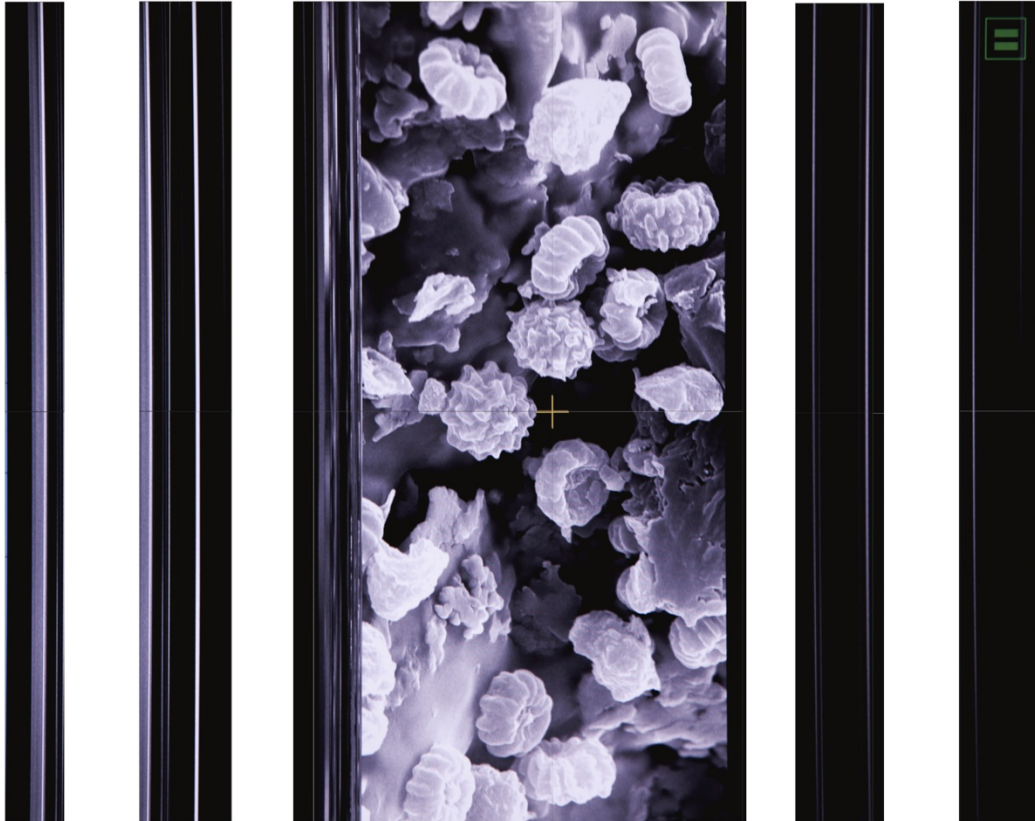


Building Blocks

Sara Naim

January 16 - February 27, 2019

The Third Line is pleased to present *Building Blocks*, Sara Naim's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Extending the artist's preoccupation with micro images and dichotomies between proximity and distance into an examination of memory and cognitive associations, *Building Blocks* maps the cellular make up of three elements nostalgic to the artist: jasmine, soil and Aleppo soap.



Sara Naim, *Form 5*, 2018, C-type digital print, wood, plexiglass, 239.2 x 300 cm

Triggers of olfactory memories sourced from Sara's native Syria, the protagonists of her latest body of work awaken thoughts of things and places she associates with the realm of the familiar, yet also perceives as foreign.

Using a Scanning Electron Microscope, Sara captures the cellular structure of each sample, magnifies it, and reveals its complexity through imagery mounted on wood and plexiglass. The large-scale renditions include deliberate glitches such as formal distortions, light leaks or reticle cross-lines—interferences that further abstract the works and hint at the imperfection of memory and thus of human nature.

Titled *Forms*, the sculptural works exist in a variation of more or less organic shapes that imitate topographies Sara randomly encounters during her scanning journey. The process is illustrated by a short film that places the viewer's eyes in front of the microscope as its lens explores the relief of all three samples morphed into one. Ensues the uneasy realization that coming closer is here synonymous with grasping less.

Conversely, one of the elements magnified in the *Forms* series, the Aleppo soap, morphs from micro to macro, as soap brick structures are erected on the gallery's floor. In part broken, cut and fragmented, the towers' intentional defaults imitate glitches witnessed on Sara's photographs. Their carefully orchestrated arrangement, on the other hand, performs a cellular analogy to the building blocks of life and further intimates the vastness of the microscopic universe extant within us.

About Sara Naim

Sara Naim (b. 1987, London) is a Syrian visual artist who grew up between Dubai and London. She received her MFA in Fine Art Media at The Slade School of Fine Art, London (2014) and completed her Bachelors in Photography from London College of Communication (2010).

Through visualising micro-formations, Sara's practice dissects how proportion shapes our perception and notion of boundary. She explores the physicality of these 'boundaries' and its form, with questions of: *If borders do not exist on a cellular scale, can we define 'border' on a macro scale? Can shape be considered an object in itself?*

Her solo exhibitions include *Reaction*, Parafin Gallery, London (2018); *When Heartstrings Collapse*, The Third Line, Dubai (2016); and *Heartstrings*, Hayward Gallery, London (2015). Group exhibitions include *Secular Icons in an Age of Moral Uncertainty*, Parafin Gallery, London (2018); *The Third Image*, Galerie Binome (with Biennale des Photographes du Monde Arabe Contemporain, 2017); *Sans Titre Vol. 1 and 2*, Paris (2016); *Hindsight*, V1Gallery, Copenhagen (2014); and *Au Lait! Quand l'Art Déborde*, Lab'Bel Gallery, Jura, France (2012).

Sara lives and works in Paris.

About The Third Line

The Third Line is a Dubai-based art gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally and internationally. The Third Line also hosts non-profit, alternative programs to increase interest and dialogue in the region.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtakar, Amir H. Fallah, Babak Golkar, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Laleh Khorramian, Lamyia Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Poursan Jinchi, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sherin Guirguis, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Youssef Nabil and Zineb Sedira.

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