

**Salah Elmur**

***Central Electricity and Water Administration***

**16<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, London**

*“I still remember the bill collector knocking on the door. And I see the water tanks. Towers made of cement; high rises loaded with water that break the sky... These beautiful buildings touch my heart and soul.”*

– Salah Elmur, 2022

Gallery 1957 and Vigo Gallery are proud to collaborate on a joint exhibition and publication of monumental new paintings, set across both London galleries, by Cairo-based Sudanese artist Salah Elmur (Sudan, 1966). *Central Electricity and Water Administration* will be the artist's second solo show with Gallery 1957 following *An Anniversary* presented in Accra in October 2021.

For Elmur, “Water and Electricity”, the elements necessary for life in the modern world, capture memories real and imagined, and hark back to the magic of his childhood in Sudan. They are our most valuable, precious resources and the infrastructure that has been built around these elements symbolises for him Sudan's modern history and our potential as a species. He uses the imagery of water and power production as a vehicle to absorb and reinterpret memory, place and history.

When somebody from the Central Electricity and Water Administration came knocking on the doors of his village as a child, Elmur was filled with wonder and excitement at the company's plans. Within the structures that house water and distribute electricity, the artist sees stories, shapes, and feelings. He talks of fisherman, bathers, communal celebration, sustenance, anthropomorphic visions, fear and hope, money and power, fantasy and folklore.

Painter, filmmaker, and author Salah Elmur is known for his colourful, symbolic portraits of Sudanese life. Described as nostalgic and surrealistic, Elmur's paintings are recognised for their vocabulary of tilted perspectives and visual distortion, as well as his emblematic inclusions of plants and animals. Many of Elmur's works draw on childhood memories of visiting his grandfather's photography studio. His work also tackles topical socio-political issues: The ongoing *Innocent Prisoner* series, first exhibited in 2021, concerns the history of incarceration in Sudan since the 1960s. He has made six short films in the genres of documentary and fantasy, winning the jury prize at Ethiopia's Images That Matter film festival in 2010 for *Heaven's Bird*.

Elmur graduated in 1989 with a BA in Graphic Design from the Sudan University of Science and Technology. His previous exhibitions include solo presentations at the Sharjah Art Museum (2018), and the Sudanese National Museum, Khartoum (2006). His works have been placed in a number of important public and private collections, such as Le Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Minneapolis Institute of Art Collection, Minneapolis, USA; Zeitz MOCAA

# 1957

Gallery 1957, I, II and III Accra  
Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast  
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# Gallery

Collection, Cape Town, South Africa; Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum Collection, Minneapolis, USA; The Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach, USA; CCH Pounder Collection, New Orleans, USA; Museum of African Contemporary Art, Al Maaden Collection, Marrakesh, Morocco; Sharjah Art Museum Collection, Sharjah, UAE and Sharjah Art Foundation Collection, Sharjah, UAE.

## 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:** *Central Electricity and Water Administration*

**Dates:** 16<sup>rd</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Opening Reception:**

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, [Gallery 1957](#) | 5 - 8pm

Thursday, 16 March, [Vigo Gallery](#) | 12 - 3pm

**Address:**

Gallery 1957  
1 Hyde Park Gate  
London  
SW7 5EW  
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7-8 Masons Yard  
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