

MEDIA RELEASE

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Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present the exhibition:

AMIR H. FALLAH

FROM THE PRIMITIVE TO THE PRESENT

FEBRUARY 28 – APRIL 11, 2015

ARTIST'S RECEPTION FEBRUARY 28TH FROM 6-9PM



Amir H. Fallah, *Holding The Unraveled Diary*, acrylic, colored pencil, collage and oil on paper mounted to canvas, 48 x 36 inches, 2015

Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present *From The Primitive To The Present*, the first solo exhibition of Los Angeles-based artist **Amir H. Fallah** with the gallery.

Fallah began working on this exhibition one year ago by searching through listings of estate sales taking place around Los Angeles. After picking a sale at random, he went on to purchase several objects belonging to a family who had lived in North

Hollywood for a generation. Fallah left the sale with diaries, home movies, clothing and other objects chronicling the family's personal history; he then spent the course of the next year sifting through these fragments of the family's life, filling in the gaps where necessary, to create a narrative and build portraits of the family members through painting, sculpture and collage.

Fallah presents five large paintings for the show; abstracted portraits of the family members, who are never named and remain anonymous. The canvases have been crafted and in some cases shaped to resemble objects taken from the home. The figures in Fallah's portraits are faceless, their forms are composed of fabric patterns, objects and details associated with each individual family member. Cast sculptures of personal mementos are exhibited on a large plinth, taking on a fossil-like quality as though excavated. Fallah has also created a collection of collages from old family photographs, using dried oil paint to obscure all recognizable features – the dried oil paint the remnants of the paint used in the portraits of the family members. Working simultaneously as private eye, archeologist and accidental stalker, Fallah creates new narratives that tell universal stories of love, life, and regret.

Concurrent to the exhibition at the gallery, Fallah is exhibiting a project at the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica running from January 12th thru March 27th. Following the exhibition at Charlie James Gallery, Fallah travels to Overland Park, KS for a site-specific installation at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

Amir H. Fallah lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Fallah received his B.F.A. from The Maryland Institute College of Art and his M.F.A from UCLA in 2005. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Exhibits include shows at Weatherspoon Art Museum, The Sharjah Biennial 2009, LA Louver, The Third Line Gallery in Dubai, UAE, Gallery Wendi Norris in San Francisco, Baer Ridgway Exhibitions in San Francisco, Cherry And Martin, 31 Grand, Frederieke Taylor Gallery, Mary Goldman Gallery, among others. He has been a visiting lecturer at a range of institutions, including Columbia College, USC, UCLA, Cleveland Institute of Art, California State University, University Of New Mexico, Otis College Of Art, and Maryland Institute College of Art. Additionally, Fallah was the founder and editor of Beautiful Decay magazine for more than a decade.