

An abstract painting by Alia Ahmad, featuring a complex composition of overlapping, organic shapes and textures. The color palette is rich and varied, including earthy tones like ochre, brown, and grey, as well as cooler hues like teal, blue, and green. The brushwork is expressive and layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is dreamlike and evocative, consistent with the title 'A Meadow... From a Dream'.

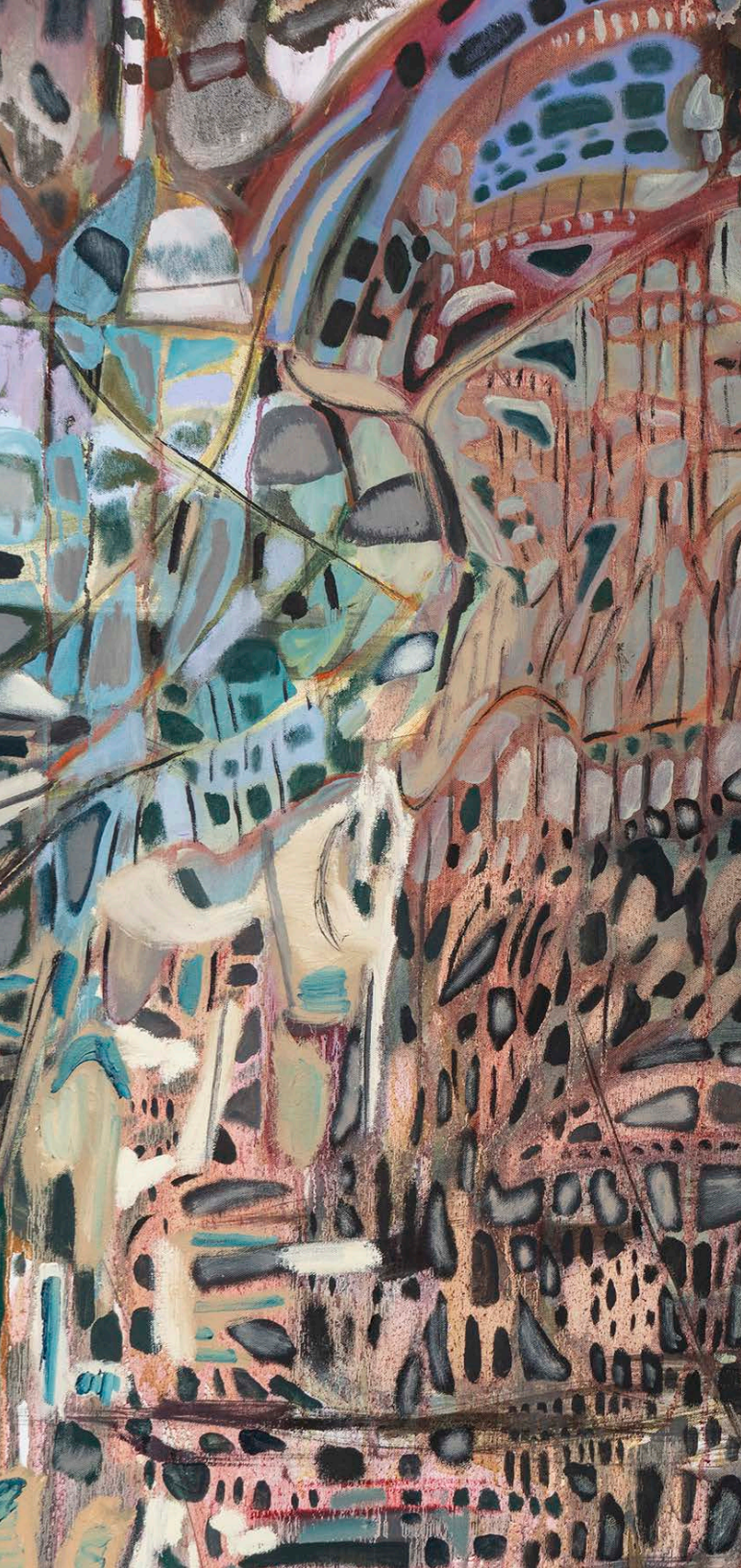
ALIA AHMAD

من الحلم... روضة

A MEADOW ... FROM A DREAM

KOHN GALLERY





A MEADOW ... FROM A DREAM

Kohn Gallery is delighted to announce the solo exhibition of Saudi Arabian-artist Alia Ahmad. This will be Ahmad's debut presentation both with the gallery, and in the United States. In *A meadow ... from a dream*, Ahmad's large-scale paintings pay tribute to her home, the industrial desert city of Riyadh. Her excavations of time, place, and memory transpose meticulous, vibrant color palettes, into abstracted landscapes.

