

## ***Migrants to the North***

### **Hady Boraey | Solo Exhibition**

22 February – 5 April 2025

Opening Reception:

22 February; 5 – 9 PM

Fann À Porter is delighted to present our second solo exhibition with Egyptian artist, Hady Boraey, *Migrants to the North*, a series of new works by the artist that delve into themes of memory, nostalgia, and childhood. The artist's inherently sculptural portrait style is ever-present in the works. Inspired by ancient Egyptian and Coptic art, Boraey heavily depends on metaphors, taking his audience on a dramatic journey filled with poetic nuances, to coax them into new territory beyond their comfort zones, where new horizons await.

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In the eighties of the last century, my childhood was in a spacious valley in the Nile Delta. The Nile passed in front of my house. The color green covered every spot my eyes saw in this large ocean. In the house there was a huge library that belonged to my father. It was a white library with vast shelves stacked with old and modern books, illustrated magazines, and everything that could stimulate the imagination of a simple child. As I was searching for the edges of existence, my hands fell upon a collection of stories dedicated to children under the title *My Grandmother Told Me*. This imaginary collection formed part of my childhood conscience. It was full of myths and vast imagination, simple texts accompanied by precise illustrations. I saw it as a miracle. I believed its stories as if they were facts and events from history. I believed it and dreamed that I was its hero too. More than any other story, the stories of sailors and immigrants took me to distant lands in the north. Where I searched for the beloved and the lands of snow and forests. As I grew up and the days went by, sediments of these tales and legendary stories remained in my mind.

In this exhibition I see people with wings like angels. They have supernatural powers. They are peaceful and love life. I see them in the traditional studio position. They stand and stare into the vast space. I see a family, a horse and a plant. You meet all of these on your great path of migration. In your day you see them and touch their feelings. They search for the desired dream land. They travel miles through lands that are colored with the colors of mountains, deserts and valleys.

In my journey from childhood to maturity, I was affected and dreamed a lot of another distant land to live in. There is nothing in it but a rock, a horse, a tree and a lake. A pure, simple dream. Here, in some of these paintings, I tried to convey my childhood dream in paintings that carry many of the feelings of Hady the child, whose life took him far from his home in the Delta. He still dreams of the legends of his grandmother's old tales.

-- Hady Boraey, 2025

## المهاجرون الي الشمال

في ثمانينيات القرن المنصرم. كانت طفولتي في وادي فسيح في دلتا مصر . النيل كان يمر من امام منزلي . و اللون الاخضر يكسو كل بقعه تراها عيناي في هذا المحيط الكبير . كان في المنزل مكتبه ضخمة تخص أبي مكتبه بيضاء برفوف شاسعه تتكدس بها الكتب العتيقه و الحديثه و المجلات المصورة و كل ما يمكنه ان يداعب خيال طفل بسيط . و انا اتمس أطراف الوجود وقعت يداي علي مجموعه قصصيه مخصصه للاطفال تحت عنوان ( حكت لي جدتي ) شكلت هذه المجموعه الخياليه جزءا من وجدان طفولتي . حيث كانت تعج بالاساطير و الخيال الفسيح . نصوص بسيطه يصاحبها رسوم توضيحيه محكمه . كنت اري فيها معجزة . و كنت اصدق قصصها و كانها حقائق وأحداث من التاريخ. اصدقها و احلم انني بطلها ايضا. دون غيرها من القصص كانت تأخذني قصص البحاره و المهاجرون الي أراضي بعيده في الشمال . حيث البحث عن المحبوه و اراضي الثلج و الغابات . كبرت و دارت بي الأيام . و لزال في عقلي رواسب من هذه الحواديت و الحكايات الاسطوريه.

في هذا المعرض اري بشرا باجنحه و كانهم ملائكه . لهم قدرات خارقة. مسالمون يحبون الحياه . اراهم بوضعيه الاستديو التقليديه . يقفون و يحدقون في الفضاء الكبير.

اري عائله و حصان و نبات . تقابل كل هذا في طريق هجرتك الكبيره. في يومك تراهم و تلمس مشاعرهم . يبحثون عن أرض الاحلام المنشوده . يقطعون اميالا في اراضي تتلون بلون الجبال و الصحاري و الوديان.

في رحلتي من الطفوله الي النضوج . تأثرت و حلمت كثيرا بأرض اخري بعيده أسكنها . ليس فيها سوا صخره و حصان و شجره و بحيره . حلم صافي بسيط. حاولت هنا في بعض هذه اللوحات ان أنقل حلمي الطفولي في لوحات تحمل كثيرا من مشاعر هادي الطفل ، الذي سارت به الحياه بعيدا عن منزله في الدلتا . و لزال يحلم باساطير حكايا الجده القديمه.

## **About the Artist**

Hady Boraey (b. 1984, Egypt) is a highly talented artist with an educational background in fine arts, having received his Bachelor of Fine Arts (2005), Master of Fine Arts (2011), and PhD (2015) from the University of Alexandria's Faculty of Fine Arts, where he was awarded the highest honors.

Hady's work has been recognized in numerous group exhibitions in Egypt and other countries such as Italy, the UK, Switzerland, and the UAE, and he has received numerous awards and accolades for his art, including the Medal of Appreciation from the Bibliotheca Alexandria and various awards from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Alexandria.

Hady's art is characterized by a distinctive painting technique that takes the viewer on an imaginary journey, using the unknown as a metaphor to highlight the fascination and hope of many young Egyptians to cross the borders of their own country in search of a better life. Influenced by ancient Egyptian and Coptic art, Hady's work features sculptural figures, birds, and cats in a symbolic universe. Recurring visual elements such as boxes and necklaces appear in his art and can be seen as both suffocating and protective. Despite the seemingly distant and cold nature of his subjects, Hady's art is deeply engaged in a dialogue about anxieties, hopes, and the quest for a better life, offering a unique and thought-provoking perspective on contemporary issues.

## **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.