

Anuar Khalifi

Forever Is A Current Event

27 November 2019 - 6 February 2020

The Third Line is pleased to present **Anuar Khalifi**'s first solo exhibition at the gallery, with works on canvas exploring the exchange between tradition and the contemporary world.



Anuar Khalifi, *Al Haddid*, 2019, acrylic on canvas, detail

Embodying both the stylistic elements and socio-political spirit of neo-impressionism, Khalifi equips his paintings with metaphors and symbols which bridge visuals of the past with that of a globalised contemporary culture.

Often inspired by the lyrical writings of iconic musicians, *Forever Is A Current Event*, derives its title from a verse by the acclaimed rapper yasiin bey:

“Save the date.

Forever is a current event.

We will not pass this way again,

No time to pretend”

Khalifi's emotive works are layered with complexity and saturated with colors that act as a visual confrontation of dysfunctional systems, misrepresentations of media, and corporate agendas. Although his work may first present itself as naïve and playful, Khalifi leaves a trail of subtle hints reminding the viewer that each painting is loaded with topical social discourse. He often achieves this by altering small details that reward the keen eye with an unexpected play on brand iconography or iconic imagery from current events.

The figures in the artist's paintings are typically autobiographical in nature; they have grown from adolescents to young adults, to the occasional older male. These works

offer glimpses into the lives of male characters that are placed in absurd settings, either caught red-handed in a playful act or captured in the fleeting stillness prior to some mischief. In an open invitation for the viewer to engage and complete the narrative, Khalifi's works depict brief moments in a story left incomplete.

About Anuar Khalifi

Anuar Khalifi (b. 1977) is a self-taught artist whose practice explores identity, stereotypes of the Muslim world, Orientalism, the individual, colonialism, extremism and the consumer society. The iconography of Khalifi's work is based on mixing genres and the search of reality among the visual and media chaos which we are constantly exposed to.

Khalifi's work was featured in exhibitions including *Dust, Roses & Cockroaches*, Galerie Shart, Casablanca (2018); *El Niño que Le Dolía El Cuello de Tanto Mirar El Cielo*, Plom Gallery, Barcelona (2016); *DESORIENTE*, The Mothership, Barcelona (2015); *Les Nouvelles Créations Artistiques*, Bank Al-Maghrib, Rabat (2015); *DESORIENTE*, Yakin and Boaz Gallery, Casablanca (2014); *A New Hope*, Galeria Mitte, Barcelona (2012); *Tourist Go Home*, Galerie Kandisha, Paris (2012); *NOW*, The Marrakech Biennale (2012); *Blast*, Mastermind, Casablanca (2012); *Fast Food*, Les Insolites, Tangier (2011); and *Boys Don't Cry*, Artingis, Tangier (2011).

Khalifi works and lives between Barcelona and Tangier.

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 Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Babak Golkar, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayy Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Jordan Nassar, Laleh Khorramian, Lamya Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Nima Nabavi, Pوران 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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