Ahmad creates social spaces within linear impressions of the desert, playing on the tense contradiction between extreme emptiness of place and lush flora. Her dense terrains take inspiration from aesthetics of unfinished woven textiles, which in turn become sites for the interweaving of process, spatiality, and stimuli. These gaps of thread allow her continuous investigations to seep and construct different forms.

In *A meadow ... from a dream*, Ahmad lets her studio environment inform her work; an innate process organically amalgamated through human interaction. In turn, this creates microworlds separated by distinct lines which envision brilliantly-hued likenesses of tectonic movement. Her instincts permeate her practice by means of exploratory compositions that begin and end on canvas. Ahmad refers to her paintings as "blueprints" that transform with every application of paint. The distinguished spaces and collage-like nature of this series gestures their intrinsicness, furthered by the use of restricted color palettes to create abundant configurations Ahmad describes as "siblings."

Her paintings encompass a visual language that is as much linguistic as it is impressionistic. With subdued, washed out lines, she situates a series of calligraphic motifs across a number of canvases, recalling in part Lee Ufan's collisional works between the natural and industrial, Joan Mitchell's abstracted landscapes, and Vincent Van Gogh's expressive brushstrokes. Ahmad strives to balance the inherent readability of her work with the internal translation that occurs when someone is brought into her colorful world. "In Arabic *riyadh* translates to 'oasis within a desert', Ahmad explains, "my intention is to illuminate that there is a lot of life from a land that is perceived as dry."



Alia Ahmad, *Al Rawdah - The Meadow*, 2022, oil on canvas 68 x 79 1/2 inches









Alia Ahmad, *Hameel - Morning Rain*, 2022, oil on canvas 68 x 98 inches







Alia Ahmad, *Leaf study 2*, 2022, oil on canvas, 37 x 31 1/4 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Word in weave*, 2022, oil on canvas, 68 x 79 1/2 inches









Alia Ahmad, *Shafg el Guroob - Dusk, in goodbyes*, 2022, oil on canvas, 51 x 58 1/2 inches

