

Hayv Kahraman

*Gut Feelings: Part II*

6<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

The Third Line is pleased to announce *Gut Feelings: Part II*, our fifth solo exhibition with Los Angeles based artist Hayv Kahraman. Occupying both gallery spaces, Kahraman presents a series of new paintings and drawings that continue her ongoing scientific research and exploration into the effects of trauma on the body, and the role of the gut in our healing process.



Hayv Kahraman, *Mustache and beard brain axis*, 2022, Oil on panel, 177.80 x 177.80 x 6.35 cm.

Kahraman's practice is heavily guided by her refugee experience, where notions of gender and trauma are consistent themes throughout her work. Recently, the artist has directed her research towards neuroscience, human immunology and "neurosculpting" – the ability to restructure the neural pathways in our brain through the gut microbiome – and how they specifically relate to trauma, and our ultimate goal to heal and repair.

Often referred to as the body's "second brain", the gut is responsible for our somatic state whereby the bacteria inside our gut regulates the hormones that control our feelings. Kahraman became increasingly fascinated with this theory, and how neurosculpting offers the potential to heal through the process of

*unlearning* and *relearning*. In this body of work, Kahraman applies this theory alongside her own lived experiences to highlight the puissant connection between the mind and the body. Exposed and tangled digestive organs act as a visual metaphor of unravelling the restorative process.

Delving further into the gut microbiome as a site for recognition and renewal, Kahraman addresses the notion of “otherness” through the medium in which she paints. We have learnt to consider the bacteria and foreign microbes found inside our gut as undesirable, but in fact they are fundamental to our human psyche. By incorporating into her paintings the lilac dye from torshi – fermented beetroot served in Middle Eastern cuisine which is believed to improve mental wellbeing via the gut, and jars of which are on view in the exhibition – Kahraman affirms that the microbial world is verification of our acceptance of difference. Physically painting with torshi – i.e. bacteria – serves as an allegory to how we sentient beings live in symbiosis with the “other”.

### **About Hayv Kahraman**

Hayv Kahraman (b. 1981, Baghdad, Iraq) is an Iraqi, Kurdish artist based in Los Angeles whose figurative paintings examine the gendered and racialized body politics of migrant consciousness. Her work is a reflection on otherness as a form of dehumanization, focusing on the gap between the immigrant, non-white, genderly marked other and the way they are perceived by the white hetero-patriarchal normative same.

Recent solo exhibitions include; Hayv Kahraman: Gut Feelings, Mosaic Rooms, London, UK (2022); The Touch of Otherness, SCAD Museum of Art, Georgia, USA (2022); The touch of Otherness, Vielmetter Los Angeles, USA (2021); Not Quite Human: Second Iteration, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK (2020); Hayv Kahraman: Superfluous Bodies, Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii, USA (2019); To the Land of the Waqwaq, Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Hawaii, USA (2019); Silence is Gold, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles, USA (2018); Acts of Reparation, Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis, USA (2017); Hayv Kahraman, The Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, USA (2016); Audible Inaudible, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2016); How Iraqi are You?, Jack Shainman, New York, USA (2015); Extimacy, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2013); Pins and Needles, The Third Line, Dubai (2010); Waraq, Frey Norris, San Francisco, USA (2010); Seven Gates, Green Cardamom, London (2010).

Her work is featured in various international collections including The Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; San Diego Museum of Art, CA, USA; Birmingham Museum of Art, AL, USA; The Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA; The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; The Barjeel Art Foundation Sharjah, UAE; MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art Doha, Qatar; Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, Ohio, USA; North Carolina; Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA; British Museum, London; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA.

### **About The Third Line**

Founded in 2005, The Third Line is a Dubai-based gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally, and internationally. A pioneering platform for established talent and emerging voices from the region and its diaspora, The Third Line has built a dynamic program that explores the diversity of practice in the region.

In addition to its exhibitions, The Third Line engages in the production of art publications in English and Arabic and hosts numerous non-profit, alternative programs that add to the discourse on art, film, music and literature in the region.

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Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Jordan Nassar, Laleh Khorramian, Lamyia Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Nima Nabavi, Pouran Jinchu, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, yasiin bey, Youssef Nabil, and Zineb Sedira.

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