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TENSEGRITY RUBA SALAMEH

17 October - 31 December 2020 Zawyeh Gallery, Unti 27, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

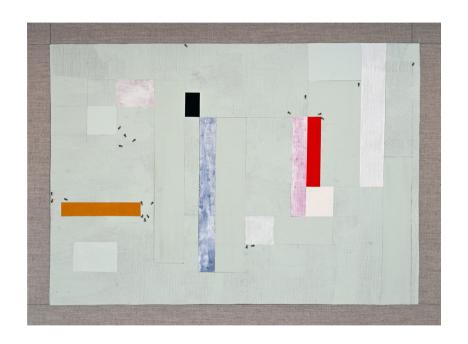
In her recent artwork series titled "Tensegrity", Ruba Salameh breaks the rules or rather breaks free from the authority of the art form. Salameh builds concrete structures of abstract arrangements compromised of geometrical shapes using cold pastel colors and distributing the shapes carefully and minimally on the canvas. Yet, this monotonous harmony is disrupted suddenly and in a rather unexpected way. Salameh discretely introduces hordes of small chaotic ants crawling about in curiosity, assembling around the shapes as if trying to jointly carry them away. They gather in the corners as if stuck in search for their nest or are scattering around in conflicting paths.

Perhaps ants' existence amongst a group of geometrical shapes in an artwork is a form of rebellion towards the traditional rules of art, as their presence transcends being part of the aesthetics and brings attention to these creatures' pervasive organic ubiquity.

In a sense, one can feel these ants as an extraterrestrial element imposed on the artworks to disrupt the neat symmetrical aesthetic arrangement, although as organic creatures of the earth their presence on a piece of natural linen canvas shouldn't be viewed as disruptive. Salameh plays on this contradiction consciously, putting ants in the center of attention, despite their discrete existence on the canvas similar to their organic discrete survival on earth.

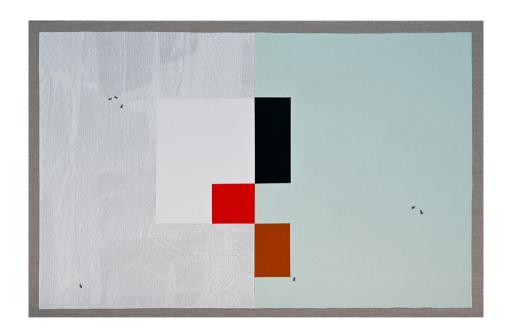
The artworks bring to mind a striking similarity of the notion of resilience of an indigenous population in a situation where their own living space diminishes continuously as a result of an incessant expanding domination by a colonial power. Slowly and discretely, the indigenous population daily motions transform to a form of disruption to the supremacy of the dominant power.

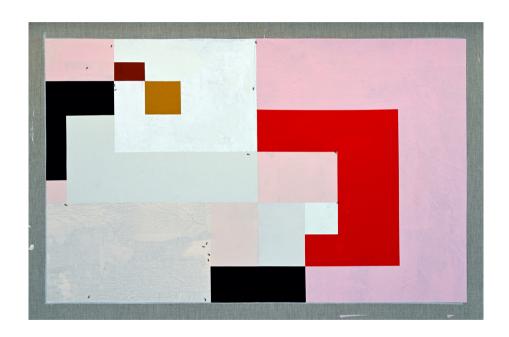
"Tensegrity" is a representation of the disruption actions created by indigenous populations in rebellion towards external powers subjugation and attempts of consistent erasure. Even though this erasure might happen in a setup that unaware viewers might find pleasing from afar.





