

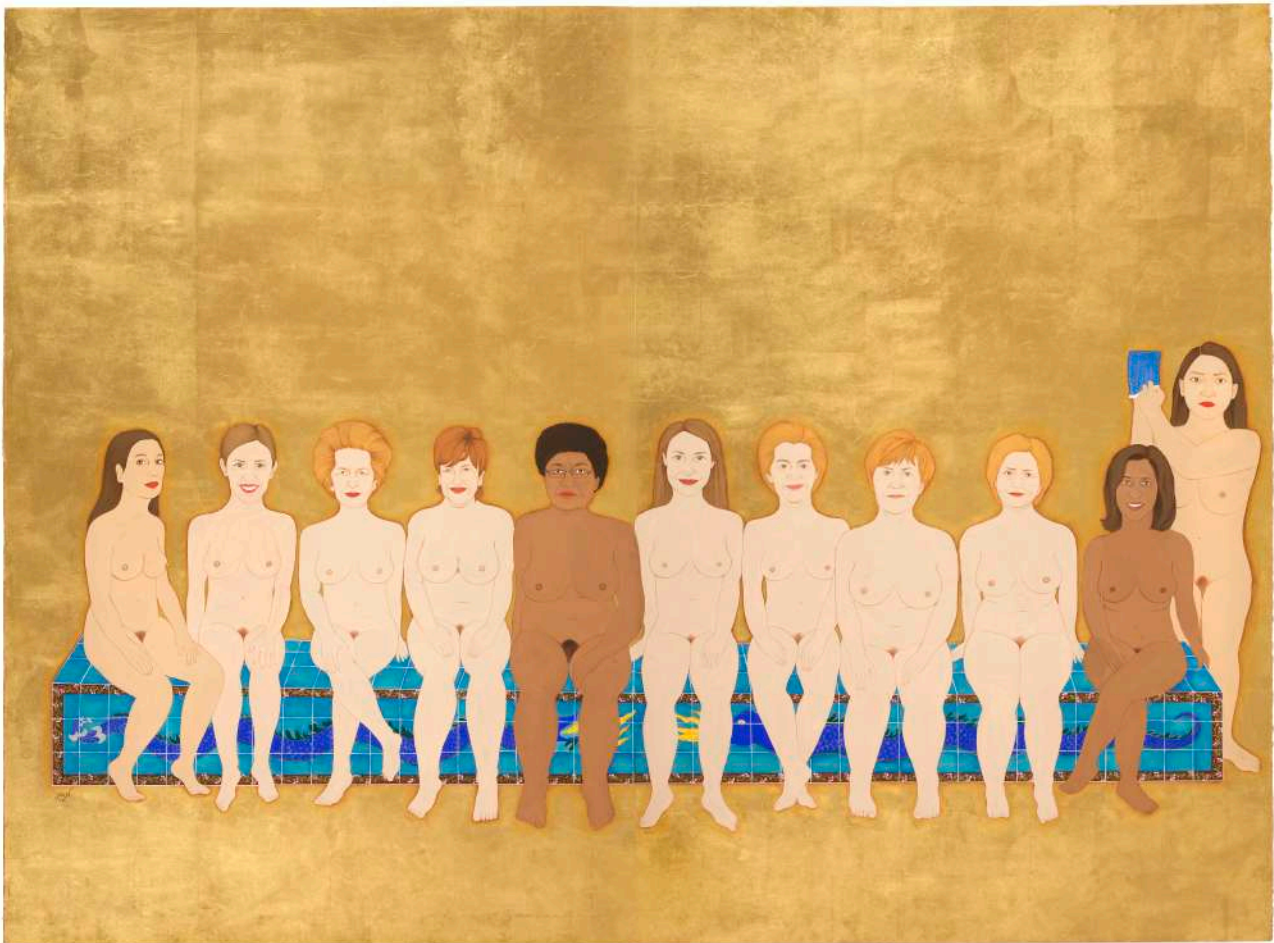
Kubra Khademi

Bread, Work, Freedom (نان، کار، آزادی)

Opening: 4.9.2024, 6-9 pm

Exhibition: 5.9.-26.10.2024

Artist Talk: 7.9.2024, 3 pm



Kubra Khademi, Untitled - Diptych 02, from the series Bread, Work, Freedom, 2024, Gouache and gold leaf on paper, 112 x 153 cm

We are pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Kubra Khademi in the gallery. Born in 1989 in Kabul, Afghanistan, the Hazara artist, performer, and activist has lived in exile in Paris since 2015. Her works address themes such as gender roles, cultural identity, and social justice, and she advocates for the rights of women, children, and minorities. Her work is shaped by her personal experiences as a girl and woman in Afghanistan, as well as by her experience of fleeing and living in exile in Paris. In her drawings and paintings on paper, she celebrates the female body, depicting it in all its facets.

