

Farah Al Qasimi

Lady Lady

January 15 – February 13, 2021

Artist Talk: Friday February, 12pm via Zoom ID: 850 2288 3730

COOPER COLE is pleased to present *Lady Lady*, a solo presentation of the work of Farah Al Qasimi. This is the artist's first exhibition at the gallery, and first solo exhibition in Canada.

In this body of photographic work, Al Qasimi explores themes of mimicry, commodification, and escape as they relate to photography and global aesthetics. Looking at both private and public spaces, Al Qasimi considers how popular culture has become a tool for world-building and the formation of value systems for young people in her respective communities.

The photographs in this exhibition zoom in on personal, often idiosyncratic, expressions of identity, culture, and personality through adornment and the assemblages of mass production, whether in teenage bedrooms or shopping malls. Al Qasimi interrogates the roles and uses of photography with careful skepticism, posing that today's visual fluency can often be too trusting of images (such as 'perfect' social media avatars and the inevitable subjectivity of mainstream news media). The artist does so by melding techniques of slick and enticing commercial photography, journalistic editorial photography, and fine art photography in a visual dialogue. Al Qasimi creates images that are luscious and inviting, while maintaining an opacity in their legibility. In doing so, she glitches the customary swiftness with which we are conditioned to consume images.

The title of the exhibition, *Lady Lady*, references an anime cartoon that was translated into Arabic and broadcasted in the Emirates in the 1990s. Imported fantasy worlds such as this one appear frequently in Al Qasimi's work. Her 2020 film *King of Joy* most directly addresses issues of identity and mimicry. In it, the artist appears dressed in a costume purchased from Dragon Mart—a Chinese mall in Dubai—improvising a musical piece and with it, a range of emotions. While this portrait appears to differ from her still, intimate photographs of women and their homes, throughout these works Al Qasimi reflects on the lived experience of transnationalism and the reality that our lives are never completely our own.

Farah Al Qasimi (b.1991, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) received her MFA from the Yale School of Art and has participated in residencies at the Delfina Foundation, London and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine. She is a recipient of the New York NADA Artadia Prize, the Aaron Siskind Individual Photographer's Fellowship, and the 2020 Capricious Photo Award.

Al Qasimi's work has been featured in exhibitions at Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; the San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco; the CCS Bard Galleries at the Hessel Museum of Art, New York; Helena Anrather, New York; The Third Line, Dubai; The List Visual Arts Center at MIT, Cambridge; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cooper Cole, Toronto; and the Houston Center for Photography, Houston. Her recent commission with Public Art Fund, *Back and Forth Disco*, was on view on 100 bus shelters around New York City in 2019 and 2020. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE; Tate Modern, London; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Huis Marseille, Museum for Photography, Amsterdam; Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick; and NYU's Grey Art Gallery, New York. Al Qasimi lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, USA and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

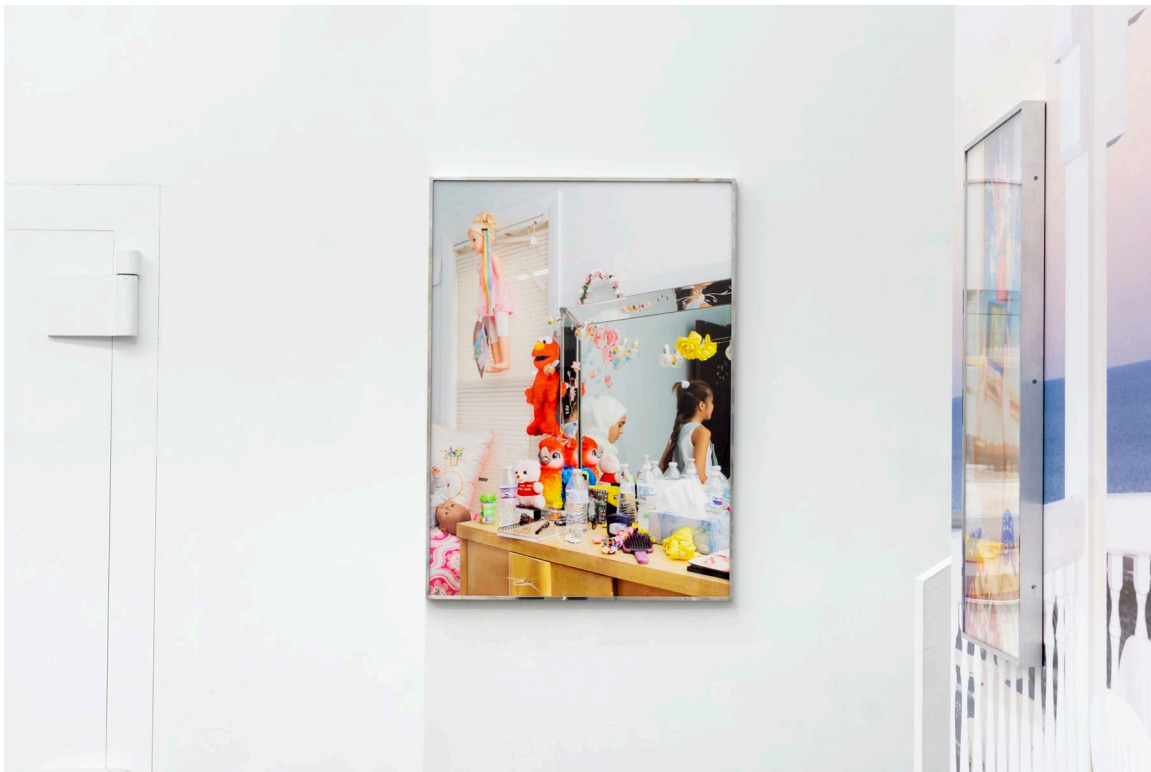
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Farah Al Qasimi
Alone In A Crowd (King of Joy), 2020
Edition 3 of 3 + 1 AP
Video

