PRESS RELEASE

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POMONA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART presents
“HAYV KAHRAMAN: PROJECT SERIES 52”

Sep. 4 – Dec. 22, 2018

Hayv Kahraman, Barricade 1, 2018, Oil on linen, 50 x 78 in. Courtesy of the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects.

Claremont, CA — The Pomona College Museum of Art presents the exhibition “Hayv Kahraman: Project Series 52” on view from Sep. 4 to Dec. 22, 2018. A public reception will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, September 15. Kahraman’s public performance, Gendering Memories of Iraq: A Collective Performance, will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 11 on the Pomona College campus. (please check www.pomona.edu/museum for specific location).

Los Angeles-based artist Hayv Kahraman creates exquisite figurative paintings on large linen panels that depict a singular woman with pale skin and black hair. Frequently presented in a group of identical female figures, the woman often appears nude or clad in shawls decorated with Islamic geometric patterns.
Kahraman’s paintings take on themes of violence and involuntary migration as she processes her childhood in the war-torn country of Iraq and her adolescence in Sweden as a refugee. While Kahraman’s work is intertwined with the histories of the Iran-Iraq and Gulf Wars, it is also invested in the idea of feminine collectivity, identity, belonging and diasporic cultural memory.

The artist borrows from a multiplicity of styles, including Persian miniatures, Japanese illustrations, and Italian Renaissance paintings in the composition of the woman’s poses and appearance, creating a discourse between Eastern “otherness” and Western concepts of beauty. Absorbing Renaissance aesthetic values while rejecting hegemonic ideals, Kahraman models the bodies in her paintings on representations of her own body. She photographs herself in poses, assuming multiple personas, that she then sketches in paint onto panels.

In her most recent work, Kahraman has incorporated a weaving technique drawn from the Iraqi hand-woven fans called *mahaffa*—one of her few family heirlooms. She cuts into the canvases and weaves in fragments of other shredded paintings, creating newly “mended” representations of female bodies and “healed” memories of past trauma.

The exhibition is curated by Rebecca McGrew and is accompanied by a publication designed by Kimberly Varella of Content Object. Contents include an introduction by McGrew, a new scholarly essay by Madina Tlostanova, poetry contributions by Sinan Antoon, and the artist’s never-before-published performance text. The book is distributed by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers, Inc.

The exhibition “Hayv Kahraman” is the 52nd in the Pomona College Museum of Art’s Project Series, which presents Southern California artists in focused exhibitions. This exhibition is supported in part by the Pasadena Arts Alliance, Pasadena, CA. Additional support provided by Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; and The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**About Hayv Kahraman**

Hayv Kahraman was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1981, and now lives and works in Los Angeles. A vocabulary of narrative, memory, and dynamics of non-fixity found in diasporic cultures are the essence of her visual language and the product of her experience as an Iraqi refugee/emigré.

Kahraman is represented by Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; and The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**About the Pomona College Museum of Art**

The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets works of art; and houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts, including basketry, ceramics and beadwork; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings and photographs, including works by Francisco de Goya, José Clemente Orozco and Rico Lebrun.

**Admission**

All exhibitions and programs are free of charge and open to the public.

**General Information**

330 North College Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711

Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Closed Monday and Nov. 22—23, 2018

*Art After Hours*: Thursday, 5-11 p.m., Sep. 6 – Dec. 6, 2018

For more information, please call 909.621.8283 or visit [www.pomona.edu/museum](http://www.pomona.edu/museum).