

# YARAT

## BAKU MOMA PRESENTS LALLA ESSAYDI: BEYOND TIME AND BEAUTY EXHIBITION

**The Baku Museum of Modern Art is pleased to present an exhibition of Lalla Essaydi's work, curated by Dina Nasser-Khadivi, from 14 November 2013 to 14 January 2014.**

Beyond Time and Beauty will be Essaydi's first exhibition in Azerbaijan and follows her retrospective at the Smithsonian Museum of African Art in 2012-13. Bringing together works from across her career, the show will feature the series Harem, Bullets, Converging Territories and Les Femmes du Maroc. As Aida Mahmudova, Founder of YARAT, notes "we are honoured to present Lalla Essaydi's exhibition Beyond Time and Beauty, in collaboration with YARAT. We anticipate this work will greatly interest the public of Baku, who live with many visual traditions, resulting from our long and storied history."

Essaydi came to prominence over the past decade for her re-examination of Orientalist motifs, Islamic iconography and the perception of Middle Eastern women, using photography, mixed-media and installation. Essaydi's formative years were spent in Morocco and Saudi Arabia and she was educated in Europe and the United States. The multiple perspectives created from this mixed experience are integral to her work and its interrogative line: "In my art," Essaydi says, "I wish to present myself through multiple lenses - as artist, as Moroccan, as Saudi, as traditionalist, as Liberal, as Muslim. In short, I invite the viewer to resist stereotypes."

As the curator, Dina Nasser-Khadivi, describes "Essaydi is a remarkable international artist; she navigates pervasive cultural and aesthetic dichotomies to make something wholly original - East and West, Tradition and Modernity and the changing perceptions of women."

Calling upon visual traditions that range from Moroccan harem architecture, to Arabic calligraphy and figures from the Orientalist painting tradition, Essaydi layers the iconography that has shaped her. Her figures in Les Femmes du Maroc are entirely enveloped in Islamic calligraphy – writing, applied in henna, adorns their skin, their robes, and the interiors that surround them. The text seems to entrap the women, and yet it is simultaneously a form of decoration which marks some of the most significant moments of an Islamic woman's life.

A fully illustrated colour catalogue will accompany the exhibition and include an essay by Dr Olga Nefedova, the founding director at the Orientalist Museum, Qatar.

The exhibition is part of a growing programme of international contemporary art exhibitions at the Baku Museum of Modern Art, facilitated by YARAT. YARAT is a not-for-profit contemporary art organisation dedicated to nurturing an understanding of contemporary art in Azerbaijan.

**Exhibition:** Beyond Time and Beauty

**Location:** Baku, AZ1025, 5 Yusuph Safarov

**Telephone:** +994 12 490 84 02

**Dates:** 14 November 2013 – 14 January 2014

**Hours:** 11am – 8pm Tuesday - Sunday

**Website:** [www.mim.az](http://www.mim.az)

**Enter fee:** 5 AZN

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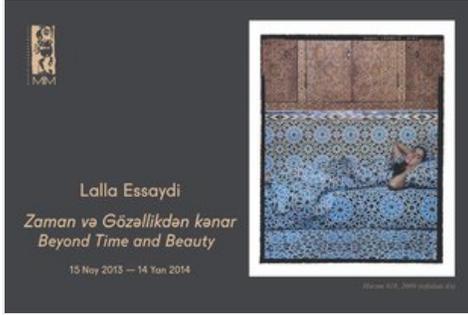
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