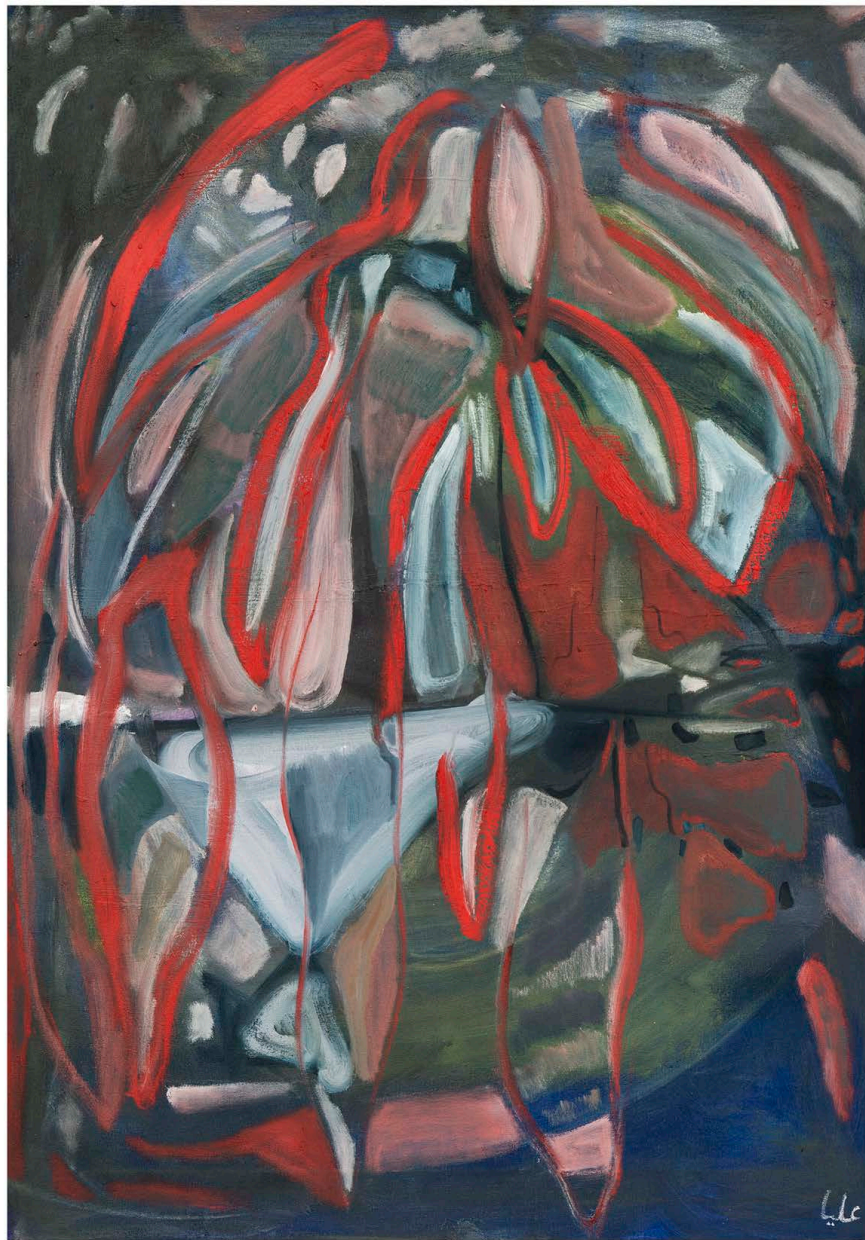






Alia Ahmad, *Al Bustan - The grove*, 2022, oil on linen, 29 1/4 x 31 1/2 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Leaf study 3*, 2022, oil on canvas, 34 x 24 inches



