

EXPOCHGO



2026 Presentation



Ariane Hafizi



Rahma Lhoussig

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Press Release

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Hafizi and Lhoussig: Condition of Illness and Metaphor of Entropy

dmincubator gallery presents paintings and drawings by Ariane Hafizi (1981 ~ 2015) and Rahma Lhoussig (b. 1986) and at Expo Chicago 2026, the two women artists of Moroccan and Latinx/Iranian lineages respectively.

Ariane Hafizi pursued a spiritually concerned expressionism driven by her concern for the earth and connection to her inner being through the exploration of a symbolic and semi-abstract painterly language. Even after her diagnosis with breast cancer and eventual passing, Hafizi continues to exhibit posthumously, including recently at Joan Hisaoka Art Gallery in Virginia (2020 - 2021) and at Galeria Juan Risso in Madrid, Spain (2019).

Rahma Lhoussig pioneers a kind of realism that could be described as "playful" due to its accumulation of objects and symbolisms that associate with one another to create new meanings. Lhoussig anchors her art on the foundation of realism, which at times approaches the realm of magic realism. Lhoussig is an internationally exhibiting artist with recent exhibitions at National Museum of Contemporary Art in Lisbon (2023) and at Casablanca in Morocco (2022).

The link between Hafizi and Lhoussig may lie within the metaphor of entropy as Lhoussig's paintings often reflect a disorderly state of creativity. Entropy leads to the eventual heat death and end of the universe. Just as Hafizi, upon finding out her diagnosis, made a stronger push to return to her spiritual roots, Lhoussig invokes the power of creative play to reverse the direction of disorderliness.

As Hafizi and Lhoussig demonstrate, it is human nature to seek problem-solving and to overcome the limitations of our world and being, which can only be done from a spiritually sound place of healing and sincerity.





Ariane Hafizi

Uruguayan-American, 1981 - 2015

Natalia Ariane Hafizi-Marianovich was born in Boulder, Colorado, to Bahman Hafizi, an Iranian-born physicist, and Carmen Marianovich, a Uruguayan software engineer of Galician and Croatian heritage. Raised in Bethesda, Maryland, she showed a lifelong curiosity for art, philosophy, and nature. In 1999, she moved to New York City to attend the Parsons School of Design, where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2004.

During her years in New York, Ariane lived in the creative enclaves of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn, developing a distinctive visual language that reflected her introspective and spiritual nature. Alongside her painting practice, she worked as a graphic and web designer and trained in reiki and bodytalk, embracing a holistic approach to life through yoga, meditation, and connection with the natural world.

In 2012, following her diagnosis with breast cancer, Ariane returned to Bethesda, where she continued to create, meditate, and manage her family's research company. Her later works, marked by stillness and luminosity, embody an intimate dialogue between body, mind, and nature. Through her art, she expressed a deep sense of harmony and transcendence, capturing the mystery of existence with quiet grace.

Since her passing in 2015, Ariane's work has continued to resonate deeply with audiences. Her paintings have been exhibited internationally, including solo shows at Juan Risso Gallery (Madrid, 2019), the Inter-American Development Bank Staff Association Art Gallery (Washington, DC, 2019), and the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery (Virginia, 2020–2021), as well as in Punta del Este, Uruguay (2018 and 2019).

Her legacy endures as a testament to her vision—an artist who transformed her inner journey into luminous expressions of peace, presence, and the beauty of being.



Ariane Hafizi

(Collaborator: Oliver de Lantsheere)

F056 (circa 2007-2009)

Acrylic on canvas, 72 x 61 inches | 184 x 155 cm





Ariane Hafizi

Figures on Red (Fig. 02110) (circa 2002-2004)

Acrylic and gouache on high quality
acid-free art paper, 23 x 21.4 inches | 59 x 54 cm



Ariane Hafizi

Uruguayan-American

Education

2012 - 2014 Yellow Barn Studio Painting and Ceramic

Courses

2006 School of Visual Arts, New York, NY.

Continuing Education in Typography

2005 Jewelry Course with artist Olga Piria

Uruguay

2004 Parsons School of Design, New York, NY.

BFA Fine Arts

Exhibitions

2025 Art Miami Fair, Miami, FL.

2025 Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Southampton, NY.

