

Art Basel Premiere 2026: ATHR Gallery announces project by Ayman Yossri Daydban

Premiere Hall 2.1
P9

ATHR Gallery is pleased to announce the participation in Art Basel Premiere 2026 with one of the seminal figures of the Saudi art scene Ayman Yossri Daydban. Daydban's radical gestures in performance, figuration, and irony disrupted traditional aesthetic frameworks, reshaping the understanding of contemporary art in the Kingdom. His practice continues to resonate, framing questions of identity, home, and belonging within a shifting landscape where the boundaries between personal and collective narratives dissolve.

'*The Nest*' from the "*Treehouse*" series, is a large-scale installation that rejects narratives of place & origins. Instead, it presents an account of how humans become entangled with their concepts of shelter regardless of how temporary and fickle those concepts are. *The Nest* is not a home nor a straightforward symbol but an ephemeral layer that revolves around emptiness; it prompts light to seep in and create unintentional beauty.



Ayman Yossri Daydban

The panels engage with light to generate continuous visual shifts, effectively playing with the viewer's shifting perspective. Daydban highlights the fragility of physical boundaries: between inside and outside, the individual and the collective, the fixed and the mutable. Within the translucent architecture, the material is rendered ephemeral, fractured: the structures that confine us are exposed as holographic, private and public space bleed into one. Daydban's practice is informed by his experience of confinement within the architecture of the home. His Palestinian nationality imposed difficult conditions that relegated him to the role of a watchman, physically bound by the constraints of concepts: nationality, borders, and identity. An upbringing in exile deepened his fascination with the home as a shifting, dynamic concept. What emerges from *The Nest* is a contemporary reading of roots: not as fixed anchors, but shifting coordinates within a global landscape in flux.

The Nest resists a rigid, uniform narrative-it unfolds as an immersive, interactive ecosystem of light, shadow and reflection. Those intangible, fractured elements converge to shape a skeletal sensorial experience in flux. Through employment of disjunct, cut-out forms, the artist disentangles conventional narratives of heritage and identity, not to render them obsolete, but to carve out fresh registers for the meaning of "home", belonging, and roots.

Ayman Yossri Daydban - P9



The Nest from the Treehouse series, 2026

About ATHR Gallery

Founded in 2009 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by Hamza Serafi and Mohammed Hafiz, ATHR Gallery has from its onset been a pioneering gallery with a focus toward elevating contemporary Middle Eastern art on a global scale. Serving as a cultural bridge between Saudi Arabia and the world, its artists have been the driving force of the gallery from the inception and have inspired the responsive mandate that evolves to accommodate the ever-changing local scene. ATHR Gallery prides itself on being adaptive – a testament to a legacy that has spanned over a decade and encompasses artists working across multiple disciplines and subject matters, from traditional media such as painting and sculpture to more unconventional methods that echo the daring nature of the gallery. The topics they address also vary wildly, covering a spectrum of narratives that range from the interpersonal to the macro cultural.

ATHR has expanded its presence in Saudi Arabia with two additional locations; ATHR AlUla is the first contemporary art gallery in the historical city while its latest outpost, ATHR JAX in Riyadh, marks the gallery's move to the capital. ATHR has branched out to create the ATHR Foundation, with a focus on fostering the careers of emerging artists and the development of artistic spaces. ATHR has also diversified its ventures to include AKTHR as cultural project delivery agency for Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region.

Press Inquiries

Malak Kaki
Artist Liaison and Communications Manager
m.kaki@athrart.com

Follow ATHR Gallery
[@athrart](https://www.instagram.com/athrart)
www.athrart.com