



Photo by Takamasa Ota

48 WALKER ST | SEPT 5 - OCT 4, 2024

## *Jordan Nassar: REVELATION*

James Cohan is pleased to present *REVELATION*, an exhibition of new embroideries and mosaics by Jordan Nassar, on view from September 5 through October 4, 2025, at the gallery's 48 Walker Street location. This is Nassar's fourth solo exhibition with James Cohan. The gallery will host an opening reception with the artist on Friday, September 5, from 6-8 PM.

In *REVELATION*, Nassar reimagines traditional craft techniques across expansive multipanel embroideries and transportative mosaics to explore inherited nostalgia, history, and heritage. His recent embroideries are poignant meditations on color, as well as light and darkness; they reveal and conceal brilliantly-hued landscapes. In the front gallery, mosaics echoing Byzantine ruins wrap around the walls, eliciting the past in a contemporary site.

Nassar's intricately hand-stitched works were made with the participation of Palestinian craftswomen living and working in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron. Notably, the geometric motifs extend across the entire plane of the canvases, creating dense walls of patterning that obscure imagined vistas. The shadowy palette of these works reflects a somber reverence, one that is punctuated by moments of brightness. A valley lit by a glowing crimson sun emerges from shades of gray in the aptly named *Between Two Hedges of Silence*, 2025. The artwork titles, as well as that of the exhibition, were inspired by Etel Adnan's epic poem, *The Arab Apocalypse*. Nassar draws on the close linguistic connection between the Greek etymology of apocalypse with the act of unveiling [from *apokaluptein*, 'to uncover, to reveal']. Viewers are granted a window of what lies beyond from

multiple vantage points and perspectives.

Alongside these embroideries, the artist has reconstructed two archaeological antiquities, employing the ancient method of hand-cutting glass. The originals are displayed in the arrivals corridor at the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv as a welcome marker. The first is a fragment of a mosaic floor from a 5th-6th century Byzantine structure attributed to BethLehem of the Galilee; in this installation it is intentionally flipped on its side. Nassar has depicted its flora and fauna, mirroring its design and formal qualities, to vividly bring this ruin to life. He also asserts his own aesthetic choices, filling in eroded areas with exotic animals and curving grape vines that nod to the intricate Shellal mosaic excavated from the Wadi Ghuzze riverbed and now housed in the Australian War Memorial.

Nassar describes “*the act of remaking them as a tender gesture*,” reframing the historical lineage of the craft as he interprets it. *Bisan* (*Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out*) (*Deuteronomy 28:6*), 2025, is the artist’s translation of a square mosaic from the historic city of the same name, decorated heavily with birds with ribbons tied around their napes. Here, Nassar has unbridled the birds of their ribbons. Ultimately, Nassar raises questions about the underlying symbolism of ruins, the implicit power that they project and the narratives they can be used to construct and uphold.

Jordan Nassar (b.1985, New York, NY) earned his BA at Middlebury College in 2007. Recent notable solo exhibitions include *Jordan Nassar: Fantasy and Truth* at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston in 2023 and *THERE* in 2024-2025, which traveled from NCMA Winston-Salem (formerly SECCA) in North Carolina to the Susquehanna Art Museum in Pennsylvania. His work has been featured in exhibitions globally at institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Asia Society, New York, NY; Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ; Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, among others.

Nassar is represented in numerous permanent collections including the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art, Florida; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Florida; Dallas Art Museum, Dallas, TX; The Museum of Contemporary Art, California; and Rhode Island School of Design Museum, in Rhode Island. Nassar is the recipient of several awards including the 2022 *Unbound* United States Artists Fellowship and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation 2024 Biennial Grant.

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