GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Chapitre 18 - The Man of Pleasure - the Book, 2025



Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos

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Serie Hayat al-Hayat
Pigments and gum arabic on paper, gold leaf, calligraphy ink
20 x 28,5 cm + cadre
Unique artwork
courtesy Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Description:

Hayat al-Hayat confronts an intimate, visceral, almost taboo question: what does it mean to be a woman without giving birth? Through twenty tapestries paired with poems, the artist weaves the story of the serpent-woman - mythical and sensual, feminine, multiple, powerful, and ambiguous.

Drawing from Islamic miniatures and Sufi imagery, the work unfolds within a world of signs and symbols. Its title hinges on the ambiguity between two near-twin Arabic words: hayat (life) and hayyah (snake). A single letter shifts, yet an entire world opens - summoning a living mythology from a marginalized body. Rooted in Sufi imagery, this project explores the dualities that shape us: emptiness and fullness, flesh and light, silence and cry.

Chapitre 18 - The Man of Pleasure Nothing has been sown.
Nothing is meant to bloom.
Wombs open to the wind.
Without seeds, without fruit,
They move the moon.
The sky falls silent.
The world listens.