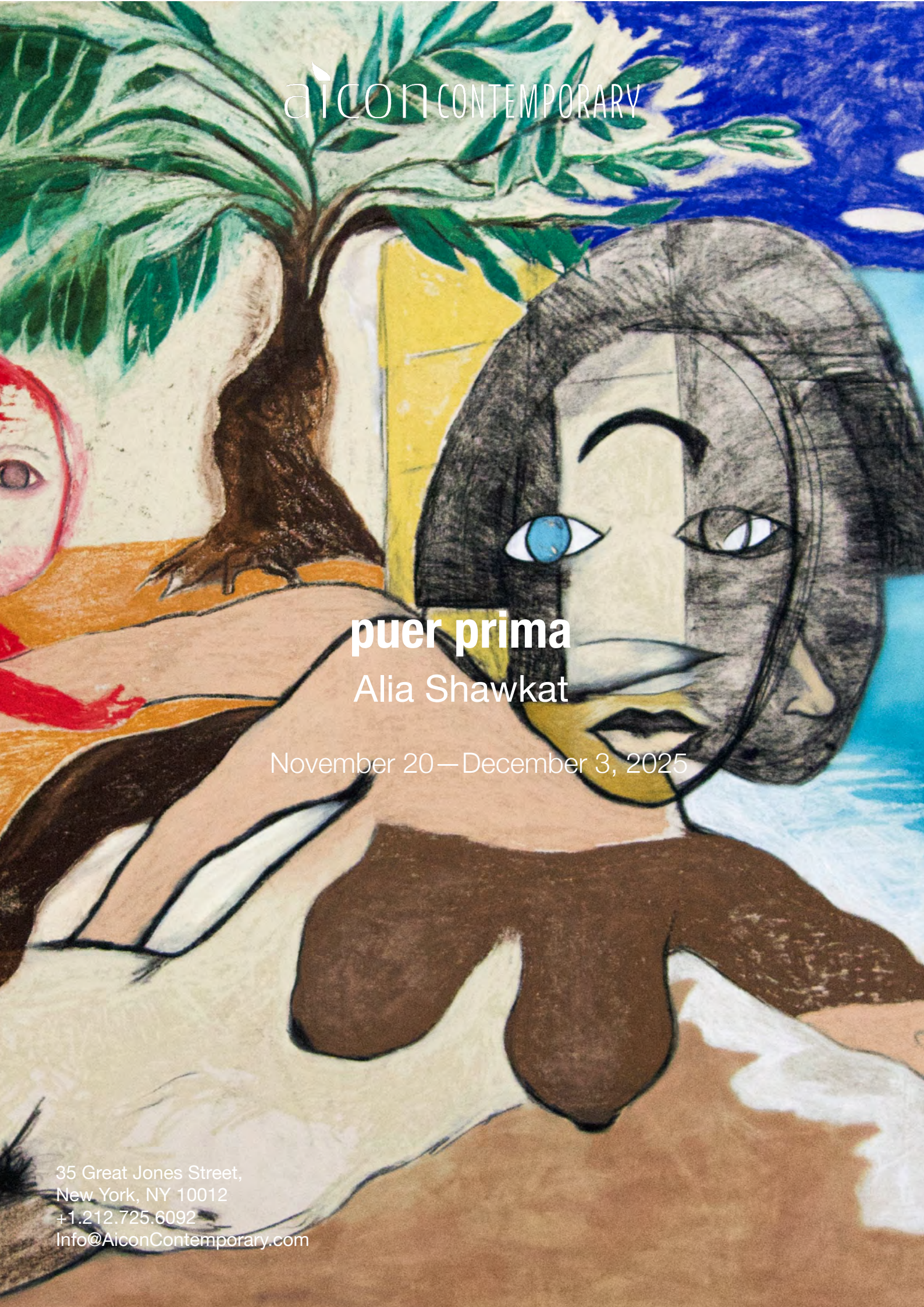




aicon CONTEMPORARY

puer prima

Alia Shawkat

November 20 — December 3, 2025

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ALIA SHAWKAT

Alia Shawkat (b. 1989) is an American artist whose practice spans painting, drawing, and sculpture. Beginning her painting career at the age of 18, Shawkat has steadily developed a distinct visual language.

Shawkat's work has been presented in a range of exhibitions internationally. She has shown with Dilettante Gallery, which also published a book of her drawings in 2020, and participated in group shows in France, New York, and Mexico City. Her work has been featured at Spring Break Art Show in Los Angeles and in a solo presentation in Palm Desert, California.

Alongside her visual art practice, Shawkat is recognized for her accomplished career as an actress, appearing in both film and television. Her creative work across disciplines informs the layered narrative quality of her paintings and sculptures.

Shawkat first exhibited with Aicon Contemporary in a group exhibition and presents her debut solo exhibition with the Aicon Contemporary in 2025.

This artist lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

PUER PRIMA

PUER PRIMA translates to “first boy”, the eternal child. Jung referred to the puer aeternus as the child god who is forever young: the creative spirit within each person, brimming with instinct, disorder, intoxication, and whimsy.

