

MAY 2 - JUNE 21, 2025

Aicha Khorchid

Les choses de la vie (the things of life)



Installation shot of Aicha Khorchid's exhibition *Les choses de la vie (the things of life)* at GNYP Berlin in 2025

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The image of the artist has historically been steeped in myth—such as the classical idea of art as a calling, shaped by an inner necessity to create and an unconditional devotion to artistic expression. Today, this notion appears largely demystified. Creating art is a profession, a part of a larger system of production, marketing, and demand.

Yet Aicha Khorchid shows us that this myth can still hold true. A life in art wasn't something she had embraced from early childhood—she only started painting five years ago. And yet she embodies many of those romantic ideas that reality so often seems to disprove. It wasn't an academy or a desire for recognition that made her an artist, but life itself. From this stems the necessity of her creative process—the inseparability of her experiences and their artistic expression.

Born in 1981 in Karachi, Pakistan, her family fled to France via Lebanon when she was still an infant. There, the family fell apart. What followed was an unstable life marked by upheaval. She grew up in various foster families, experienced violence and abuse, dropped out of school, and had to face the death of her mother shortly after they were reunited. A sense of calm came when a friend invited her to Mallorca, where she settled at the age of 27.

Around 2020, personal upheavals led her to confront her past, and through this, she found painting. Without academic training or prior experience, she began bringing her life to canvas. Boldly, she faces her past in large-format paintings—life-sized portraits, childhood locations, and memories.

It takes great strength and courage to work the heavy wooden panels—larger than the artist herself—and to engage with personal trauma on such an overwhelming scale. The deeply personal meaning of her work and process is evident in both composition and execution. While the settings in her paintings are often reduced—situated between expressive brushwork, abstract color fields, and Art Nouveau-like ornamentation—the faces and skin of her subjects are rich in texture and complexity. They appear both coarse and rough, yet fragile like ancient parchment.

Layer by layer, the artist enters into an intense exchange with the people she portrays through brush and paint. The result is raw, almost scarred, but deeply intimate.

Complementing this intense dialogue with the people in her paintings, another focus emerges in her work. As a bittersweet counterpoint, flowers and other ornaments delicately weave over tiles and tablecloths. A symbol of overcoming her past? A reminder to herself to always see the beauty as well?

For the first time, this exhibition also includes a person from Khorchid's present. In Christophe, she portrays her life partner, showing how deeply art—beyond the exploration of her past—has become part of her life.

Reflecting on her time as an artist, Khorchid describes it as the happiest period of her life so far— a time of reconnecting with herself and freely expressing her emotions. There's a twofold cause to rejoice then—both in the artist's joy and in the power of her images, which encourage us to reflect on our past and our relationships with others.

Jonas Sanden

Aicha Khorchid

Christophe

2025

organic pigments, latex, rabbit
glue, oil chalk and pencils on
wood panel

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



Aicha Khorchid

Le jour de ménage

2025

organic pigments, latex, rabbit
glue, oil chalk and pencils on
wood panel

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



Artist

Aicha Khorchid

Solo Exhibitions

2025

Les choses de la vie (the things of life)

GNYP Gallery, Berlin (GER)

2024

Le Monde d'Aïcha

GNYP Gallery, Antwerp (BE)

Group Exhibitions

2025

Visions Of The World

Museum Kampa, Prague (CZ)

2024

The Beauty of Diversity

Albertina Modern, Vienna (AT)



Installation shot of Aicha Khorchid's exhibition *Les choses de la vie* (the things of life) at GNYP Berlin in 2025

Aicha Khorchid

Mon Vieux

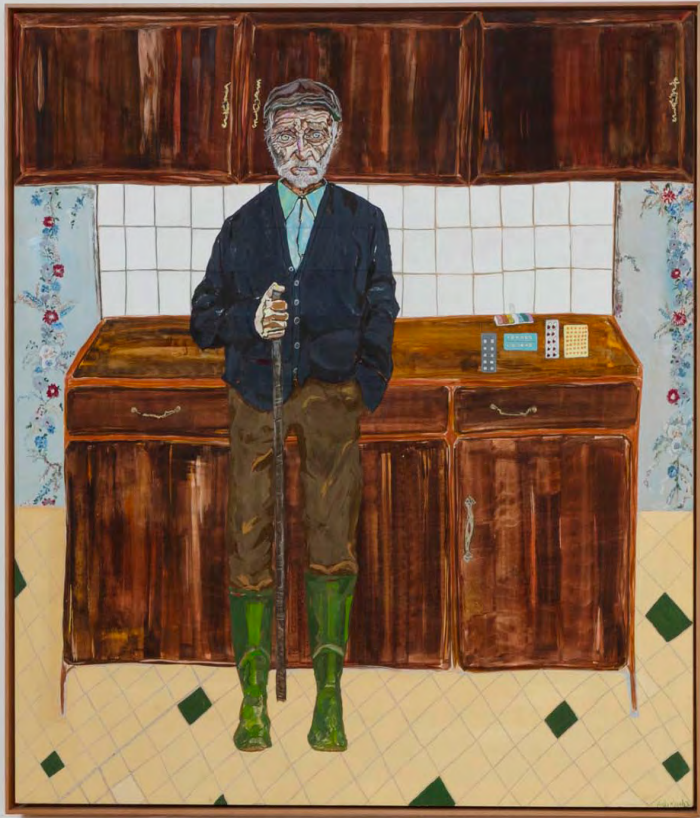
2025

organic pigments, latex, rabbit glue,
oil chalk and pencils on wood panel

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in







Aicha Khorchid

L'Abbaye de la Trappe

2025

organic pigments, latex, rabbit
glue, oil chalk and pencils on
wood panel

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

Aicha Khorchid
Chez Chantal et Michel
2025

organic pigments, latex, rabbit glue,
oil chalk and pencils on wood panel

200 x 200 cm
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



Aïcha Khorchid

Aïcha Khorchid's (b. 1981; Pakistan) paintings, always on large wooden panels, address her multilayered life story that forms a central point of reference in her work.

Her oeuvre is about human relationships and their complexity. In her work, Khorchid artistically dissects her difficult childhood in the French foster family in Normandy, presenting to us its emotionally charged daily life and people that inhabited that world. Her powerful seemingly naive visual language stresses intricacy of pain and happiness, and makes her work a vehicle to think about human condition.

Khorchid's paintings were recently featured in the extensive group exhibition "The Beauty of Diversity" at the Albertina Modern Museum in Vienna. These works were recently added to the Albertina's permanent collection.

Aïcha Khorchid currently lives and works in Mallorca.

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