

**PRESS RELEASE
FROM THE LAND OF ETERNITY
BY HUDA AL SAIE
AT AQUABITART GALLERY
CURATED BY FRANCES STAFFORD**



by Huda Al Saie
curated by Frances Stafford

September 2020 // On September 11th the new exhibition “From the Land of Eternity” by Huda Al Saie opens its doors at the renowned aquabitArt gallery (Auguststraße 25, 10119 Berlin) during Berlin Art Week 2020.

Over the past three years, Al Saie’s work, has transitioned from intricate, detailed imagery on porcelain, to larger, brighter works on canvas. This deliberate transformation was a result of Al Saie’s desire to employ a much more spontaneous style, inherent of gestural marks and bold swathes of colour. Al Saie is admittedly inspired by the traditional architecture of Bahrain, as well as the island Kingdom’s flora, fauna and landscape.

As a connoisseur of Bahraini art, curator Frances Stafford presents the latest works until September 20th, 2020.

Huda Al Saie



*Birds in Paradise (Bahrain),
2020, by Huda Al Saie
Picture by Matt Wardle*

The title, “From the Land of Eternity” references Al Saie’s homeland Bahrain, which was, during the 2nd millennium BCE, the capital of the Dilmun civilization. Subsequently, it refers to the paradisiacal myth associated with this ancient land. References in Sumerian mythology, to ‘paradise’ or ‘The Garden of the Gods’, is more often than not, considered to be the land of Dilmun, now present-day Bahrain. Innumerable archaeological sites and finds, including the Dilmun burial mounds (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest graveyards of the ancient world) as well as the Barbar Temple (considered to be a place of worship of the Sumerian God Enki), corroborate such claims.

The dual nature of the word ‘Bahrain’, which literally translates to “two seas”, references both the saltwater of the ocean Gulf, as well as the sweet-water aquifers that traverse the island of



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Bahrain, thereby nourishing the growth of the lush, green landscape, unique to other countries in the region. Indeed, for this reason, Bahrain has long been described as the “Land of a Million Palm Trees”. Such fertile earth, which was in ancient times considered the land of as immortality and riches, is often considered to have inspired the Garden of Eden story.

The splendor of Al Saie’s abstract brush strokes mimic aspects of the cool palm groves, the quiet interior courtyards of traditional houses, the majesty of the minarets, arches and domes that adorning ancient architecture, as well as the ever-present sea, sand and sun of the island.

Al Saie is a graduate from The American University of Beirut in Mass Communication/Fine Arts. She studied the art of porcelain painting in Geneva in the early 80’s and began teaching porcelain painting in 1986 in Bahrain. She taught many of the preeminent artists in Bahrain today.

Al Saie has exhibited extensively in Bahrain, most notably at the Bahrain National Museum as well as Art Bab, the Kingdom’s leading art fair. Furthermore, she exhibited her work in Kuwait and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In December 2012, part of Al Saie’s collection was showcased in Gstaad, Switzerland. Al Saie has been commissioned by various organisations for porcelain projects in the Gulf region, including the Shaikh Ibrahim Cultural Centre in Muharraq, Bahrain, (2004), the Dubai Civil Aviation Department (2005), Qatar Airways, the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), the Bahrain World Trade Centre, The Bahrain National Museum, the National Theatre of Bahrain and the “Pearl Route”, A UNESCO World Heritage site also located in Bahrain.



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Opening and Exhibition

With an exclusive Vernissage the exhibition celebrates its opening on the 11th of September 2020 and will remain open at aquabitArt gallery (Auguststraße 35, 10119 Berlin) until the 20th of the month. The artist is looking forward to a possible appearance at her opening in Berlin, if the pandemic permits her access.

The show can be visited within this time from Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm or by appointment. Press material including artworks*, a portrait picture* of the artist as well as the curator are here prepared to download: http://bit.ly/ArtOfHuda_Sept2020_Berlin

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For interviews requests please reach out to us directly.

Sincerely,
Katharina Fronius

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