10 min improvised piano piece at a grand piano while wearing a Dragon Mart clown costume

F.AIQasimi0012

Prices and availability subject to change.



Farah Al Qasimi
A Reclining, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
31 x 40 in (78.7 x 101.6 cm)
F.AIQasimi0002

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Farah Al Qasimi
Anood in the Guest Bedroom, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
31 x 40 in (78.7 x 101.6 cm)
F.AIQasimi0003

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Farah Al Qasimi
Marwa Braiding Marah's Hair, 2019
Edition 3 of 5 + 2 AP
Archival Inkjet Print
40 x 29 in (101.6 x 73.7 cm)
F.AIQasimi0011

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Farah Al Qasimi
Beige Bathroom, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2 AP
Archival Inkjet Print
27 x 35 in (68.6 x 88.9 cm)
F.AIQasimi0005

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Farah Al Qasimi
Noora's Room, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
27 x 35 in (68.6 x 88.9 cm)
F.AIQasimi0010

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Farah Al Qasimi
Khaleej Hair Dance, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
21 x 30 in (53.3 x 76.2 cm)
F.AIQasimi0008

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Farah Al Qasimi
Lady Lady, 2019
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
30 x 21 in (76.2 x 53.3 cm)
F.AIQasimi0009

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Farah Al Qasimi
May's Blue Eye, 2020
Edition 4 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
25 x 18 in (63.5 x 45.7 cm)
F.AIQasimi0001

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Farah Al Qasimi
Drying Rack, 2018
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
18 x 25 in (45.7 x 63.5 cm)
F.AIQasimi0007



Farah Al Qasimi
Carrot Rose, 2020
Edition 1 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
11 x 8 in (27.9 x 20.3 cm)
F.AIQasimi0004

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Farah Al Qasimi
Bloody Palm, 2019
Edition 2 of 5 + 2
Archival Inkjet Print
11 x 8 in (27.9 x 20.3 cm)
F.AIQasimi0006

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Farah Al Qasimi

Born 1991, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, USA, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Education

- 2017 MFA, Yale School of Art
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
2012 BA (with Distinction), Fine Art, Yale University

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Lady Lady*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada
2020 *Funhouse*, Helena Anrather, New York, USA
Brotherville, Wayne State University Undergraduate Library, Detroit, USA
Back and Forth Disco, Public Art Fund, New York, USA
2019 *Open Arm Sea*, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, USA
Arrival, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
List Projects: Farah Al Qasimi, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, USA
Art Basel Statements, solo presentation with The Third Line, Basel, Switzerland
Artist Rooms: Farah Al Qasimi, Jameel Art Center, Dubai
2017 *More Good News*, Helena Anrather, New York
2016 *Coming Up Roses*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
2014 *The World Is Sinking*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Lahore Biennale II*, curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, Lahore, Pakistan
2019 *March Projects*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
BFI London Film Festival, Experimenta Programme
z cx, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto, Canada
PEEL, Francois Ghebaly, Los Angeles, USA
2018 *Conversation 7 with Marcela Pardo Ariza*, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco, USA
Ishara: Signs, Symbols and Shared Languages, Concrete, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
2017 *No to the Invasion: Breakdowns and Side Effects*, Bard CCS, Annandale-on-Hudson, USA
2017 *Doublespeak*, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, USA
Yale MFA Photography Thesis Show, Yale School of Art, New Haven, USA

- A Scream Runs Through The House*, Helena Anrather, New York, USA
- 2016 *Esoteric Rodeo*, Yale School of Art, New Haven, USA
- Walls and Margins*, Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2015 *Black Mirror*, Aperture Foundation, New York, USA
- First Biennial of Contemporary Arab Photography*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- Accented*, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Awards and Residencies

