

# DIRIMART

## GHADA AMER RETURNS TO DİRİMART DOLAPDERE, SEVENTEEN YEARS AFTER HER FIRST EXHIBITION WITH THE GALLERY

Ghada Amer

*Aurora*

**Opening:** 9 April 2026, 6pm

**Venue:** Dirimart Dolapdere

**The exhibition will be open to visitors from 9 April to 10 May 2026 (closed on Mondays).**

**ISTANBUL, 26 MARCH 2026** – Dirimart is pleased to announce *Aurora*, Ghada Amer’s second solo exhibition with the gallery, seventeen years after her previous Istanbul show. Bringing together a selection of her recent bronze sculptures, iconic embroidered paintings, a new series of canvases that highlight appliqué techniques, and paintings on wood, the exhibition offers an overview of Amer’s recent practice.

By repositioning traditional techniques such as sewing and embroidery – historically coded as ‘women’s work’ – within contemporary art, Amer opens a powerful visual field in which the female body and sexuality move beyond established social norms and systems of representation. Developed over several decades, her practice raises questions around gender politics, desire, representation, and the visibility of the female subject in art history.

Amer’s work often begins with sexualised images drawn from pornographic magazines, which she reinterprets through processes of stitching, layering, and painterly intervention. Subverting conventions of the male gaze, she presents women as strong and autonomous figures depicted in moments of pleasure, joy, and intimacy. These figures, often playful and provocative, remain partially concealed beneath layers of thread, embroidered surfaces, and sculptural forms, inviting close engagement and discovery. Through this layered structure, Amer’s practice foregrounds the complex relationships between power, freedom, and women’s lived experience.

Bringing together works across different media, *Aurora* offers a renewed perspective on the critical and poetic visual language Amer has developed around the female body, sexuality, and freedom. The title, derived from Latin *aurora* (dawn) and also referring the ‘northern lights’, evokes a metaphor of emergence and transformation. Much like the gradual transition from darkness to light, the works move between visibility and concealment, control and chance.

Highlights include the *Paravent Girls* series, in which painted female figures drawn from pornographic magazines are translated into bronze. Functioning as paravents, these sculptures – the autonomous, joyful and empowered female figures – engage with themes of intimacy, visibility, and the relationship



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between public and private spaces. A separate body of work, *Drawing in Space* (developed in 2021), comprises sculptural silhouettes that create rhythm and spatial movement through the interplay of light and shadow. With these minimalist and abstract bronze forms, viewers are invited to reflect on the layered and shifting nature of women's identities and experiences.

Bringing together Ghada Amer's recent works across multiple media, *Aurora* will be on view at Dirimart Dolapdere from 9 April to 10 May 2026.

**Ghada Amer** (b. 1963, Cairo) moved with her family from Cairo to France in 1974, where she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in painting at Villa Arson (École Nationale Supérieure d'Art, Nice). In the mid-1990s, she settled in the United States where she still continues to live and work. Some of Amer's selected solo exhibitions include *Aurora*, Dirimart Dolapdere, Istanbul (2026); *Ghada Amer*, The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MUCEM), Marseille (2022); *Today 70% of the Poor in the World are Women*, Museo de Arte Zapopan (MAZ), Jalisco (2020); *Ceramics, Knots, Thoughts, Scraps*, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (2018); *Ghada Amer*, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Montreal (2012); *Failing Sharazad*, Dirimart Nişantaşı, Istanbul (2009) and *Ghada Amer: Love Has No End*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn (2008). Her selected group exhibitions include *What is Left Unspoken, Love*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta (2023); *All Things Being Equal*, Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Zeitz (2019); *Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn (2018); *Seeing Through Light: Selections from the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Collection*, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi (2014) and *Without Boundary: Seventeen Ways of Looking*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2006). Ghada Amer participated in various biennials, including Desert X (2021); The Rabat Biennale (2019); La Biennale di Venezia (2007); 5th Biennale of Sydney (2006); 5th Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale (2000); Gwangju Biennale (2000); Whitney Biennial (2000) and the 4th International Istanbul Biennial (1995). Her works are part of leading global art collections including The Guggenheim Museum, Abu Dhabi; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit and Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis. The artist was awarded the UNESCO Prize at the Venice Biennale in 1999. Ghada Amer lives and works in New York.