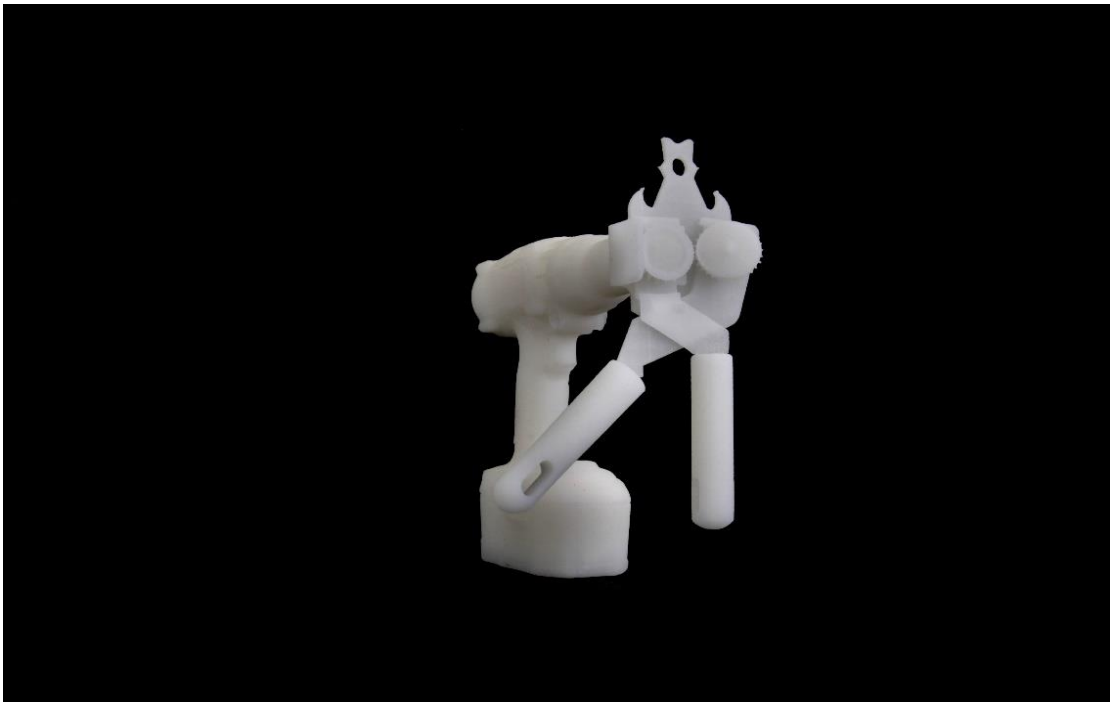
LETITIA
Art Gallery

Ahmed Badry

Portmanteau

18 April - 16 June 2018



Battery Drill Connected to Can Opener, 3D printed object

Letitia Gallery is pleased to announce a new solo exhibition by the Egyptian artist Ahmed Badry, whose sculptures and drawings investigate our relationships with familiar objects in order to question their functionality and place in the everyday. *Portmanteau* will bring together a selection of new and previously seen mixed media works, including six sculptures ranging in size from 50cm to 3.5m, two of which will incorporate 3D printed objects and video projection.

The exhibition is an extension of Badry's previous work, which has sought to transform our perception of everyday objects through the manipulation of scale and context, and to re-examine the role of the omnipresent object within society. The work offers insight into the artist's in-depth research into non-codified objects through a reinterpretation of them in relation to language. By upscaling a bus ticket, a tool or a piece of packaging to epic proportion, Badry magnifies the object's intent and makes the banal unavoidable.

Within *Portmanteau,* Badry has sought to collaborate with artists, writers and linguists in order to explore multiple ways of deconstructing language through the process of naming. The title alludes to the composite objects created by Badry that exist solely as symbols of the potential of their function – for example, a battery drill connected to a can opener, viewed as a whole, does not exist within the current global vernacular. Badry aims to understand and define these objects through naming and assigning

function and, in doing so, create something new, translating the object from a non-verbal hinterland between existence and assigning it relevance to society.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Letitia Gallery

Based in Beirut in the vibrant Hamra neighbourhood, Letitia Gallery is a contemporary art gallery focused on encouraging global engagement with contemporary art in Lebanon through the contextualisation of both local and international artists and their work within the global art environment.