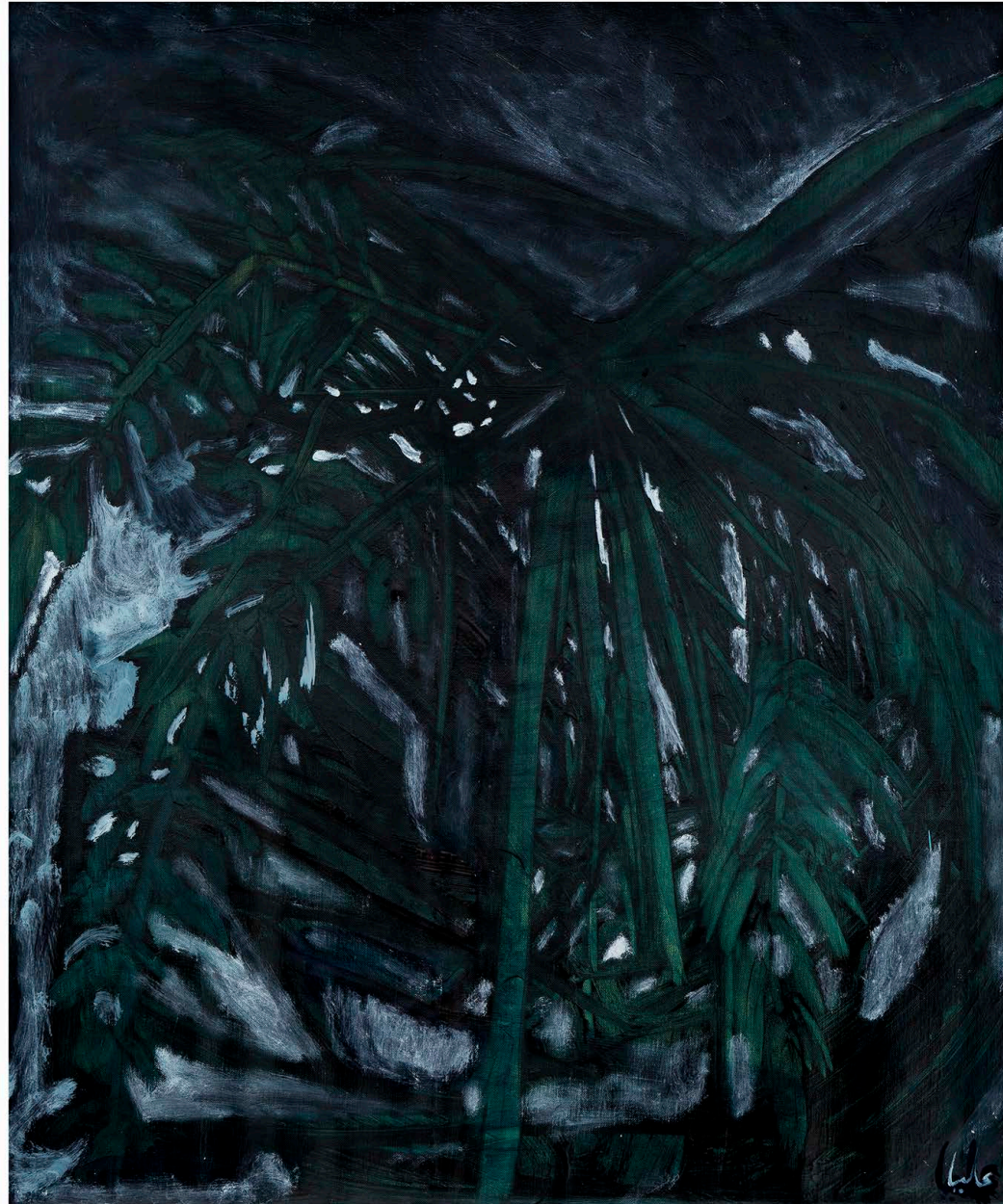


Alia Ahmad, *Sukoon - A calm*, 2022, oil on linen, 67 x 75 inches









Alia Ahmad, *Leaf study 4*, 2022, oil on linen, 25 3/4 x 21 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Leaf study 1*, 2022, oil on canvas, 37 1/4 x 31 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Mishraf - Uphill*, 2022, oil on canvas, 31 x 37 1/4 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Obhur*, 2022, oil on canvas, 51 x 58 1/2 inches







Alia Ahmad, *Malga - The place in which we gather*, 2022, oil on canvas, 51 x 58 1/2 inches





Alia Ahmad, *Dry land*, 2022, oil on canvas, 58 1/2 x 51 inches





Alia Ahmad, *In time, a bloom*, 2022, oil on canvas, 68 x 80 inches









Alia Ahmad, *From a dream - Min Al Helim*, 2022, oil on canvas, 68 x 80 inches









Alia Ahmad, *A vision - Ruya*, 2022, oil on linen, 80 x 108 inches





ALIA AHMAD

Born 1996, Saudi Arabia
Lives and works in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

EDUCATION

2020 MRes Masters of Research in Fine Arts, Royal College of Art, London, UK
2018 BA Digital Culture, Kings College London, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *A meadow ... from a dream*, Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Tracing the Placid, Hafez Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
2021 *From Our Paths*, Gallery BAWA, Kuwait City, Kuwait

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *The Secrets of Alidades*, 21,39, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Art Dubai, Hafez Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2020 RCA Research Biennale, London, UK
WIP Show, Royal College of Art, London, UK
DIG, San Mei Gallery, London, UK
Keep for Old Memories by Youngspace co-curated with Celine Mo
VICTORI+MO @ YOUNGSPACE VIEWS
Make It Public: Memory Collective, Design Museum, London, UK

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 K Volk, Interview with Alia Ahmad, *Canvas Magazine*, Issue no. 103, May-June
2021 *Art Maze Magazine*, Issue no.22
2020 C. Al-Aseeli, "Alia Ahmad: 'I don't plan my drawings,'" *Zharat Al Khaleej*,
September 8
2019 S. B. Romdane, "A Saudi Artist's Love Letter to Her Country," *Art Maze
Magazine*, November 26