This exhibition brings together works Alia Shawkat created over the past five years in her Highland Park, Los Angeles studio. Her practice always begins with images drawn from her subconscious, fragments from dreams or motifs that reappear in life. Working on canvas laid across the floor, she moves through a form of somatic dance, allowing gesture and instinct to guide the first shapes that emerge out of charcoal on canvas.

The large-scale drawings are inspired by surrealist artists such as Leonora Carrington and Camille Henrot. Shawkat’s work dives inward, exploring themes of sexual objectification, humor, motherhood, and unfulfilled desire, spanning from her intimate sketches to her detailed oil paintings.

Alongside her visual art practice, Shawkat has had an extensive career as an actress, appearing in films and television including *Arrested Development*, *Search Party*, *Green Room*, *Duck Butter*, and *Pee-Wee’s Big Holiday*. She maintains her studio practice between projects, often creating works even while on set.

Shawkat’s father was born in Baghdad Iraq and her mother is of Irish, and Sicilian descent. Raised in America within a culturally Arab household, her work often reflects and reinterprets her familial heritage. Pieces such as *lost children* and *Tahrir Square* respond to the wars across the Middle East, from Gaza to Iraq, while others portray family and friends in intimate, dreamlike portraits.

PUER PRIMA — the first boy — is dedicated to her son, her first child, to whom this body of work lovingly belongs.



Alia Shawkat
beached mom, 2025
Oil and charcoal on canvas
60h x 70.50w in





Alia Shawkat
drift, 2022
Oil on canvas
56h x 69w in





Alia Shawkat
gathering, 2023
Oil and charcoal on canvas
72.25h x 48.50w in





Alia Shawkat
lamassu, 2025
Charcoal on canvas
60h x 66w in





Alia Shawkat
magrittes, 2024
Oil on canvas
36h x 28w in





Alia Shawkat
masked, 2019
Charcoal on canvas
25.25h x 43w in





Alia Shawkat
showman, 2025
Oil and charcoal on canvas
60h x 67w in





Alia Shawkat
south bay, 2025
Oil on canvas
60h x 90w in





Alia Shawkat
stage, 2023
Oil and charcoal on canvas
47h x 86.50w in





Alia Shawkat
stare, 2018
Oil on canvas
65.25h x 88.50w in





Alia Shawkat
taken, 2023
Oil and charcoal on canvas
65.5h x 89w in





Alia Shawkat
watched, 2020
Oil on canvas
69.75h x 64w in





Alia Shawkat
lost children, 2025
Oil and charcoal on canvas
57h x 59.50 w in





Alia Shawkat
babes, 2025
Oil stick on paper
11.75h x 8.25w in





Alia Shawkat
faces, 2020
Charcoal on paper
12.25h x 9 w in





Alia Shawkat
fingers crossed, 2020
Charcoal on paper
11h x 8.50w in





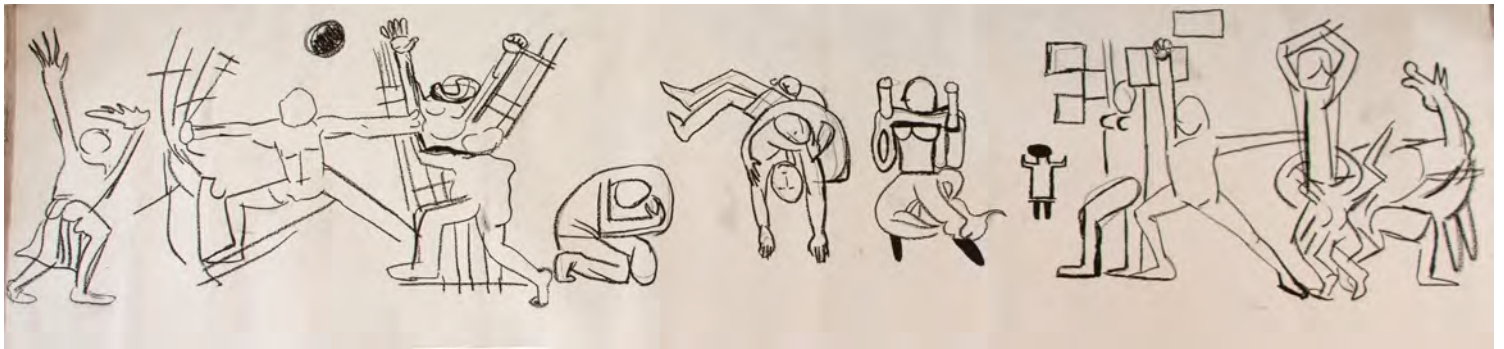
Alia Shawkat
untitled, 2021
Pencil on paper
16.5h x 12w in





Alia Shawkat
baghead, 2020
Marker on paper
16.5h x 12w in





Alia Shawkat
tahrir square, 2020
Charcoal on canvas
21h x 84w in





Alia Shawkat
phil, 2021
Charcoal on canvas
36h x 48w in