Humorous and provocative, her works deal with sexual emancipation and women's empowerment in a male-dominated society.

Bread, work, and freedom are fundamental rights denied to women in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. Instead, poverty, fear, oppression, and persecution prevail. On March 3, 2022, Kubra Khademi called on politically influential women in an open letter to form an external Afghan government "to bring about lasting change and usher in a new era for women [children and minorities], a new era for Afghanistan, and a new era for the world." Before fleeing her homeland to France, the artist found it impossible to imagine women holding leading political positions. In the letter, Khademi specifically addresses former Chancellor Angela Merkel and other influential women, asking them to use their power and join forces to fight for the rights of women in Afghanistan and around the world. The letter remains unanswered to this day.

With the highly political exhibition "Bread, Work, Freedom," Kubra Khademi underscores her letter by literally translating her vision of the unification of her addressees' political power into images. In addition to life-sized nudes of the politicians and the artist herself, the exhibition's centerpiece comprises four large-format diptychs. Inspired by motifs from religion and mythology, the women join the artist in establishing a new world order. It all begins in the hammam, the only place where women in Afghanistan enjoy freedom of speech, culminating in a depiction of a sex orgy in which the women indulge lustfully. Represented against a gold background, these images metaphorically symbolize the power of femininity, love, and tenderness in opposition to the war and violence of patriarchy. As if calling out to the women of this world, "Use your power!" Kubra Khademi creates powerful images that seem like a promise of salvation: if powerful women unite, the world can be a better place.

As part of the Saisonstart | The Frankfurt Art Experience, a conversation between Kubra Khademi and the curator Dr. Claudia Tittel will take place at the gallery on September 7, 2024 at 3 pm.

[1] See Kubra Khademi: Open Letter to Woman Leaders of the World, March 3, 2022, New York. The full letter is displayed as a wall text in the exhibition.

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Kubra Khademi is an Hazara artist and performer born in 1989 in Afghanistan. In her work, Khademi explores her life as a refugee and as a woman. She studied fine arts at Kabul University before attending Beaconhouse National University in Lahore, Pakistan, where she began creating public performances, a practice she continued upon returning to Kabul in response to a male-dominated society with extreme patriarchal policies. Following her 2015 performance "Armor," she was forced to flee the country. She sought refuge in France and received French citizenship in 2020. Today, she lives and works in Paris. In 2016, she was awarded the title of Chevalier de

l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. She was nominated for the Emerige Revelations 2019 and is the winner of the 1% Art Market of the City of Paris 2020.

Her works have been exhibited in numerous venues, including Museum Ludwig (Cologne, 2023), Millé Foundation (Hong Kong, 2023), Kunsthalle Dessau (2023), Collection Lambert (Avignon, 2022), Fondation Kadist (Paris, 2022), Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern (2022), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Kunsthalle Thun, Void Contemporary Art Centre (Derry Londonderry), Pablo's Birthday (New York), Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Bangkok Biennale, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles (Paris), El Rastro (Madrid), Signal (Brussels), Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris), MuCEM (Marseille), Fondation Fiminco (Romainville).

Since 2016, Latitudes Productions has supported the development of her artistic and performative projects, while her plastic works are represented by Galerie Eric Mouchet. Her recent appearances include Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern, TNG in Lyon, Condition Publique in Roubaix, Centre Pompidou-Metz, and Théâtre Nationale de la Ville de Paris.

EDUCATION

2019-2020 Bachelor's Degree in Art History, Panthéon Sorbonne Paris 1

2009-2013 School of Visual Arts and Design, School of Fine Arts, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan

2008-2009 Fine Arts at Kabul University of Fine Arts, Afghanistan