



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence



IDRIS KHAN

27 June - September 2022

This June Château La Coste is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new paintings by British artist Idris Khan. Unveiled in the Richard Rogers Drawing Gallery, the exhibition is Khan's first solo show in France and showcases 24 watercolours, as well as three large paintings.

Drawing on a wide range of cultural sources including literature, philosophical texts, minimalist art, musical scores and religion, and bringing together ideas about time, memory and spirituality, Khan has developed a unique narrative involving densely layered imagery that sits between abstraction and figuration.

Inspired by the minimal architecture of Rogers' pavilion and the poignancy of it being one of the last projects the architect designed, Khan's latest exhibition explores life's journey and the passage of time. On the left-hand wall, visitors encounter the series of watercolours which recall markers

of time and the calendar months. Khan's works invite the viewer's gaze to rise and fall through light and dark colours as they move through the space. The individual watercolour and oil collaged works incorporate elements of sheet music and musical notations.

Entering the corridor-like contemplative space visitors are drawn towards the single window overlooking the distant hills. The delicate precision of Khan's works encourages a slower and more engaged way of looking and an opportunity to reflect on our collective memories of the past two years.

On the opposite wall are three large paintings created this year in a new shade of copper blue. For Khan, the significance of the colour blue lies in "how it can have an immediate effect on emotion, a positive or negative effect on the eye." The works on view are a continuation of the artist's stamp paintings by stamping the surfaces in a free and improvisatory way, Khan achieves a combination of colour and gesture that reflects the natural world as well as his own emotions.

Khan says: "I've long admired the vision of Château La Coste and its fusion between art and architecture. Over the past 10 years, I have created works to do with time, loss and memory. Showing my work in the late Richard Roger's last completed building is a moving experience for me, and I am really looking forward to June and exhibiting my paintings for the first time in France."

The exhibition is co-curated by Gagosian Director Georgina Cohen who adds: "I'm delighted to collaborate with Idris on his first exhibition in France and look forward to seeing his works transform the Richard Rogers Drawing Gallery. I've had the pleasure to know Idris for some time and have seen how his practice has evolved into the internationally recognised artist he is today. I am proud and excited to be part of this exhibition with Château La Coste."

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT IDRIS KHAN

Born in Birmingham in 1978, Idris Khan completed his Master's Degree at the Royal College of Art and lives and works in London. He was appointed OBE for services to Art in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List. In 2023, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA will present the first career survey exhibition by the artist in the United States.

A major survey exhibition *Idris Khan: A World Within* was held at The New Art Gallery Walsall in February 2017, with solo presentations of the artist's work previously staged at national and international institutional venues including the Whitworth Gallery, University of Manchester (2016-2017 and 2012); Sadler's Wells, London (2011); Gothenburg Konsthall, Sweden (2011); Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto (2010); Kunsthaus Murz, Müritzschlag, Austria (2010) and K20, Düsseldorf (2008). His work has also been included in group shows at the National Gallery of Art, Washington (2015); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2014-2015); Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2014); Jeu de Paume, Paris (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, Florida (2013); The British Museum, London (2012); National Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo (2012); Fundament Foundation, Tilburg (2011); Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010); and Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin (2009).

A major public sculpture for London by Khan, commissioned by St George's Plc with London Borough of Southwark as part of the development of One Blackfriars, was unveiled in autumn 2019. Khan's *21 Stones* is currently displayed in The Albukhary Foundation Islamic Gallery, which recently opened at the British Museum, London. *21 Stones* is the British Museum's first site-specific artwork.

In 2016, Khan was commissioned to make a permanent public monument, forming the centrepiece of the new Memorial Park in Abu Dhabi, which was unveiled on the UAE Commemoration Day. In 2017, it received an American Architecture Prize, a World Architecture News Award and a German Design Award. Further commissions include a wall drawing commissioned by the British Museum in 2012 for its exhibition *Hajj: Journey to the Heart of Islam*. In addition, for the duration of the exhibition, Khan's monumental floor installation, *Seven Times*, was installed in the museum's Great Court.

ABOUT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

Château La Coste
2750 Route de La Cride
13610 Le Puy-Sainte-Reparate
www.chateau-la-coste.com

PRESS INFORMATION:

Reiber PR

Naomi Crowther (UK/US)
T. +44 (0)20 7079 3300 / M. 07702 441 742
E. naomi@reiberpr.com

Zénaide d'Albufera (Europe)
T. +32 493 47 62 38
E. zenaide@reiberpr.com