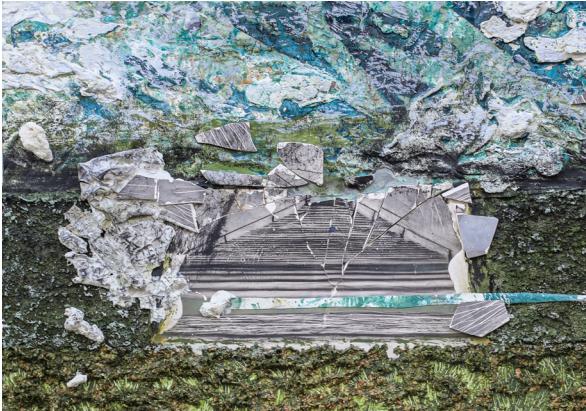


# GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Aida Mahmudova, 40.371110, 49.8374440, detail, 2022.



© Aida Mahmudova, Untitled, detail, 2022.

## Aida Mahmudova *Liminality*

Exhibition: 8th April - 14th May, 2022

Gazelli Art House is pleased to present Aida Mahmudova's new body of work in her debut solo show *Liminality*, curated by Alistair Hicks. Commenting on her rapidly modernising country's forgotten and marginal corners, Mahmudova uses art as an outlet to give a feeling of stability to co-exist in this unprecedented environment. Art gives no boundaries and opens to any communicational variations for the artist. The works on show are shrouded by an aura of metaphysical fog - adding a layer of surrealism, and positioning each piece as a memories that are fading within time and space.

The concept of space is closely investigated through the lens of the artist. As Mahmudova explains, "we exist within space, we co-exist in parallel, and space exists within us." Space can be a place where one physically or spiritually exists, creating the concept of one's reality and illusions. Marc Augé's concept of 'non-places' explores the idea of transition or the liminal, as a crossroads of human relations to what humans perceive but only partially and incoherently. Mahmudova explores the juxtaposition of private and public, places and non-places, spaces and non-spaces.

The paintings in *Liminality* are influenced by nature's powerful force. 41.2026553, 48.2629696 (2022), reflect a turbulent river, meandering through rocks and bioforms - a representation of the volatility and beauty of the natural world. The sculptures on display take inspiration from constructivist manmade structures and architecture: echoing the lack of safety and stability in the built world, and the transient nature of human life in comparison to natural landscapes and materials. An array of natural elements such as stones and corals are present across various works, which symbolise the longevity of everlasting constructions created naturally.

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By shedding light on liminality, or threshold crossing, Mahmudova explores spaces of transition. Liminality has both spatial and temporal dimensions and can be applied to various subjects: individuals, communities, societies, and entire civilisations. On the contrary, nature has a sense of stability, timeless and open space, where Mahmudova regularly returns to as a source of inspiration.

“It’s the artist and the medium. The never-ending relationship between me and the other resembles perpetual conversation. It takes full involvement from both sides. The act itself is the purest form of creation. This, in turn, gives you a unique opportunity to engage in authentic and unguarded communication with unfolding perspectives. It connects and unites us in the moment of now, giving versatile, unpredictable and beautiful outcomes.”

- Aida Mahmudova

## About the Curator

Alistair Hicks, former Senior Curator at Deutsche Bank, is the author of the *Global Art Compass* (Thames and Hudson). He is the curator of *Doublethink: Doublevision*, an exhibition at the Pera Museum in Istanbul in 2017 that shows artists from around the world reassessing the way we think. Much of his work is aimed at trying to cut through the art politics and artspeak to show how rich and diverse our times are. While at Deutsche Bank his main job was selecting and presenting art to purchase committees. He created the Man Booker Library while he was art advisor to Man Group. Currently he is on the art advisory board of Cliveden Advisory, the Advisory Committee of Unseen Art Fair (Amsterdam), on the Global Art Advisory Committee of Hana Bank Global HR Center Art Collection and is a contributor and advisor to Russian Art Focus. He advises private clients. Hicks has been an art critic for such diverse publications as *The Spectator*, *The Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Apollo* and *Vogue*.

## About Gazelli Art House

Founded in 2010 by Mila Askarova, the Gazelli Art House in London brings a fresh perspective to Mayfair – through championing artists from all corners of the globe. Focusing on artists at the height of their practice, the gallery showcases their work through a diverse programme of exhibitions and events. Along with its sister site in Baku, Gazelli Art House specialises in promoting art from Azerbaijan and its neighbours to introduce a greater understanding of the rich linguistic, religious and historical ties that connect these areas to international audiences. In 2015, the gallery further expanded to support artists working in digital art through its online platform, GAZELL.iO. Most recently, in 2020, the GAZELL.iO Project Space and VR Library was established – creating the first permanent space dedicated to digital art in Mayfair.

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