

SIMONE FATTAL

Press Release

Simone Fattal – Sculptures & Paintings

16 October - 28 November 2015

Opening Friday 16 October 2015

Karma International is pleased to announce Simone Fattal's first solo show in Zürich, titled *Sculptures & Paintings*. The exhibition provides an overview of the artist's unique oeuvre. A collection of sculptures comprised of different subjects, such as the mythic figure of Ulysses, studies of female figures and variations of warriors. A series of black and white paintings frames the presentation and provides a sense of an abstract backdrop as they fix the state of the sky at night.

Fattal's collages show her political dimension, juxtaposing cut-out images of the contemporary and historical artifacts. A preoccupation with the socio-political situation in The Arab East is particularly pertinent to Fattal's works and especially at a time when the region is undergoing such fundamental upheavals. She sees her role not only as an artist, but as an archeologist, intended to preserve the ancient past or, rather, bring it back to the fore, to the here and now. From her constant visits to Palmyra and all the ancient sites in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, to the organically formed watercolour paintings created in her Paris studio, Fattal's varied works seem to disperse and interconnect, allowing us glimpses to a life lived with the significance of history always present.

As she often says: History is made everyday.

Simone Fattal was born in Damascus, Syria and grew up in Lebanon. She studied philosophy at the Ecole des Letters of Beirut and at the Sorbonne in Paris. She embarks on a career as a painter after she returns to Beirut. She participated in many shows during the ten years when life in Lebanon was still possible. In 1980, fleeing the Civil War, she settled in California and founded the Post-Apollo Press, a publishing house dedicated to innovative and experimental literary work. She returned to her career as an artist in 1988, through the medium of ceramics. Since 2006, she has worked at the prestigious workshop of Hans Spinner in Grasse, France.

Recently she took part in the renowned show featuring contemporary art from and about the Arab world at the New Museum, entitled *Here and Elsewhere* curated by Massimiliano Gioni. Other recent shows include *Nel Mezzo del Mezzo* in the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Palermo, Sicily and *Take me, I'm yours* curated by Hans-Ulrich Obrist and Chiara Parisi at the Monnaie in Paris.

She is currently featured in the show *Ceramix, Art and ceramics from Rodin to Schütte*, which just opened in Maastricht at the Bonnefantenmuseum, and which will travel in 2016 to Cité de La Céramique in Sèvres, and La Maison Rouge in Paris early 2016. In March 2016, she will have a solo show at Sharjah Museum.