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al markhiya gallery at the Firestation Artist Residency

is proud to present an exhibition of works by

Yousef Ahmad and Hazem El Mestikawy.

Opening Wednesday, 22 April, 2026

al markhiya gallery presents an exhibition bringing together two pioneering figures of modern Arab art: Qatari painter **Yousef Ahmad** and Egyptian sculptor **Hazem El Mestikawy**. Although the artists have worked across different disciplines and geographies, they share a deep commitment to abstraction rooted in place, material, and cultural memory.

Engaging with the Qatari landscape for decades, Ahmad's paintings capture its unique light and textures, weaving these into a calligraphic visual language that is at once intimate and expressive. El Mestikawy's sculptures present a quieter inquiry into geometry and form, finding in structure and material a type of poetic architecture. Together, their compositions draw on the natural world, histories, and languages that lie at the heart of their practices.

Ahmad's long relationship with Qatar, as a teacher, institution-builder, and artist, has also contributed greatly to the development of cultural life in the country. El Mestikawy's international career demonstrated the breadth and rigour of a practice grounded in the Arab artistic tradition. The exhibition is also a tribute to El Mestikawy, who passed away in April 2024, and a celebration of his rich and multi-layered practice.

For more information contact al markhiya gallery at: **info@almarkhiyagallery.com**