

Press Release

The Hammer Museum Acquires Hend Samir's *Flickering by the Lotus Pond*

Saturday, June 18, 2022



Harkawik is pleased to announce the acquisition of Hend Samir's monumental *Flickering by the Lotus Pond* by The Hammer Museum. Executed between 2020 and 2022, *Flickering by the Lotus Pond* is Samir's largest completed mural. Its marbled ground, suggestive of celestial and Earth-bound havoc, enframes a series of vignettes, threatening to overtake them from all sides. Samir's experience with repressive sexual politics informs her approach to scenes of pleasure and transgression, which defy Western notions of feminism, protectionism and sexual liberation. The children she paints adopt ambiguous gestures that simultaneously betray joy, fear, celebration and, occasionally, the worldly knowledge of adults. They face the viewer at human scale, inviting us into the picture, and completing the pageant of youthful rollick that is Samir's stunning accomplishment.

Flickering will join one of the most diverse and impactful public collections in the country, furthering the museum's conviction that "art not only has the power to transport us through aesthetic experience but can also provide significant insight into some of the most pressing cultural, political, and social questions of our time." Harkawik extends our heartfelt congratulations to Hend and thanks to the team at the Hammer.