Family Portrait (2020), acrylic on linen, 62 x 102 cm

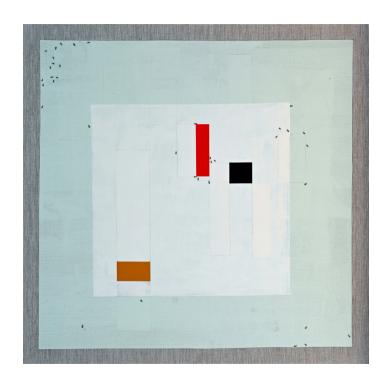






Composition 2 (2020), acrylic on linen, 121 x 94 cm

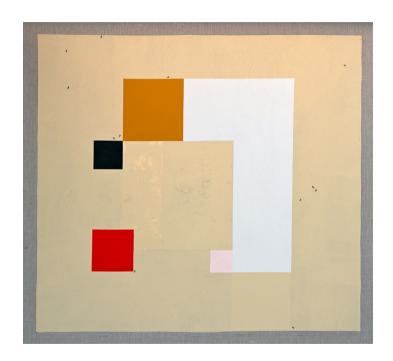




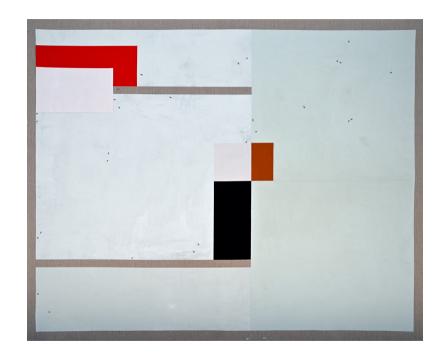


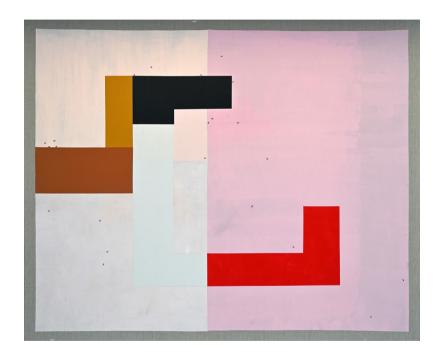


Stripcle B.R.O (2020), acrylic on linen, 89 x 127 cm

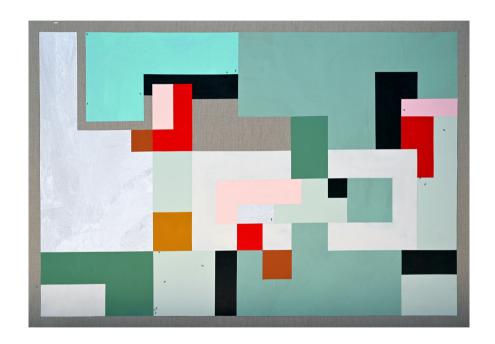








Urbahn Pink (2020), acrylic on linen, 146 x 178 cm





Ants Work (2005), acrylic on canvas, D120 cm

BIOGRAPHY

Ruba Salameh is a visual artist who was born in Nazareth in 1985. She obtained both B.A (2006-10) and M.F.A in Fine Arts at Bezalel Academy for Arts and Design in Jerusalem (2012-2014). She works with a variety of mediums including painting, video and installation.

Through her work she questions notions of land, geographies, displacement, nationalism and in-between temporalities, in an attempt at contemplating various scenarios of the daily life which in many cases lead to a state of dystopia, using cynicism and irony as tools for political suspension points.

Recently, she has been working as a lecturer in the History of Art painting and practical classic painting at the Arab College in Haifa in addition to conducting short term workshops at Bezalel Academy. Ruba is currently working on a research film about the Palestinian cultural scene that appeared in Haifa in the last two years, and its complex relation to self-organization / autonomy and how it is operating within the constantly changing environment.

She participated in several exhibitions including "Limitless" at The walled Off Hotel, Bethlehem, 2019 curated by Rana Anani; Contemporary Arabesque, Museum of Islamic Art, Jerusalem, 2018; SRINAGAR BIENNALE, Basel, 2018; and "Ghost Dance" Group Exhibition curated by Fadwa Naamna, Haifa, 2017. Salameh lives and works in Berlin.



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