

Gallery 1957

Salah El Mur

An Anniversary

1st October - Nov 6th 2021, Gallery II Accra.



Salah El Mur *Wedding Day*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas 200 x 235 cm, 78 x 92 in. Copyright the Artist. Image courtesy Gallery 1957.

Gallery 1957, is pleased to present a new body of work by **Salah Elmur** (Sudanese, b. 1966) entitled “An Anniversary.” In his first solo exhibition at the Gallery and in Accra, Ghana - Elmur depicts various days of celebration inspired by his personal collection of vintage portrait photographs.

Salah Elmur’s work is composed of a fertile visual vocabulary that draws on his social and cultural heritage. He draws on his observations of life and memories of his childhood and youth for the scenes, situations and impressions that he depicts in his work. Heavy symbolism, a tendency towards vivid colour combinations, and distortion of natural figures and proportions are some of the markers of Elmur’s painting.

Inspired by the many photographs he has collected from his family’s photography studio, Elmur’s paintings often emulate formal portrait settings with additional elements that complement but also unsettle the mood in his paintings. Plants and animals share the frame with the human subjects, limbs are shortened and proportions are distorted, altering the relationships between various objects and figures in the frame. All these elements are combined in a somewhat surrealistic swirl of memory, and the resulting paintings are tender, intimate vignettes of human relationships, the rituals and poetry of daily life and folklore.

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About the artist

Salah Elmur's (Sudanese, b. 1966) originally studied Graphic Design at the College of Fine and Applied Art, Sudan University, Khartoum. With a career spanning three decades, he has spent years travelling and living across East Africa and the Middle East and has participated in group and solo exhibitions in East Africa, the Middle East, Europe and America since 1985. Elmur has also published 12 children's books and is a successful filmmaker; directing six short documentaries and fantasy films, which have been shown at international film festivals. In February 2018, the Sharjah Art Museum in the UAE held *Fragrances of the Forest and Photos*, a retrospective of Elmur's work, followed by *Forests and Spirits*, an exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in London alongside two luminaries of Sudanese modernism, Kamala Ishaq, and Ibrahim El Salahi. He participated in a group exhibition at the British National Museum and his work is collected widely and is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) in Marrakech, the Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF), Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa MOCAA, Minneapolis Institute of Art, The bunker artspace USA, Weisman Art Museum Minnesota USA and the Pompidou Centre, Paris.

About Gallery 1957

Based in Accra, with a London outpost opened in 2020, Gallery 1957 has a curatorial focus on West Africa. Presenting a programme of exhibitions, installations and performances by the region's most significant artists, the gallery serves as a vital platform, promoting West Africa's presence within the art scene by hosting ambitious exhibitions, providing resources for residencies and participating in international art fairs. Founded by Marwan Zakhem in 2016, Gallery 1957 has evolved from over 15 years of private collecting. The gallery now hosts three spaces in Accra – one in the Kempinski Hotel and two in the Galleria Mall – and a London outpost in Hyde Park Gate.

Artist: Salah Elmur

Title: *An Anniversary*

Dates: 1st October- 6th November 2021

Opening: 30th September, 2021 - 6pm

Address: Space III, Gallery 1957, Located at the Galleria Mall, Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel, Accra - Ghana.

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