
Alan Cristea Gallery

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Press Release December 2018

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Etel Adnan: The Colour of Memories

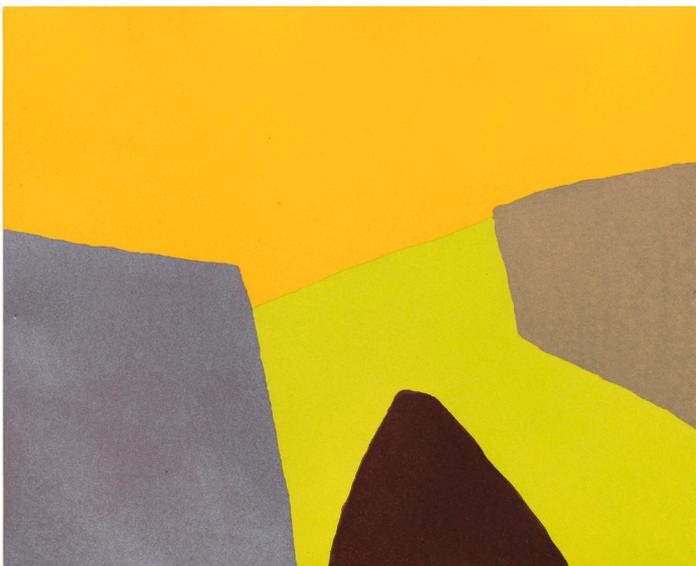
28 February - 30 March 2019

The Alan Cristea Gallery will unveil new works by Etel Adnan in the artist's first solo exhibition, entitled *Etel Adnan: The Colour of Memories* at the gallery from 28 February – 30 March 2019. Acclaimed throughout her life for her writing, particularly her poetry, it was not until her inclusion in Documenta 13 in Germany in 2012 that she came to prominence as a visual artist. She has now been celebrated in major solo exhibitions all over the world, including San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA (2018); Zentrum Paul Klee, Lucerne, Switzerland (2018); Serpentine Galleries, London (2016); and Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2015). More recently, Adnan has incorporated printmaking into her practice, and our exhibition features a selection of prints created over the past year and a half. The works depict landscapes of personal importance, rendered with large bands of pure colour and through recurring abstract motifs.

Adnan was born in 1925 in French-speaking Beirut to a Syrian father and a Greek mother. Her international roots and her studies in philosophy in Paris and the USA led her to a fascination with language. It was not until the artist was 36 that she turned to painting as a means of artistic expression, a move that was prompted, in part, by her decision to stop writing in French following the Algerian War in the early 1960s. Adnan's work explores both the political and personal dimensions of her exile from familiar landscapes and languages.



Etel Adnan; *Paysage du Feu*, 2017. Etching. Paper and image 56.9 x 45.2 cm. Edition of 35. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.



Etel Adnan, *Vue Sur La Mer*. 2017. Etching. 48.0 x 38.0 cm. Edition of 35. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.

For this new body of etchings, Adnan depicts mountains, skylines, sunsets, oceans, and vast stretches of land from memory. A landscape distilled into large strips of yellow and orange in *En vers le desert* (2017) is reminiscent of her native Lebanon, whilst warm skies and brightly coloured fields in *Paysage du Feu* (2017) recall the scenery of Mount Tamalpais in California, a landscape Adnan viewed from her window during her time teaching at the Dominican College of San Rafael from the 1950s to the 1970s. Adnan comments, "I am particularly sensitive to places, to wherever I am. Places act on us like the quality of the water affects fish. Places are a part of nature, of the bigger picture. We are interrelated. When we contemplate them on their own right they can sometimes change our lives, they can sometimes become spiritual experiences."

Having found expression in poetry, scholarship, painting and now printmaking, her work is a testament to a deep curiosity and engagement with the world, be that political, personal or physical.

Etel Adnan: The Colour of Memories will be exhibited in the Print Project Space which presents an ongoing programme of public displays featuring works by the gallery's roster of international artists.

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About the artist

Etel Adnan, poet, writer and painter, was born in 1925 in Beirut, Lebanon. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne, Paris and in January 1955 went to the United States to pursue post-graduate studies in philosophy at University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard.

In 2012, Adnan was included in Documenta 13 in Germany. Since then numerous museums have presented solo exhibitions of her work, including San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2018); Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2018); Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2018); Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (2017); Serpentine Galleries, London (2016); Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (2016); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2015) and Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria (2014).

Her work is held in collections all over the world including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; British Museum, London; Mathaf, Doha; Royal Jordanian Museum; Tunis Modern Art Museum; Sursock Museum, Beirut; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington D.C.

In 2014, Adnan was awarded France's highest cultural honour, the Ordre de Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.

Etel Adnan lives and works in Paris, France.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

Prompted by a continuing ambition to 'paper the world in original art', Alan Cristea opened his eponymous gallery in 1995. The gallery is the primary representative for a number of renowned contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists, and is one of the world's leading publishers of original contemporary prints and editions. Having expanded considerably over the past 21 years, in October 2016 the gallery moved to new, larger, bespoke premises, better suited to the representation of the gallery's growing roster of celebrated and international artists.

The Alan Cristea Gallery is entirely artist-led and is dedicated to assisting artists in bringing new bodies of work to fruition, including editions, works on paper, paintings, sculpture or installations, which are presented in a continuous programme of public exhibitions, events and art fairs. Alongside this, the gallery also draws on Alan's 50 years of experience in the art world to provide unrivalled access to the best examples of original prints by the modern masters of the 20th and 21st centuries, from Naum Gabo, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso to Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney and Andy Warhol.

The gallery continues to extend the legacy of some of art history's most important figures through its work with the Estates of Josef and Anni Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Naum Gabo, Richard Hamilton and Tom Wesselmann.

Visitor information:

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm
Sat 11am - 2pm
Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Travel:
Piccadilly or Green Park tube station

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#EtelAdnan