

Online Exhibition

## Nadia Waheed

AM I HUMAN YET?

May 27th - July 22nd, 2021



Nadia Waheed, *Lucidity Talks to Transfiguration*, 2021, Acrylic, watercolor, graphite, gouache, paper, 42h x 31 1/2w in

Arsenal Contemporary Art New York is pleased to present Nadia Waheed's solo project, *Am I Human Yet?* Featuring a suite of new paintings on paper, the exhibition negotiates the personal and political in a timely and poignant manner. Whilst Waheed's practice is inherently autobiographical, *Am I Human Yet?* reflects upon our current moment of readdressing social and racial justice from a position of emotional condemnation.

Waheed's previous work focused more on exploring a specific feeling or moment in time, often from a perspective of reconciling cultural trauma. This new body of work is more concerned with catharsis and grief, which is particularly evident in the *Exposure Therapy* series. Feelings and processes interact with each other to form intricate narrative constructs that resonate profoundly with the artist. Waheed has been drawing skeletons and the visceral interior of bodies since she was a child but her recent work is questioning the genesis of these images and their significance with a greater intensity. The characters such as *Transfiguration*, *Lucidity*, and *The Universe* explore the sensation of misalignment or what the artist refers to as vertigo.

The work is a persistent struggle against internal and external adversity in order to progress and generate self-knowledge. Amidst a transitory social upheaval, Waheed's images of the female body dispel pain and anger but they also simultaneously demand uncompromised benevolence. *Am I Human Yet?* represents the determination of agency within a volatile and troubled environment.

**Nadia Waheed** (b. 1992, Saudi Arabia) lives and works in Austin, TX. She holds a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Exhibitions include Mindy Solomon Gallery (Miami, FL), BEERS (London, UK), Thierry Goldberg (New York, NY) and Gallery 1957 (London, UK). Waheed has upcoming exhibitions in 2021 with Andrea Festa Fine Art (Rome, Italy), Lawrie Shabibi (Dubai, UAE) and Aicon Gallery (New York, NY).

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