2025 Solo Exhibition, Victor Gallery, New York, NY.

2024 Group Exhibition, Victor Gallery and Watergate
Hotel, Washington D.C.



Exhibitions

- 2020 - 2021 Solo Exhibition, Joan Hisaoka Healing Art Gallery at Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Virginia.
- 2019 Solo Exhibition, Interamerican Bank of Development, Washington
- 2019 Solo Exhibition, Galeria Juan Risso, Madrid, Spain
- 2019 Group Show of Paintings, Expo Punta Arte, Punta del Este, Uruguay
- 2018 Group Show of Paintings, Expo Punta Arte, Punta del Este, Uruguay
- 2014 Group Show of Paintings, Wonderbread Factory, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 Group Show of Paintings, Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo, Maryland
- 2005 - 2006 Small Sculptures HPGRP, Delicate Kinship, Tokyo, Japan
- 2005 Exhibition of Drawings, Eat Records, New York, NY.



Exhibitions

- 2004 Group Show of Drawings, Wamp Collective, NY.
- 2004 Group Show of Paintings, Maryland.
- 2004 Exhibition of Paintings, Neo-Con Street Fair, New York, NY.
- 2003 Group Show of Paintings, Brooklyn Publik House Show, New York, NY.
- 2001 52 Min. Collaborative Video at Void, Luxx, Boogaloo, New York, NY.



Rahma Lhoussig

b. 1986 Taroudant, Morocco

Rahma Lhoussig has established herself as a talented painter and draughtswoman, renowned for her unique iconography of the unfinished. She graduated from the National Institute of Fine Arts in Tetouan. Lhoussig's artwork is characterized by a captivating blend of animals, everyday objects, and nature. Her compositions emanate a familiar atmosphere, where dissonant elements coexist harmoniously. Animals, flowers, insects, and tools intertwine, creating a mesmerizing tapestry of imagery. Drawing inspiration from vivid, dreamlike experiences, Lhoussig skillfully captures her nocturnal visions on canvas, immortalizing them for the world to see.

In her introspective exploration of the human condition, Lhoussig often associates the human body with external forces, either in the form of ordinary objects or with zoomorphic qualities. Through this approach, she delves into the realm of unconscious internal conflicts, shedding light on the complexities of human emotions and experiences.

In Lhoussig's artistic process, the lines of her creations become untethered, and the bodies themselves seem to evaporate, giving birth to a new world of abstract and ethereal forms. This transformation invites viewers to embark on a journey of contemplation, where the boundaries between reality and imagination blur, and new possibilities unfold.

Rahma Lhoussig's artistry represents a profound exploration of the human psyche, inviting audiences to delve into the enigmatic realms of the unfinished and discover the profound beauty that lies within. Her distinctive visual language and evocative symbolism continue to captivate art enthusiasts worldwide, solidifying her place as an esteemed artist in the contemporary art scene.



Rahma Lhoussig

Play Time 3 (2023)

Mixed technique on canvas

51.2 x 47.4 inches | 120.5×130.5 cm



Rahma Lhoussig
Playtime 2 (2023)
Mixed technique on canvas
47.2 × 59.3 inches | 120 × 150.5 cm





Rahma Lhoussig

b. 1986 Taroudant, Morocco

Education:

National Institute of Fine Arts of Tetouan

Solo Exhibitions

2023 National Museum of Contemporary Art, Lisbon

2022 Solo show, "While our eyes can't see",
Casablanca, Morocco

2022 Solo show "Unfamiliar States", London, UK

2021 1-54 Insider, Montresso Foundation, Marrakech

2020 "Tell me the morning is on its way", Kulte gallery
and edition, Rabat, Morocco



Group Show:

- 2023 Group exhibition, "Un-Buried Memories" African Arty – 1-54 Marrakech VIP Program, Morocco
- 2022 Group exhibition, "Art is Child's Play" African Arty, Casablanca, Morocco
- 2021 Group exhibition, Cervantes Institute, Tangier, Morocco
- 2021 Group exhibition "INBA generation", Kent Gallery, Tangier, Morocco
- 2021 "The promises of art" Mohammed 6 Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and Contemporary Art, Rabat, Morocco
- 2021 "What dies lasts" Mahal Artspace, Tangier, Morocco
- 2019 Group show, Banque Populaire Gallery, Rabat, Morocco
- 2018 Group show, Artweek Casablanca, Mastermind7, Prestigia Gallery, Casablanca, Morocco



Art Fairs

- 2024 Art Miami. UniX Gallery. Miami Fl
- 2022 Investec Cape Town Art fair, South Africa
- 2021 Taiwan Annual Art fair "What dies lasts"

Residences

- 2021 Artist residency, CDA Gallery, Casablanca
- 2020 Art Residency "Jardin Rouge", Marakech, Morocco
- 2019 "Jardin Rouge" Art Residency. Montresso Foundation, Marrakech, Morocco