

## Press Release

Wednesday 21st March 2018  
Senesi Contemporanea  
25 Dover Street W1S 4LX - Mayfair- London

*"THE RECITAL OF THE WESTERN EXILE"*  
DOUBLE FILM SCREENING BY THE ARTIST MIREILLE KASSAR

### The gallery

**Senesi Contemporanea** (SC) is dedicated to facilitating forms of artistic research that make innovative use of traditional materials or objects to redefine their cultural merit in a contemporary sense. The exhibition space is conceptualised in a way that relates the research of emerging artists with established artists, who have already gained international recognition. With its exhibition program the gallery intends to foster artists' research, which focuses on what is always innovative in the field of the arts. Alternating between established and emerging artists within the art world, SC aims to actively support projects of research and publication that act as catalyzers for a constant growth in new ways of seeing.

### The show

Senesi Contemporanea is delighted to present two films by the artist **Mireille Kassar**: *The Children of Uzai*, *Anti Narcissus* (16') and *Recital of The Western Exile* (9') bear witness to the artist's long-term artistic and intellectual research that advocates independence and creative autonomy.

Mireille Kassar is deeply involved in a multitude of mediums such as film, painting, music and writing - each field is explored in its own right, distinctively expressing her central creative concerns. Her work is distinguished by unusual influences for our time, reciting ancient writings or sentiments.

She is furthermore inspired by space, time as well as humankind whose cultural influences were undermined by the approach of our age, yet they can be magically redeemed through the art practice.

Kassar dispossesses her medium and resists the archival, the recollecting and re-contextualising of a past. The mediums of her choosing are able to restore authority upon her art practice, in the context of our bio-political age, they reclaim the link with original form of art, the auratic.

Sound is emphasized in her practice, as a form of expression as well as a medium to gain a better understanding of her work and is one of her main artistic influences. The sound of silence has an equal influence on the artist's work. In her practice she chooses to listen to the silence, left externally by the noise, "the great silence", as she titles it. The imagery in her film work *The Children of Uzaï*, *AntiNarcissus* translates to a creation of sound and melody, as the outline of the children playing, blends in with the background of the sea and waves, creating visual and vocal layers. Their invisible voices are individually recognizable, despite their separate resonances, creating a unity in their voices, some kind of chorus.

*Récit de l'Exil occidental* narrates a symbolic initiation path to the light through the watercourse of the Amazon river, delineated by Shiab al-Din Yahya Sohravardi in the XII century. The East is the place where the light, interpreted as the knowledge, resides; it is also where the river flows. The traveller, through the experience of such travel, transcends the adversities and is able to see the light.

Mireille Kassar creates a space of involvement in the mystery of life, real and idealistic. The mystery of oneself that resides in the consciousness of the own uniqueness, however it appears exclusively in recognition to the relationship with the other. This is the idea rooted in her poetry.

**Mireille Kassar**

*"The Recital Of The Western Exile"*

From the 22nd March to the 18th April 2018

Opening 21st March 2018, 18 - 21.30

Screening and catalogue curated by Marco Izzolino

## Mireille Kassar CV

Born in Lebanon (1963), Paris and Beirut based artist Mireille Kassar has developed a rich and varied body of work that includes paintings, drawings, music, films, writings and installations and has been exhibiting internationally since 1996 (Fondation Joan-Miró, Barcelona). She graduated from «Ecole Nationale Supérieure Des Beaux Arts de Paris» and «Université Panthéon Sorbonne». She is the Art Director at «Amar Foundation for Arab Music Archiving and Research» and an Art Professor at «Ecole Spéciale D'Architecture» in Paris, France.

Mireille Kassar is furthermore represented by Agial Art Gallery in Beirut, Lebanon

### **Recent exhibitions and projections**

March 21st - April 18th 2018: "The Recital of the Western Exile"  
Senesi Contemporanea, London, UK

September 22nd 2017: BienalSur  
- "Poetics, Politics, Places", Museo Provincial Timoteo Navarro, Tucuman, Argentina  
- "The tale of the western exile", Migliorisi Museum, Asunción, Paraguay

September 9th 2017: "JEUX, RITUELS ET RÉCRÉATIONS", Centre Georges Pompidou 40th anniversary, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France

March 23rd 2016 - February 6th 2017: "Dear Friends", Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

September 24th 2016 - October 23rd 2016: "BIAS", Cassaro Alto, Palermo, Italy

September 2nd - October 1st 2016: "Rencontres improbables (the secret encounters of Kusama Kalthoum)", OQBO Gallery, Curator and Artistes Mireille Kassar & Jayce Salloum, Berlin, Germany

September 9th 2016: "the meandering line", SEE YOU NEXT THURSDAY Gallery, Vienna, Austria

May 24th, 2016 - June 5th, 2016: "BIAS", Palazzo Donna dalle Rose, Venezia, Italy

December 5 - 6th 2015: "Festival OVNI", Nice, France

October 10th - November 30th 2015: "Nel mezzo del Mezzo", Palazzo Riso, Palermo, Italy

August 4th - November 15th 2015: "Dust", Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland

August 4 - 30th 2015: Staatsgalerie –Stuttgart.

July 24th 2015: "The Children of Uzai, AntiNarcissus", New Horizon Festival European Short Films, Wroclaw, Poland

April 13th - May 24th 2015: "Energy and Creativity", Università degli Studi Interni Milano, Italy

February 5 - 16th 2015: "The Children of Uzai, AntiNarcissus", 65th Berlin Film Festival (Berlinale) and in the Selection Forum Expanded, Berlin, Germany

October 1st 2014 - March 1st 2015: "Poetry and Exile", British Museum, London, UK

2014: Art Dubaï, UAE

May 21st - June 28th 2013: Agial Art Galery, "The Conference of the Birds", Beirut, Lebanon