

# Oussama Baalbaki

## *Watercolors*

In this solo exhibition, Oussama Baalbaki presents a recent body of watercolors which extends the theme, pervading his entire practice, of the transformation of urban and rural landscapes in Lebanon. Influenced by the modern flaneur, Baalbaki paints what he sees as he moves around the city of Beirut and its peripheries. He wistfully frames the tension between the old and the new, and between nature and culture, wherein the latter is itself naturalized as part of the landscape. Baalbaki's watercolors are distinctive in making explicit this tension. With his broad and swift brushstrokes, and bold but diluted colors, he arrests the effervescence and movement of history in a single moment.

Oussama Baalbaki (b. Lebanon, 1978) received his BFA from the Institute of Fine Arts, Lebanese University in 2002. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions in a wide array of institutions in Lebanon, including the Sursock Museum, and abroad in the cities of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, London, Miami, Munich, New York, and Washington. His solo exhibitions include *Paintings in Black* (2004) at Dar El Nadwa, *Scenes of Isolation* (2007) at Safana Gallery, *Less smoke, and more...* (2009), *Rituals of Isolation* (2011), *Spectres of the Real* (2015), *Pleadings of the Light* (2017) at Agial Art Gallery, *Shadows of Gloominess* (2014) at Galerie Tanit, hosted in collaboration with Agial Art Gallery, and *Against the Grain* (2018) at Saleh Barakat Gallery. In 2009, he won the silver medal for painting at the "Jeux de la Francophonie". Baalbaki lives and works in Beirut.