

Pictures From a New York Album

Ahmed Morsi

4 November - 7 December 2020

Gypsum has the pleasure to present its second solo show by Egyptian artist Ahmed Morsi. The exhibition, which includes drawing, mixed-media, photography, painting and printmaking, showcases different series of each medium. The works, all of which are post 1970, are viewed as prompts to the printmaking practice which came in 1976, after Morsi relocated to New York City, as a formal excursion exploring repetition and the singularity of "copies".

In this exhibition we aim to prelude the newly-published book *Ahmed Morsi: The Printmaking Years*, by thinking through works produced in the context of New York as a different site of production and thought. We reflect on the symbols that persisted and the new forms that emerged across the different media that surrounded the labor-intensive printmaking practice.

Bringing together works from an expansive practice of 550 prints executed in New York City in the 70s, 80s and 90s, and lasting through 2012, *Ahmed Morsi: The Printmaking Years* aims to document and give context to this nuanced collection of works in Morsi's extensive oeuvre, particularly at a moment in cultural history in which the medium was at the forefront of art production. This book also hopes to contribute to new discourses that broaden the narratives of global Surrealism and its canon. It features newly commissioned texts by Duro Oluwo, Sarah Rifky and Amina Diab, alongside a comprehensive presentation of Morsi's printmaking—which spans silkscreens, lithography, etching and linocut.

Ahmed Morsi: The Printmaking Years is Gypsum Books' inaugural publication. A bilingual (English-Arabic) venture, Gypsum Books aims to engage with different art forms, disciplines and practices, many of which exist outside the gallery format.

BIO

AHMED MORSI (b. 1930, Alexandria) studied English literature at Alexandria University and developed an independent painting practice in his native city in the 1950s. Upon his graduation, Morsi relocated to Baghdad, at a time when the city was a hub for artists and literati. Alongside producing visionary paintings and stage sets, Morsi co-founded in 1968 the avant-garde magazine "Galerie 68" with some of Egypt's most prominent contemporary writers and artists. In 1974, Morsi moved to New York City, where he lives and works to this day.

Morsi's work has been acquired by various regional and international institutions including The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; The British Museum, London; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Barjeel Art foundation, Sharjah; The Egyptian Museum of Modern Art, Cairo and The Alexandria Museum of Fine Art, Alexandria. His work is also held in private collections in the Middle East, Europe, Canada and the US.