiration from the elemental forces that make up the fundamental components of our existence and from the dynamic interactions that take place within, and between, all natural phenomena. Mists, waterfalls and billowing clouds create a distinctive experience for her audience, offering a rich tableau for artistic expressions. Humanity must coexist with the fundamental, sublime aspects that shape our everyday reality, whether within futuristic cityscapes, cultural and national values, scientific advancements or material achievements. The variety of fantastical worlds encapsulated within Fedorova’s diverse space connects the distant cosmos with everyday life, offering a chance for critical reflection on the continuing journey of human civilisation and technological progress.