

LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

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SHERIN GUIRGUIS: INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE (ἔογν ἐλγμνη νῆρωμ)

September 12 – October 24, 2026

Opening Reception:

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 4:00–7:00 P.M.

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Luis De Jesus Los Angeles is pleased to announce **Sherin Guirguis: Into the Lake of Fire (ἔογν ἐλγμνη νῆρωμ)**, a solo exhibition envisioning Indigenous Egyptian language revitalization. The exhibition runs from **September 12 to October 24, 2026**. An opening reception will be held Saturday, September 12, from 4-7 pm.

Egyptian American artist Sherin Guirguis presents a series of monoprints created during her recent Sam Francis Foundation "Call to Dream" Fellowship in Paris, France. Drawn from research with heritage objects held in Parisian institutions, the series explores cultural memory, honoring ancestral languages at risk of being forgotten.

The exhibition's title, *Into the Lake of Fire (ἔογν ἐλγμνη νῆρωμ)*, references a transformative passage from the ancient text *Spells of Coming Forth by Day*, long mistranslated by European archaeologists as *The Book of the Dead*. Through her engagement with Egyptian archives, ritual objects, and community, Guirguis rethinks systems of representation, preservation, and access. By re-centering the perspectives of Indigenous Egyptians (RemenKeemi, "People of the Black Soil"), the work exposes the gaps produced through colonial knowledge systems and *Egyptomania*, creating space for reclamation and self-empowerment.

Repetition—both inherent to monoprint and central to Guirguis' practice—functions as a formal strategy and ritual of cultural remembrance. Delicate patterns and glyphs are assembled, transferred, and transformed through successive impressions, each gesture generating new forms and meanings. Sacred symbols representing nature, protection, and divinity recur throughout the compositions, evoking the rites of ancestral wisdom. Their fluid patterns echo the movement of the Nile, translating geological, spiritual, and cosmological relationships into expressive visual forms.

Color and materiality hold significance as Guirguis employs pigments historically used in Egyptian art and architecture. Gold, faience blue, carnelian red, and ochre create chromatic fields to dissolve the boundaries between water and fire, sky and land, past and future. With these inks luminously layered on silky matte black paper, the works simultaneously evoke the velvet-lined display cases of museums and the mythologies of a fertile abyss. Through the collective of repetitive gestures, *Into the Lake of Fire (ἔογν ἐλγμνη νῆρωμ)*, becomes a mnemonic device celebrating RemenKeemi histories while imagining new possibilities for their continued presence and future.

Sherin Guirguis (b.1974, Luxor, Egypt) lives and works between Egypt and Los Angeles, CA. Guirguis has exhibited nationally and internationally. Solo museum exhibitions include Honolulu Museum of Art, HI; The Minnesota Museum of American Art, St Paul, MN; Tahrir Cultural Center, American University, Cairo, EG; and Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA; along with numerous group exhibitions of note. Commissioned public works include *Forever Is Now*, Art D'Égypte, UNESCO World Heritage Site: Pyramids of Giza, Cairo, EG; Desert X Biennial, AIUla, SA; Desert X Biennial, Palm Springs, CA; METRO Los Angeles, CA.

Her works can be found in the public collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; UC Irvine Langson Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, CA; United States Department of State, Washington, DC; The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, TX; Minnesota Museum of American Art, Saint Paul, MN; Doris Duke Foundation, NY, NY; Qatar Art Foundation, Doha, QA; and numerous private collections. Guirguis holds an MFA in painting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, and a BA in art from the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.