

MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS FIRST U.S. SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION OF SIMONE FATTAL

Simone Fattal: Works and Days

March 31–September 2, 2019

1st Floor, MoMA PS1

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, March 27, 2018— MoMA PS1 presents the first solo museum exhibition in the United States of the work of Simone Fattal (Lebanese and American, b.1942). On view from March 31 through September 2, 2019, the retrospective brings together over 200 works created over the last 50 years, featuring abstract and figurative ceramic sculptures, paintings, watercolors, and collages that draw from a range of sources including ancient history, mythology, Sufi poetry, geopolitical conflicts, and landscape painting.

Simone Fattal: Works and Days explores the impact of displacement, as well as the politics of archeology and excavation, as these themes resonate across the artist's multifaceted practice. Fattal's work constructs a world that has emerged from history and memory, and its replications and repetitions grapple with the losses of time while revealing its reoccurrences. Never far from the earth, her works emerge as an unfinished project of telling the stories of ancient history with figures taken from central references such as *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, *Dhat al-Himma*, and others. Both timeless and specific, her work straddles the contemporary, the archaic, and the mythic.

Works and Days highlights Fattal's immense production over the last four decades. Nearly 200 sculptural works made of ceramic, stoneware, terracotta, bronze, and porcelain are displayed on architectural plinth structures that move through different themes within her oeuvre. In Fattal's figurative sculptures, modest clay figures are rendered with just enough detail to be discernible as individuals, revealing a preoccupation with the persistence and fragility of the human form. The exhibition also includes sculptural representations of homes, bridges, and walls, as well as animals, trees, and other objects. Alongside these varied sculptural works, the exhibition also includes a grouping of Fattal's early paintings, a later series of abstracted black and white paintings made in 2013, and a series of watercolors made in 2016, *Suite en Jaune N°1*, for which she dripped black ink onto paper and then painstakingly filled in the spaces around the black with bright-yellow paint.

Simone Fattal was born in Damascus, Syria and raised in Lebanon, where she studied philosophy at the École des Lettres in Beirut. She then moved to Paris where she continued her philosophical pursuits at the Sorbonne. In 1969, she returned to Beirut and began working as a visual artist, exhibiting her paintings locally until the start of the Lebanese Civil War. She fled Lebanon in 1980 and settled in California, where she founded the Post-Apollo Press, a publishing house dedicated to innovative and experimental literary work. In 1988, she enrolled in a course at the Art Institute of San Francisco, which prompted a return to her artistic practice and a newfound dedication to sculpture and ceramics. Fattal currently lives in Paris and has had recent exhibitions at the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech (2018), the Rochechouart Departmental Museum of Contemporary Art (2017), and the Sharjah Art Foundation (2016). *Simone Fattal: Works and Days* is organized by Ruba Katrib, Curator, with Josephine Graf, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1.

In conjunction with the exhibition, MoMA PS1's bookstore, Artbook, is presenting a display of titles released by The Post-Apollo Press. Additionally, MoMA PS1 is releasing a publication that highlights a varied selection of Fattal's works from 1969 through present day, and features an essay by exhibition curator Ruba Katrib.

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Major support for *Simone Fattal: Works and Days* is provided by The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art. Additional funding is provided by the MoMA PS1 Annual Exhibition Fund and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 is devoted to today's most experimental, thought-provoking contemporary art. Founded in 1976 as the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, it was the first nonprofit arts center in the United States devoted solely to contemporary art and is recognized as a defining force in the alternative space movement. In 2000 The Museum of Modern Art and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center merged, creating the largest platform for contemporary art in the country and one of the largest in the world. Functioning as a living, active meeting place for the general public, MoMA PS1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses, and new trends in contemporary art.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit. Free admission as a Gift to New Yorkers made possible by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit momaps1.org.

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