

Chapitre 15_Unifying the Void - broderie, 2025



Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos

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serie Hayat al-Hayat

Egyptian cotton, hand-made appliqué embroidery

180 x 130 cm

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.

Chapter 15 - Unifying the Void

One body, two breaths.

One rends, the other embraces.

Teeth locked, iris brushed.

Beneath the shadow, a fragile peace.

Silence wounds no more.

The world breathes.