

## **Infinite Malachite**

A solo show by Samy Elias

15 May - 09 July 2023

Gypsum is pleased to present "Infinite Malachite," the second solo show by Samy Elias at the gallery. His new series of mixed media on canvas builds on an earlier preoccupation with the distance between source and subject, and what we deem sublime. While his first body of work drew upon a collection of disparate yet recognizable mass-media sources from portraiture to landscape, with "Infinite Malachite" Elias scans a singular subject and generates nuanced variations on its theme.

Starting with found black and white photographs of an exalted mountainous terrain, Elias ensues on a process of replication, coloration and montage to generate vast, subdued and unpopulated landscapes. Digital images are first recolored and collaged with other images in shades of ochre, blue and olive. The soft-edged collages are transferred to medium and large-format canvas using reactive dyes where pigment is gradually absorbed onto the surface of the canvas and a hazy image of a stark majestic horizon emerges. A final layer of grainy spray paint completes the process. As the imprint of each peak fades out of focus, a material abstract pigmentation of saturated color surfaces forward.

**Samy Elias** is an artist, collector, and entrepreneur. He holds a diploma in Finance and the Art Market from Sotheby's Art Institute, a BA in Art Vision and Economics from the American University in Cairo, and an MA in Design Studies from Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design. Early on in his career, Samy won the Youth Salon Egyptian National Competition held at the Cairo Opera House. Since then, he has organized talks about design in various spaces around Cairo, including the Goethe Institute and British Council, and has lectured at The American University in Cairo. Samy has taken part in the Cyfuniad 2001 in Barmouth, Wales, a residency organized by Liverpool Hope University and exhibited his work in the Public Art Exhibition, Townhouse Gallery, Gypsum Gallery, Mashrabia Gallery, Akhenaton Gallery and the Goethe Institute. His last solo show at Gypsum, "Engram", took place in May 2021.