

Large Print
Exhibition Guide

Simone Fattal:

Finding a Way

21 September– 15 May

2022



Gallery 2

“She digs out of the clay the possibilities of life. She gives to voiceless earth, a voice, a personality and a soul.” Etel Adnan

Simone Fattal (b. 1942) was born in Damascus, Syria, and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. She studied archeology and philosophy in Paris, France before returning to Beirut in the 1970s to begin her artistic career as a painter. Forced to leave Lebanon by the civil war in 1980, she went to study in San Francisco, USA where she discovered her love of clay. She remembers the first time she touched clay as a re-ignition of her archeological studies: ‘as if all that history came rushing back.’

Fattal’s work – which includes watercolours and collages as well as ceramic and bronze sculptures – exists between figuration and abstraction. She draws on sources ranging from war and conflict to landscape painting, ancient religions and mythologies, Sufi poetry and the fragility of the human form. She explores the impact of displacement and migration as well as the politics of archaeology and excavation. Using recurring motifs and forms, and just

enough detail to make her characters discernable, her works construct worlds that feel as though they have emerged from history and memory.

For her first major commission in the UK, Fattal leads us on a journey of transformation. Imagining the large, brick-lined gallery to be a giant kiln, she fills the space with a procession of ceramic figures embarking on a spiritual and physical metamorphosis. Elements of an ancient landscape appear throughout the space; a delicate ceramic ladder, a series of carved architectural stelai and a Mesopotamian ziggurat temple – connecting earth to heaven – inspire ideas around ascension and emancipation. A series of black and-white etchings, drawn from Fattal's memories of Damascus as a garden paradise, appear as maps or windows for the voyagers.

A fully illustrated catalogue is available from the bookshop. Please enquire at the front desk for details of the artist's limited edition.

List of Works

1 Tree, 2021 Glazed stoneware

2 Tree, 2021 Glazed stoneware

3 From left to right

Hamidiyé, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Au Bord du Barada I, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Collines, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Au Bord du Barada II, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Quassioun, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Opposite wall

Vers les Omeyyades, 2020

Etching

Galerie Lelong & Co.

4 From left to right

Cloud (5,9,1,7,2), 2021

Glazed stoneware

5 Ziggurat, 2014

Stoneware fired in a wood kiln

6 The Ladder, 2021

Glazed stoneware

7 Angel with Shield, 2021

Glazed stoneware

8 Centaur, 2021

Glazed stoneware

9 Stele, 2008

Stoneware fired in a wood kiln

10 Stelai I–V, 2018

Stoneware fired in a wood kiln

11 Walking Man IV, 2021

Glazed stoneware

12 Walking Man II, 2021

Stoneware

Walking Man III, 2021

Stoneware

13 The Master, 2021

Bronze

14 Walking Man I, 2021

Glazed stoneware

15 Flower, 2021

Glazed stoneware

All works courtesy the artist unless stated otherwise.

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