- 2020 Light Work Residency, Syracuse, NY
- 2019 Knight Foundation and Wayne State University Grant Recipient
- 2018 Aaron Siskind Individual Photographer's Grant
- NADA Artadia Award, New York
- 2017 Artist-in-Residence (supported by Abu Dhabi Festival and Maraya Center), Delfina Foundation, London
- Ward Cheney Award for Performance and Composition, Yale School of Art, New Haven
- 2014 Shaikha Salama Foundation and RISD Emerging Artist Fellowship, Abu Dhabi
- Summer Residency, School of Visual Arts, New York
- 2012 Distinction in the Art Major, Yale University, New Haven
- 2011 Artist-in-Residence, Burren College of Art, Ireland
- 2010 Creative and Performing Arts Award, Yale University, New Haven
- 2008 UAE Presidential College Scholarship, Abu Dhabi

Commissions and Publications

- 2020 *Brotherville: Arab Americans in Detroit*, Wayne State University Art Collection
- Bus Shelter Series*, Public Art Fund
- 2019 *Dream Soup: a commissioned video installation for March Projects*, Sharjah Art Foundation
- What Makes a Tradition American?* The New York Times
- Farah Al Qasimi: Arrival*, published by The Third Line
- BAMbill cover artist, Winter/Spring season
- 2018 Illustration for *Foreign-Returned* by Sadia Shepard, The New Yorker
- 2017 *Farah Al Qasimi: Body Shop*, published by Silent Face and Dashwood Books
- Illustration for *My Year of Rest of Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh, Vice Fiction Issue
- It's Not Easy Being Seen*, Alserkal Avenue Commissions, Dubai
- What An Immigrant Murder in Kansas Says About America* Bloomberg Businessweek
- DRAGON! A Virtual Tour of Dragon Mart*, Global Art Forum

- 2015 *New York's Annual Gathering of the Witches*, Vice
Art of the Emirates, Motivate Publishing
Age of Earthquakes, Penguin Press
- 2014 *Where They Work: Rokni and Ramin Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmanian*,
ArtAsiaPacific
- 2013 *Ras Al Khaimah*, the Quiet Emirate, Brownbook

Select Press

- 2020 "Farah Al Qasimi Brings Jubilation to NYC Bus Routes", The New Yorker
"Arrival", reviewed by Murtaza Vali, Artforum
"Um Al Naar", reviewed by Ophelia Lai, Art Asia Pacific
- 2019 "30 Under 30 in Art and Style", Forbes Magazine
"Interview with Ann Binlot", Document Journal
"Farah Al Qasimi: Snapshot", Financial Times
"Interview with Myriam Ben Salah", Kaleidoscope
"Farah Al Qasimi explores spirituality and Gulf history in latest film", Arab News
Unseen Boundaries, Tank Magazine
"Farah Al Qasimi Crosses Unseen Boundaries with Photography", New York Times
"Interview with Rahel Aima", CURA Magazine
- 2018 "6 Emerging Artists Worth Discovering at NADA NY", Artnet
"More Good News", reviewed by Wendy Vogel, Art in America
"More Good News", reviewed by Kaelen Wilson-Goldie, Artforum
- 2017 "500 Words", in conversation with Juliana Halpert, Artforum
"What To See in Art Galleries This Week", (2017/12/06), New York Times
"Farah Al Qasimi at Helena Anrather", The New Yorker
"Who runs the (art) world in the Gulf? Girls!", DAZED
- 2016 "Portfolio", Aperture Magazine: On Feminism
"Farah Al Qasimi", Fotomagazin Edition 6
"What does it mean to be beautiful in Dubai?", The New Republic
"Seeking Myself in the Beauty Parlors of the UAE", Broadly
- 2015 "Breaking new ground in the Persian Gulf", DAZED

Teaching

- 2019 Visiting Lecturer at Pratt Institute
- 2018 Undergraduate Critic in Photography, Rhode Island School of Design
Visiting Lecturer in Photography, NYU Steinhardt Dept of Art and Art Professions
Graduate Critic in Photography, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2014 Photography Faculty, Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai

Lectures

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- 2019 Paul Brach Visiting Artist Lecture, California Institute of the Arts
Gallery Talk with Ilisa Barbash, MIT List Visual Arts Center
Conversations on Practice with Shumon Basar, Jameel Art Center
- 2018 Guest Lecture and Studio Visits, NYU Steinhardt
Keynote Speaker, SPE Southwest Chapter
Guest Lecture and Studio Visits, Rutgers Mason Gross School of Art
Kennedy Family Visiting Artist, University of South Florida
Guest Lecture and Visiting Critic, ICP-Bard MFA Program
Guest Lecture and Visiting Critic, School of Visual Arts
- 2017 Visiting Lecturer, Flagler College, St. Augustine
- 2014 Visiting Lecturer, NYU Abu Dhabi

Public Collections

Museum of Modern Art, New York
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
MIT List Visual Arts Center
Art Jameel
Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona
NYU Grey Art Gallery
Barjeel Art Foundation
Maraya Art Center
Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation