Press Release

Beyond Contested Histories: Jack Persekian Revisits Jerusalem at Zawyeh Gallery

Jerusalem – Take II examines the city's layered histories and changing landscape, bringing past and present into dialogue while revealing the extraordinary beauty of Jerusalem and its lived environment.



Dubai - 7 Novemeber 2026: Zawyeh Gallery presents *Jerusalem – Take II*, a solo exhibition by Jack Persekian, on view from 14 November 2026 to 10 January 2027 at Alserkal Avenue, Dubai. Through a process of visual archaeology, Persekian examines the ways in which Jerusalem has been represented, reconstructed, and imagined over time, exploring the histories embedded within its landscape alongside the remarkable beauty of the city itself.

Jerusalem's landscape bears the traces of competing histories, ideologies, and claims, shaped by generations who have inhabited, ruled over, or sought to claim the city. Persekian's works examine how preservation can privilege certain historical narratives while obscuring others, bringing what has disappeared into dialogue with what remains. In doing so, they challenge nostalgic and often colonial representations of Jerusalem as an imagined, mythical place detached from the realities of its inhabitants, revealing instead a city whose landscape and identity have never ceased to change.

Beyond these historical narratives, the exhibition draws attention to Jerusalem's distinctive beauty, found equally in the scale of its landscape and the smallest details of its lived environment. Colour plays a central role in this exploration, bringing into focus the subtle variations of limestone, the warmth of rooftops, and the changing light across streets, hills, and valleys. Through these elements, Persekian reveals a visual richness that is both monumental and intimate, shaped by the relationship between the city's architecture, natural surroundings, and the generations who have contributed to its making.

The exhibition also reflects on Jerusalem's association with the earthly paradise, recalling traditions that place the city just beyond the gates of Eden. This connection introduces a consideration of where Jerusalem's sanctity might lie: not necessarily in the competing claims to its holiness or attempts to reconstruct it according to a particular vision of history, but in the extraordinary beauty of the city and the life that continues to unfold within it.

Jerusalem – Take II offers a perspective on Jerusalem that considers both the histories that have shaped its representation and the beauty of its present reality. Rather than imagining the city as a heavenly place, Persekian draws attention to the magnificence already present in its landscape, its intricate details, and the richness of the life that continues to shape it.

Exhibition Facts:
Jerusalem – Take II
Jack Persekian
14 November 2026 – 10 January 2027
Zawyeh Gallery, Unit 27, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

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