

Simone Fattal
Standing Figures

kaufmann repetto is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of work by Simone Fattal in Italy, titled *Standing Figures*.

The exhibition aims to give an overview of Fattal's ceramic production, showing a body of work that spans from the early 2000s to more recent years. The collection of sculptures on show is comprised of different subject matters, from legendary figures such as *Balkis* - the queen of Sheba cited in the Holy Quran, the Bible and the Ethiopian Orthodox Kebrä Nagast - to studies of dancers, mythical characters, couples, trees and gardens.

This transversal and inclusive display reflects the artist's approach to her own practice as a *continuum*, a coherent narrative in which history of art, archeology, politics, religion, literature and history are deeply entangled.

Fattal's preoccupations with history, in particular, and the current socio-political global context are reflected in some of the works on view, such as the horse riding warrior or the house on which roof a figure of a woman is seated, perpetually waiting for her soldier husband to come back.

The visceral qualities of clay — its primordial fragility, malleability and strength — provide the artist with a medium through which she can trace the past into the present. Operating as an archeologist, the artist preserves the ancient past through a process of constant renewal. In doing so, Fattal's work disperse and reconnects a complex system of signs and references, creating new bonds and modifying former ones.

Simone Fattal was born in Damascus, Syria and grew up in Lebanon. She studied philosophy at the Ecole des Letters of Beirut and at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1980, fleeing the Syrian Civil War, she settled in California and founded the Post-Apollo Press, a publishing house dedicated to innovative and experimental literary work. She returned to her career as an artist in 1988 through the medium of ceramics.

Fattal recently took part in the renowned show featuring contemporary art from and about the Arab world at the New Museum, entitled *Here and Elsewhere*, curated by Massimiliano Gioni. Other recent shows include a solo exhibition at Sharja Art Foundation, Sharja (2016); *Nel Mezzo del Mezzo* at the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Palermo, Sicily (2016) and *Take me, I'm yours* curated by Hans-Ulrich Obrist and Chiara Parisi at the Monnaie in Paris (2015).