

Yavuz Gallery at the Armory Show

Presents Section, Pier 94

Booth P9



VERNISSAGE
Wednesday, 4 March 2020

VENUE
Piers 90 and 94
711 12th Avenue
New York City, USA



Abdul Abdullah with his latest painting, *Custodians* (2020, oil on linen, 183 x 1,107 cm)

Yavuz Gallery is proud to announce its first participation in the 2020 edition of the Armory Show. Located at Booth P9, the gallery will debut a solo presentation by critically acclaimed Australian-artist **Abdul Abdullah** at the Presents Section.

Titled *Custodians*, the presentation consists of one large-scale and multi-panelled painting that spans over 11 metres in length. The work depicts an extensive, continuous scene of raging seas, overlaid with numerous figures rendered in Abdullah's distinctive cartoon familiarity. It is one of the artist's most ambitious project to date.

Custodians employs a raging sea as metaphor for the difficult journey that people are unwilling to take. Dark and treacherous, the sea roars as a vast obstacle between where they are and where they want to be. Whether the literal obstacle of a person crossing an ocean to seek refuge from war, or seas swallowing the coasts as a result of environmental crises, it speaks to personal journeys people undertake every day to overcome the immense challenges that stand between them and their goals. *Custodians* takes recent environmental crises as its starting point:

“Regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality; we as a species are responsible for the ongoing care for the planet we live on. We have an obligation to our children and the generations that come after us to endeavour to leave this place no worse off than how we found it. As Australia burns, as island nations in the Pacific start to disappear, and as the polar ice caps melt, it feels now more than ever we need to come together as a global community to combat the disastrous effects of a climate crisis” – Abdullah

The symbolic figures overlaying the seascape are evocative and embedded with contemporary references. They interweave from an intersection of real and imagined popular culture, political affairs, personal experience and observations. The figures fight and fornicate in an uninhibited tableau - either the pin-balling thoughts of an unhinged artist, or depictions of society gone mad, regardless of its consequences upon future generations.

As a seventh-generation Muslim Australian of mixed ethnicity who grew up in suburban Perth (an 'outsider amongst outsiders'), Abdullah's multi-disciplinary practice is motivated by a longstanding concern on the complex feelings of displacement and alienation associated with histories of diaspora

YAVUZ GALLERY

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and migration. Providing a voice to these rarely told topics, he creates carefully crafted political commentaries that speak of the 'Other' and the experiences of marginalised communities. While the fraught dynamic of Muslim experiences have provided the initial framework, Abdullah has consciously expanded his practice to include a broader sense of marginalisation. Intersecting between popular culture, contemporary conflicts and personal experience, *Custodians* embodies the trajectory of his works that renegotiate histories and create space for alternative possibilities and new conversations. Grounding his outlook with an expansive cultural geography that belies reductive boundaries of nationality, Abdullah represents a new face of emerging artists from the Asia-Pacific region.

Abdullah has been part of numerous exhibitions at institutions including: the National Gallery of Australia; Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (Australia); Museum of Contemporary Art (Australia); and MAllAM Contemporary Art Museum (Thailand); Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (Taiwan), amongst others. In 2019, he was awarded the inaugural Australian Muslim Artist Art Prize. He will be participating in the upcoming edition of the 2020 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, opening late February 2020.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Established in 2010 in Singapore, Yavuz Gallery is dedicated to promoting contemporary art, predominantly from the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception, the gallery has established itself as a key destination for showcasing a diverse group of both established and emerging artists. It is focused on presenting a strong curatorial programme, guided by the social significance of the artworks and the perception that within their chosen field of endeavour, the artists are among those leading their field. In September 2019, Yavuz Gallery established its second branch in Sydney, Australia

ABOUT THE FAIR

The Armory Show is New York City's premier art fair and a leading cultural destination for discovering and collecting the world's most important 20th- and 21st-century art. The Armory Show features presentations by leading international galleries, innovative artist commissions, and dynamic public programs. Since its founding in 1994, The Armory Show has served as a nexus for the art world, inspiring dialogue, discovery, and patronage in the visual arts. The Armory Show was founded by four New York gallerists – Colin de Land, Pat Hearn, Matthew Marks and Paul Morris – who sought a platform to present and promote new voices in the visual arts. In its 25 years, The Armory Show has stayed firm to its mission while establishing itself as an unmissable art event set in the heart of New York City.

Presents is a platform for galleries no more than ten years old to showcase recent work from emerging artists. Solo- and dual-artist presentations spotlight the next generation of artistic talents in an intimate setting.

The Armory Show will take place at Piers 90 and 94, 711 12th Avenue, New York City, USA from 5 to 8 March 2020.

For press inquiries, please contact Caryn Quek at caryn@yavuzgallery.com or at (65) 6734 3262.

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