

Canvas

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A Growing Power: Highlights from Art Basel Miami Beach

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Nour Malas. *Another Mother's Breaking Her is Taking Over*, panel 4 *Head Held High*. 2025. Oil on canvas. 165 x 228.6 cm. Image courtesy of the artist and Carbon 12

Making its Miami Beach debut, Carbon 12 is one of the small number of galleries from the Arab world at the fair and has a solo presentation by Nour Malas in the fair's Positions sector. Spanning all three walls of the stand is her four-panel painting *Another Mother's Breaking Her is Taking Over* (2025), which offers a chaotic non-linear landscape of destruction and loss. Abstracted with explosive hints of representation, the France-born Syrian painter's grand undertaking walks the viewers on a minefield of collapse and regain. Malas is also represented in Chicago-based Patron Gallery's booth with a painting entitled *Chasing Witches in the Street* (2025), in which green and aubergine hues clash and harmonise.

Dastan's neatly organised group presentation by curator Donna Honarpisheh expands her interest in the subject of miniature painting and its narrative potential with a long list of artists, including Iman Raad, Farah Ossouli, Mamali Shafahi, Reza Aramesh and Bahar Behbahani. The various approaches to the Persian miniature through contemporary and interpretive lenses results in an outlook that is aesthetically minimalist at times and abundant at others. Ossouli's subtle gouache drawings allude to the timeless fables of impossible love while Behbahani's grounding mixed-media

paintings appear as topographic musings on belonging and remembrance. The sentiment and sales on the fair's first two days partially swept away the prevalent concern about the state of the art market due to a breadth of social and political factors, and a substantial sum of exhibitors expressed desirable feedback and deal closures. In an ever-transforming sector, it might be a challenge to foresee even under two months when Art Basel's Qatar leg debuts in the first week of February—so the best is to wait and see.