

Lobby Art Space hosts Idris
Heref
Lubna Awidat, Mosh Kashi
Curators: Barak Rubin and Livia Tagliacozzo
(Idris)
March 2021

Mosh Kashi (b.1966, Jerusalem) presents a series of four paintings, an inquiry into the possibility of materializing a fleeting moment. An attempt at immortalizing a gesture, a sort of “digestion” of the visible, is translated into paintbrush motions, but ultimately– Kashi admits– the reduction to a frame may simply show the inability of doing so. Still, embracing abstraction enables for the exploration of movement and paves the way for the audience to seize the interpretative reigns. Following this logic, the paintings have no formal orientation, and darkness–rather than color–define the viewing experience. The act of painting via simple gestures and the observation of the final result, constitute acts of meditation over the magnitude of nature, and the struggle of grasping its ephemeral qualities.

Four aluminum sculptures by Lubna Awidat, (b. 1993, Majdal Shams) refer to the title of the exhibition- Heref (הֶרֶף) / Lahda (لحظة)-which in Arabic translates to both “moment” and “breath.” She links the two meanings by examining and reinterpreting concepts and motifs of Druze faith and culture. Mind, consciousness and time are visually interpreted in sculptures combining a modern mechanical look with traditional objects and symbols. Viewers are invited to reflect - both physically and mentally - on the sculptures, to interact with light. The holes in the sculptures allow light to pass through, its empty, negative spaces create a condition where absence becomes the means that characterize the subjects she deals with, inevitably and continuously changing as the spectators move by them.

Kashi and Awidat’s works represent distinct approaches to the quest of visual representation. Awidat makes use of empty spaces and motion in her sculptures, while the light in Kashi’s paintings is manifested across the darkness. In both cases, technique retains a primary function: tackling transitory moments, where antithesis serves the purpose of definition.