

Study of Colour as Colonial Delight

Aramesh Explores the Boundaries of Conflict and Aesthetic in Study of Colour as Colonial Delight.

In his latest body of work, Study of Colour as Colonial Delight – Embroideries on Silk, Aramesh continues his profound engagement with historical imagery, journalism, and the transformation of the human form into mythology.

Working with non-professional models, Aramesh meticulously reenacts selected source materials, stripping away explicit markers of war to reframe scenes of conflict within an artistic context. By removing these immediate signifiers, he displaces his subjects from their historical moment, crafting works that are both unsettling and mesmerising. This interplay of empathy and cruelty remains central to his practice, highlighting the enduring visual language of the body across time.

In Study of Colour as Colonial Delight, Aramesh draws from the rich hues of historical Orientalist paintings, first interpreting them through reportage-based drawings before translating them into delicate hand-stitched embroidery on silk. Through this process, he explores the relationship between power, representation, and beauty, decontextualising colonial-era aesthetics in a contemporary framework.



Reza Aramesh

Action 225: Study for yellow after Ludwig Deutsch 'The Sahleb Vendor, Cairo'

250 x 140 cm

Hand embroidery on silk

2023



Reza Aramesh

Action 233: Study for purple after Etienne de La Boetie 'On the Voluptuous Passions'

340 x 154 cm

Hand embroidery on satin (77% acetate / 23% viscose)

2025