



List



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ART

“Simone Fattal”

Fattal's first solo museum exhibition in the United States is a transporting retrospective of paintings, collages, and the small-scale ceramic sculptures for which she is best known. Hand-modelled and simply glazed objects are displayed in dynamic arrangements on grand cylindrical pedestals, bleachers, and a long L-shaped ledge. The vessels and figures, at once personable and iconographic, are highly stylized, with indistinct features and tree-trunk-like legs, suggesting coltishly off-kilter, mysteriously formidable archeological artifacts. Fattal was born in Syria in 1942, grew up in Lebanon, and fled to California in 1980, to escape civil war; in her art, this personal experience of displacement entwines with myth and with political critique. The works' titles refer to characters from Arabian and Greek epics, and also to migrants and refugees. A larger than typical sculpture from 1988, titled “Torso Found in Today’s Downtown Beirut,” is a dramatic example of the artist’s gift for toggling between epochs—it’s a hunk of found alabaster, carved to accentuate its resemblance to both ancient statuary and a body destroyed by war.

—*Johanna Fateman*

Through Sept. 2.

 MOMA PS1
22-25 Jackson Ave.
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[Website](#)

