

**Adrian Pepe's Poetic Meditation on Fragmentation and Renewal: *A Shroud is a Cloth* at NIKA Project Space Dubai**

**29 January – 17 May 2025**



*Adrian Pepe. Entangled Matters 2.0. Exhibition View. Beirut. 2024. Image courtesy of the artist.*

- *Opening at NIKA Project Space in Dubai on 29 January 2025, *A Shroud is a Cloth* by Adrian Pepe explores themes of memory, renewal, and material transformation using a woolen textile that previously wrapped a building damaged in the 2020 Beirut Port Explosion*
- *The Lebanon-based Honduran artist's practice highlights the relationship between materials, cultural landscapes, and ecological intimacy, presenting a poetic dialogue on transformation and resilience*
- *NIKA Project Space and Adrian Pepe have worked together on multiple projects, including the Sharjah Architecture Triennial and the gallery's inaugural group show in 2023*

**Dubai, UAE - Renowned fiber artist Adrian Pepe will present *A Shroud is a Cloth*, an evocative exploration of memory, healing, and the delicate interplay between destruction and renewal.** Opening on 29 January at NIKA Project Space in Dubai, this multidisciplinary showcase **challenges the rigid demarcations between art, labor, nature, and performance through a textile medium.**

At the heart of the exhibition lies a monumental **200-square-meter woolen textile that once wrapped a damaged heritage building in the center of Beirut**. Through *A Shroud is a Cloth*, Pepe explores ideas of **fragmentation, repair, and the traces left by personal and collective histories**. The works, derived from a single common source, range in scale from intimate to monumental. **Wool**—cleansed, processed, manipulated, and recontextualized—**becomes a vessel for gestures, images, and rituals**. Debris extracted from the wool—such as dirt, seed diaspores, and remnants of vegetable matter—is preserved, capturing the landscape within the material. **Stitching, felting, and acts of assembly transform these materials into new compositions, reflecting on material processes, ecological intimacy, and the fragility of being**. Through forms evocative of votives, maps, and effigies, these works gesture toward the intangible—engaging questions of memory, identity, and connection.

“Wool has this capacity to hold time—it is resilient yet malleable, intimate yet expansive,” says **Pepe**. “In this exhibition, I am exploring how materials are never neutral; they shape, and are shaped by care, labor, and the environments they inhabit.”

The Lebanon-based Honduran artist’s practice explores the intersections of materials and meaning, presenting a poetic dialogue on transformation. Over the years, **NIKA Project Space and Adrian Pepe have collaborated on multiple projects**, demonstrating a shared commitment to innovation and artistic exploration. For the 2023 edition of the Sharjah Architecture Triennial, NIKA Project Space supported Pepe’s *Utility of Being: A Paradox of Proximity*, a site-specific installation staged at the city’s old slaughterhouse. The installation was conceived from the gathered pelts of Awassi sheep, a byproduct of the slaughtering process, and offered a thought-provoking engagement with material reuse and cultural context.

In 2024, Pepe presented *Entangled Matters 2.0* in Beirut, a public installation and exhibition that enveloped the façade of the Villa des Palmes—a building affected by the port explosion—in hand felted wool textiles produced in Lebanon. This project was part of UNESCO’s BERYT (The Beirut Housing Rehabilitation and Cultural and Creative Industries Recovery) initiative, which called on cultural practitioners affected by the blast to submit proposals for developing cultural productions in impacted neighborhoods. NIKA Project Space also supported this significant undertaking, underscoring its commitment to fostering artistic innovation in challenging environments.

**Veronika Berezina**, founder of **NIKA Project Space**, says: “Adrian Pepe's first solo show at NIKA Project Space invites audiences to immerse themselves in a journey of profound exploration. Through his research, **Adrian has delved into the interconnectivity of life—bridging humans, nature, and raw materials in a way that reveals the hidden threads that bind us all**. This exhibition is a celebration of his thoughtful practice and a reminder of the delicate balance that sustains our world.”

*A Shroud is a Cloth* by Adrian Pepe runs from January 29 to May 17, 2025 at NIKA Project Space, Dubai.

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Press kit, including imagery, is available [HERE](#).

**Adrian Pepe, *A Shroud is a Cloth***

January 29 – May 17, 2025

11 – 7 PM, Monday – Saturday

NIKA Project Space, Al Khayat Avenue Unit 11 19th Street Road  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**PRESS ENQUIRIES:**

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**About NIKA Project Space**

Veronika Berezina founded NIKA Project Space in the UAE in 2023, a gallery that fosters the artistic inquiry of emerging and established artists and curators internationally, with a focus on practitioners from the Global South. NIKA Project Space serves as a platform for artistic discourse and experimentation and champions the work of female artists and curators. In addition to exhibitions which focus on conceptualization, abstraction, and philosophical inquiry, NIKA Project Space offers a critically engaged programme that emphasizes contemporaneity and dialogue through talks, performances, and educational initiatives. The gallery also hosts a research programme, inviting artists to create impactful new works that implement research-based and experimental creative processes, ultimately facilitating the exploration and portrayal of nuanced societal experiences and historical narratives.

In 2024, NIKA Project Space inaugurated a European location in the Komunuma art district in Romainville, on the outskirts of Paris. In Dubai, the gallery is located in Al Khayat Avenue, Al Quoz. [nika-projects.com](http://nika-projects.com)

**About Veronika Berezina**

Veronika Berezina is the founder of NIKA Project Space, a UAE and Paris-based gallery that fosters the artistic inquiry of emerging and established artists and curators. Committed to providing a space for discourse and critical engagement, Berezina opened the doors to NIKA Project Space in Dubai in March 2023 and NIKA Project Space Paris in September 2024 and has since worked in tandem with international practitioners, with a focus on artists and curators from the Global South. Through a considered approach, Berezina is building a rigorous roster of artists and focusing on expanding the gallery's research programme and publishing arm. Born in St. Petersburg, Berezina formerly held a career as a lawyer. In 2022, she relocated to Dubai to pursue her goal of opening a gallery. NIKA Project Space evolved from over a decade of private collecting and patronage.

**About Adrian Pepe**

(b.1984, Honduras, lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon)

Adrian Pepe is a Honduran fiber artist based in Lebanon. His artistic practice is an ongoing investigation on process and material. Through his work, he interweaves nature and culture to create objects as tools to enable an open discourse on materiality, our morphing cultural landscape, and present condition.

Pepe's work is rooted in textiles, spanning site-specific installations to durational performances. By directly engaging with the sentient providers of raw materials— whether plant or animal— Pepe forges relational ties that manifest in objects and events imbued with artistry, sweat, perspiration, mythology, and symbolism; transforming acts of making into speculative, embodied rituals that test and extend our understanding of material agency, ecological intimacy, and the poetics of labor.