

Chapitre 19 - The Fertile of the Void - the Book, 2025



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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.

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When the body expects nothing,
it receives it all.

The flesh trembles,
the skin stretches.

The moment passes through.
Nothing to carry, nothing to hold.
Only surrender.