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Between What Was and What's Becoming: Aidha Badr's "I'm Never Coming Back" at Firetti Contemporary

ART • October 7, 2025



Now reading: Between What Was and What's Becoming: Aidha Badr's "I'm Never Coming Back" at Firetti Contemporary

There's something magnetic about honesty — especially when it's uncomfortable. In *I'm Never Coming Back*, her new solo exhibition at Firetti Contemporary in collaboration with Hunna Art Gallery, Aidha Badr doesn't perform emotion; she lets it sit, quietly, in the room.



Self portrait with rose 2025. oil on canvas. 168x107

Opened on **September 19** in Dubai, the show feels like walking into someone's private archive — fragments of thought, gestures of tenderness, and moments of reckoning stitched together in paint.

Brooklyn-born and Dubai-based, **Badr** has always explored intimacy — the messy kind, the one that lives between memory and self-discovery. But this time, the story hits closer to home. The artist turns her gaze inward, tracing her own evolution from daughter to mother, from observer to subject. The result is a collection of works that blur autobiography and mythology — as if she's rewriting the language of womanhood in real time.



Nothing Less Nothing More 2025. oil on canvas. 120x100

In this body of work, the artist's tone has shifted. Her earlier pieces examined the mother figure from the outside — curious, questioning, sometimes rebellious. Now, as a mother herself, Badr turns the gaze inward. Her self-portraits — tight crops of the face, the shoulder, the hand — are both shield and revelation. She becomes a modern Madonna: serene, protective, and hauntingly distant.

Threaded through these works is a recurring symbol — the horse. At first glance, it's a toy, fragile and dissected; later, it grows into something fully formed, proud, and self-assured. In *I Am Not the Same* and *I Am Never Coming Back*, a majestic horse towers over its toy counterpart — a poetic confrontation between the past self and the present one. The image feels like a reckoning, a reconciliation, a gentle reminder that change is not loss but evolution.

"It's not about running or escaping anymore," Badr says. "It's about being present with whatever's shifted, and finding a kind of freedom in that."

There's a silence that lingers through the exhibition — the quiet weight of becoming. *"I'm Never Coming Back"* is less about departure and more about arrival: into womanhood, into motherhood, into a self that no longer seeks to fit a shape but to expand beyond it.

In Dubai's growing art scene, where identity and transformation are recurring themes, Aidha Badr's work stands out for its restraint — its refusal to dramatize emotion. Instead, she paints the small ruptures of daily life, the inner dialogues we rarely articulate, and the delicate power of accepting change.

Exhibition Details

Title: *I'm Never Coming Back*

Artist: Aidha Badr

Venue: Firetti Contemporary, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

Public Dates: September 19 – November 7, 2025

Opening Reception: September 18, 7:00–9:00 PM

In collaboration with: Hunna Art Gallery

For more information, visit [@firetticontemporary](#) and [@hunna.art](#).

Cover: Self portrait with rose 2025. oil on canvas. 168x107