Under the direction of Annie Vartivarian, the gallery has a strong ethos of collaboration and has worked closely with leading international curators to discover artists for its programme. The gallery works on a project-focused model that looks to nurture the growth of regional artists from the MENA region as well as showcasing international artists in Lebanon within a programme of four to five exhibitions a year.

Letitia Gallery offers both local audiences and international visitors the opportunity to discover artists from the region and to gain a deeper understanding of the breadth of their practice through public programming that includes: talks, off-site projects, commissioning new site-specific installations and supporting cultural initiatives in Lebanon and the region.

About the Artist

Ahmed Badry graduated in 2003 from the Helwan University, Faculty of Art Education, Cairo. He lives and works in Cairo.

Badry's body of sculptures and drawings act as a proposition for objects that strive to recover usefulness. The objects, in their current state, only function as tokens for speculation on alternative narratives of production, parallel to and immersed in a neoliberal global economy.

His subjects are often very small but visible in local everyday routines and are simultaneously of great functional importance. He examines the effects of the non-codified objects on language, collapsing the two poles of metaphor and metonymy. Through a process of re-presentation using projection, writing, drawing and 3D printing, the objects lose their ability to be named. The tangled object invokes a disruption in communication or possibly access to new neologisms.

In recent years, Badry has participated in several art Residencies including six months at the Cité des Arts in Paris; three months at the Swiss Art Residency of Canton St. Gallen in Rome and two months at the Delfina Foundation in London.

Badry's solo exhibitions include in 2009, *Made in China* with Anastasia Katsidis at Kasko-Basel, Switzerland, and in 2007 at Al Qahira, Cairo Atelier, Cairo. He has participated in recent group exhibitions such as , *Open House*, Delfina Foundation, London (2017); *Contemporary Artistic Revolutions: An Institutional Perspective*, AUB Gallery, Beirut (2017); D-CAF | Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival, Cairo (2016); *HOME WORKS 7*, Beirut Art Center, Beirut (2015); Kunst (Zeug) Haus Rapperswil, Zurich (2015); *What are you doing, object?,* Gypsum Gallery, Cairo (2015); Museum of Modern and

Contemporary Art, Algiers (2013); *Regionale 13*, Projektraum M54, Basel (2012); *Cairo Documenta 2*, Hotel Viennoise, Cairo (2012); *Regionale 11*, Hegenheim, France and Freiburg, Germany (2011) and at Darat al Funun, Jordan (2010).

Exhibition Details

Title: Ahmed Badry: *Portmanteau*
Address: Tour de Saroula, Hamra, Beirut, Lebanon
Website: www.letitiagallerybeirut.com
Dates: 18th April – 16th June 2018
Private View: 18th April 2018
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturdays: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Admission: Free
Facebook: LetitiaBeirut
Instagram: LetitiaBeirut

For press information and images please contact:

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Ahmed Badry: *Portmanteau*

Letitia Gallery, Beirut

18 April - 16 June 2018

Ahmed Badry, *Battery Drill Connected to Can Opener*, 3D printed object, 30 x 30 x 15cm, courtesy of the artist

For more information on **Ahmed Badry: *Portmanteau*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

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Ahmed Badry, *The Provisionary That Lasts* (series) 1, 2014, Painted cardboard 100 x 40 x 70 cm. courtesy of the artist.

