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IDRIS KHAN

The Pattern of Landscape

Sean Kelly, Los Angeles

September 17 – November 5, 2022

Public opening reception: Saturday, September 17, 6-8pm

For the gallery's inaugural exhibition, Sean Kelly, Los Angeles is pleased to announce *The Pattern of Landscape*, a new body of work by Idris Khan. The show features large scale paintings, bronze sculptures, watercolors on paper, and photography. The exhibition is notable for a series of profound developments in Khan's work which incorporates both music and text for the first time. The gallery will be open all day on Saturday, September 17, with a reception from 6-8pm. The artist will be present.

Known for his iconic works rendered predominately in black and white, Khan first incorporated the color blue in a body of work created for his 2019 exhibition, entitled *Blue Rhythms*, at Sean Kelly, New York. In his new paintings, composed of gesso on aluminum, Khan expands his exploration of this tone, incorporating a rich copper blue, with which the artist intends to evoke contemplative, spiritual, and emotional resonances in the viewer. These works mark a further departure, as they incorporate *both* music and text onto a single plane for the first time in Khan's oeuvre. The artist layers a square field of musical notations and scores upon a rectangular ground of text derived from philosophical writings, producing a window of music. This frame within a frame structure is a device Khan hopes will allow for a deeper visual experience. He states, "I want people to come into this very meditative space and stand into these quite large paintings and fall into the frame, that center square that almost feels like it's hovering."

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For Khan, the combination of music and text is his way of representing the rhythm of the world reverberating through daily life. He presents both languages simultaneously with music as the universal language. Compositionally, these paintings present a formal departure from Khan's earlier *Rhythm Paintings*, which featured a line bisecting the canvas to create two separate blocks of text. In these new works, Khan leaves an exposed band of pure color across the bottom of the painting, untouched by music or text, hovering as if part of a pictorial and cultural landscape.

Over the past year, Khan has expanded his interest in, and experimentation with, color, especially through his works in watercolor. Focused on nature and the changing seasons, his first forays in this direction were inspired by Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. His new watercolors take inspiration from Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, a historically evocative piece of music that is cathartic in its composition. This inspired Khan to create a series of twenty-two works that use bold, uniquely mixed colors to mimic the emotional lyrical tone of the music.

The Four Seasons and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Preludes* provided further stimulus for Khan's first sculptures in bronze, two of which are included in the exhibition. Both works are composed of four sheets of bronze, each sheet leaning against the other for support. With the use of 3D printing, Khan has now been able to scrutinize the layering process of his two-dimensional works by inscribing 0.05mm three dimensional layers of the entire score into the surface of his sculptures, translating the artist's painterly touch and his process of holding moments frozen in time.

Idris Khan lives and works in London, United Kingdom. His work is in the permanent collections of many institutions worldwide including, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Albright-Knox Museum, New York; The British Museum, London; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FL; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the de Young Museum, San Francisco; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

Khan has been the subject of major solo exhibitions at international museums including The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, UK; the Whitworth Gallery, the University of Manchester, UK; Gothenburg Konsthall, Sweden; the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, Canada; Kunsthaus Murz, Müzzzuschlag, Austria, and K20, Dusseldorf, Germany. Idris Khan's design for Abu Dhabi's memorial park, Wahat Al Karama, was awarded the 2017 American Architecture Prize. He was appointed an OBE for services to Art in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

For additional information on Idris Khan please visit skny.com

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Image caption: Idris Khan, *Madness in the spring*, 2022, oil based ink on gesso ground, aluminum panel, framed: 83 11/16 x 69 7/16 x 2 inches, © Idris Khan Courtesy: Sean Kelly, New York