

recently
Abbas Akhavan



Abbas Akhavan, *Study for a Garden*, 2017, Bronze, (detail), Photo by Jann Averwesser

March 19 – May 5, 2018

The Third Line is pleased to announce *recently*—Abbas Akhavan’s third solo exhibition at the gallery. A collection of recent works, the exhibition lies somewhere between an open studio, an index, an inventory, a table of contents and a periodic table. Put on display are material explorations related to the artist’s ongoing research and concerns about the environment, animals, saints, weapons, and property, to name a few. Despite their overlap in materials and concerns, these works are shown in their own right without an overarching thematic narrative or a curatorial objective.

About Abbas Akhavan

Abbas Akhavan’s practice ranges from site-specific ephemeral installations to drawing, video, sculpture and performance. The direction of his research has been deeply influenced by the specificity of the sites where he works: the architectures that house them, the economies that surround them, and the people that frequent them. The domestic sphere, as a forked space between hospitality and hostility, has been an ongoing area of research in his practice. More recent works have shifted focus, wandering onto spaces and species just outside the home – the garden, the backyard, and other domesticated landscapes.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Variations on a Garden*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, (2017); *Not titled*, Villa Stuck, Munich (2017); *Study for a Monument*, Mercer Union, Toronto, (2015); *Study for a Garden*, The Delfina Foundation, London (2012).

Selected group exhibitions include: *The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp*: Prospect 4, New Orleans (2017); *The uses of art*; SALT Galata, Istanbul (2017); *Tamawuj*, Sharjah Biennial 13, (2017); *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2016); *Making Nature*, Wellcome Collection, London (2016); *on water, rosemary and mercury*, Beirut Art Centre, Beirut, (2015).

Some recent residencies include Atelier Calder in Saché, France (2017), Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada (2013, 2016, 2019), Flora: ars+natura, Bogota, Columbia (2015), Delfina Foundation, London, England (2012) and Dubai, UAE (2011), Watermill Center, New York, USA (2011), Fundación Marcelino Botin, Santander, Spain (2010).

Akhavan is the recipient of Kunstpreis Berlin (2012), The Abraaj Group Art Prize (2014), the Sobey Art Award (2015), and the Fellbach Triennial Award (2016).

Abbas' works can be found in private and public collections around the world, including The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Canada; The Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Canada; The Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Canada; Royal Bank of Canada collections, Canada; Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada and the Alma Mater Society: University of British Columbia, Canada.

Abbas lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

About The Third Line

The Third Line is a Dubai-based art gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally and internationally. The Third Line also hosts non-profit, alternative programs to increase interest and dialogue in the region.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Arwa Abouon, Babak Golkar, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Golnaz Fathi, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Laleh Khorramian, Lamya Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Pouran Jinchi, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sherin Guirguis, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Youssef Nabil and Zineb Sedira.

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