

PRESS RELEASE

***FAHRENHEIT311: Seven Legends of Machismo* by Nadia Kaabi-Linke**

16 March – 9 April 2015

To coincide with Art Week 2015, Lawrie Shabibi is delighted to welcome back Nadia Kaabi-Linke for her second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Fresh from a run of international shows including *No Frills* at Cristina Guerra Contemporary in Lisbon, Portugal, and her London debut with The Mosaic Rooms last October, this exhibition will bring together eight artworks that demonstrate the breath of Kaabi-Linke's practice and preoccupations with modern myths of macho culture and masculinity. 'Fahrenheit311' refers to the melting point of the steroid hormone testosterone, associated with 'manly' characteristics and behavioural patterns. These manifest themselves in the show through themes such as war and heroism, the exploitation of the environment, elitism, violence, heroism, exploitation, pride and ignorance – making connections to the seven deadly sins.

Kaabi-Linke has built up a strong body of work over recent years, preoccupied with places and their histories. Making use of many different media, codifications, contexts and routine structures of daily life, her practice is always questioning, evocative and highly thought provoking.

The central work in the exhibition is *The Altarpiece* (2015). Reminiscent in its form of a religious triptych and coated in gold leaf, the content of the three panels are prints Kaabi-Linke has taken of the bullet-holed exterior of a building in central Berlin, which has numerous historical associations. It was a former bunker of the German Reich Railway built by forced labour to shelter civilians during World War II, used as a textile warehouse by the Red Army during the Cold War, a store for fruits when it was called 'the banana bunker' and later re-appropriated for techno parties and art exhibitions. Restructured, today it holds artworks of the Boros Collection.

"Referencing the history of a real object (the bunker) as well as the object of history (the representation of past events), *The Altarpiece* becomes a metaphor for the eternal conservation of vanishing historical traces", comments artist Kaabi-Linke. "By creating a link between the wounds inflicted on buildings during war and religious subjects depicted in traditional, Christian altarpieces such as the stigmata of the Messiah, when open *The Altarpiece* reveals some dark spots of German history. But the doors can be closed, just as cultural and political strategies are to cover-up the past and create new facades on buildings, and we are left with beautiful, golden object or golden square – a familiar symbol of stability and wealth in Germany.

Other works in the exhibition will include *Tunisian Americans* (2012), a wall installation of 400 tiny flacons (small bottles in which kohl is sold) containing soil from 400 US military graves in Tunisia, *Impunities London Originals* (2012) documenting traces of domestic violence; *A Short History of Salt and Sun* (2013) wall prints signifying the decay and failure of the Tunisian tourism industry and three related works from 2015 *Grindballs*, *Hardballs* and *Bangballs* which comment on sexual dominance, exploitation of the environment, construction and warfare and being under pressure.

“It has been a joy to watch the rise in recognition for the dedicated practice of Nadia Kaabi-Linke since her debut exhibition with us three years ago” agree Directors and Co-founders of the gallery, Asmaa Al-Shabibi and William Lawrie. “Listed in the top 50 female artists by Art & Auction magazine last year, Kaabi-Linke’s work is resolutely un-feminine – her working methods often involve her entering spaces which are usually in the male domain and it is an interesting twist to look at her recent pieces from the angle of macho culture. The new works in this show are rooted in history but comment on troubles rife in our contemporary society.”

Lawrie Shabibi would additionally like to announce that they are supporting a new publication recording the prolific output of Nadia Kaabi-Linke from 2010-15. Through a thorough investigation of her working methods, influences and modes of thinking, the monograph seeks to present a coherent, thematic categorization of her artworks and their interrelationships, which are often hard to classify. With essays commissioned by leading curators who have worked with Kaabi-Linke over recent years, the monograph will be launched in conjunction with her first major solo exhibition in the US, at Dallas Contemporary in September 2015.

Artist Biography

Nadia Kaabi-Linke (b. Tunis, 1978) is a Russian-Tunisian artist, who studied at the University of Fine Arts in Tunis (1999) before receiving a PhD from the Sorbonne University in Paris (2008). She currently lives and works in Berlin. Her installations, objects and pictorial works are embedded in urban contexts, intertwined with memory and geographically and politically constructed identities. Her last solo exhibitions were No Frills (2015) in Lisbon, Portugal, “The Future Rewound and The Cabinet of Souls”(2014) at the Mosaic Rooms in London, “In confinement my desolate mind desires” in Hong Kong and “Stranded” (2014) in Lisbon, Portugal, “No One Harms Me...”(2013) in Kolkata, India, “Black is the New White”(2012) in Dubai, UAE, and “Tatort/Crime Scene” (2010) in Berlin, Germany. She has participated in group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA, the Nam June Paik Art Center at Geonggi-do, Korea (2013); the Liverpool Biennial, UK; Herbert F Johnson Museum, Ithaca, NY, USA (2012); and 54th Venice Biennial in Italy (2011), Sharjah Biennial (2009). Her works are part of several public and private collections including the Burger Collection, Museum of Modern Art, New York, M+ Hong Kong, the VehbiKoç Foundation, Turkey, the Samdani Collection, Bangladesh, Villa Datriis, France and the KamelLazaar Collection, Tunis.

About Lawrie Shabibi

Lawrie Shabibi is a contemporary art gallery housed in a 3000 square foot warehouse in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. The gallery’s programme supports international contemporary artists mainly from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. By holding a regular programme of exhibitions, screenings and talks, publishing catalogues and participating in international art fairs, the gallery engages the wider local and international community. The gallery represents Hamra Abbas, Adel Abidin, Wafaa Bilal, AsadFaulwell, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, TausMakhacheva, Nabil Nahas, DrissOuadahi, Nathaniel Rackowe, Marwan Sahmarani, Larissa Sansour, YasamSasmazer, ShahpourPouyan and AdeeluzZafar.

Media Contact

For more information, images or media enquiries contact Nadine Fattouh

nadine@lawrieshabibi.com

+9714 3469906

www.lawrieshabibi.com