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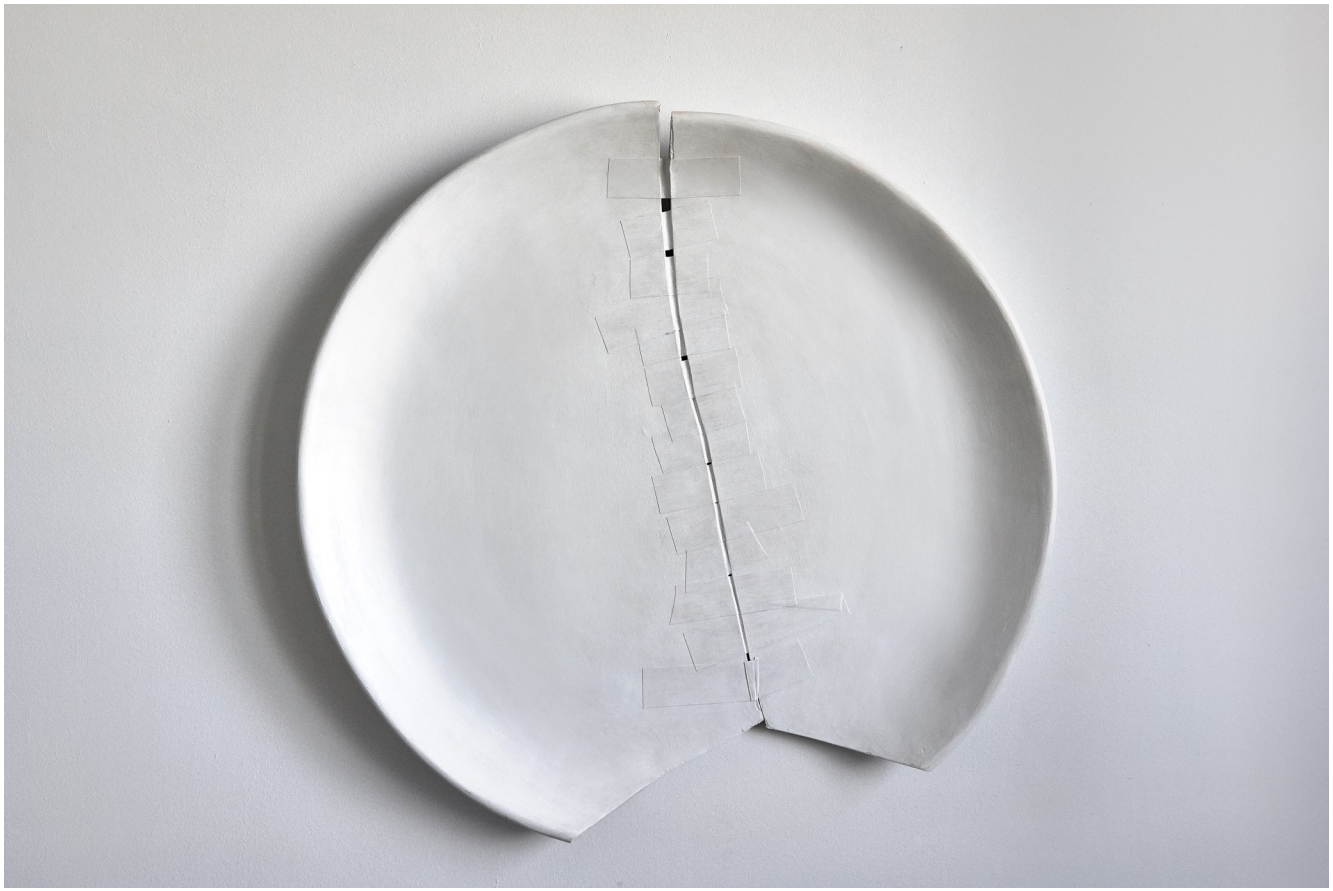

Ahmed Badry, *The Provisionary That Lasts* (series) 2, 2014, Painted Cardboard, 4 x 70 cm. courtesy of the artist.

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Ahmed Badry, *The Provisionary That Lasts* (series) 3, 2016,
Painted Cardboard, 170 X 85 X 160 cm, courtesy of the artist

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