

SISSI FARASSAT



War Carpet, 83 x 50 cm, Swarovski crystals on canvas, 2011

It lies in the nature of photography to be linked to the past. Photography is not able to entirely distance itself from the there and then, no matter how much we attempt to blur or crop certain details and fragments in the picture. Only a complete image editing, such as the removing of a figure as a whole or the complete blending out of the surroundings and background allow for a new encoding – breaking the former references to time and space.

Sissi Farassat's sequined pictures investigate and reflect essential aspects of perception and the aesthetics of the photographic image. She isolates the photographed subject, mostly a person but at times also objects, by covering the large surrounding surfaces around the figures with a semi-transparent, dazzling sequined carpet. Thus the context is eliminated and the subjects are captured in an abstract surrounding covering all references to time and space with a glamorous hand-embroidered texture. The sequins thereby replace the there and then with a here and now in their materiality and absence. The sensuous materiality of the sequins is completely alien to photography, yet their sensibility to light and their distinctive reflective quality is mirrored in the aspects of photographic exposure. Moreover, Farassat makes reference to early icon painting, where genuine gold leaf was used to represent light in the background of these sacred images. Due to their abstract sequin surfaces, Farassat's photographic works are endowed with a spiritual aura placing them in the long tradition of iconic images. The artist manages to create a unique work of art (which cannot be copied through mechanic reproduction) without denying the medium of photography which lies at the core of the work.

GALERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND

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SISSI FARASSAT

born in Tehran, Iran in 1969
lives and works in Vienna, Austria

EDUCATION

- 1993 School of Photography, conducted by Friedl Kubelka, Vienna, Austria
1993 Summer Academy conducted by Nan Goldin, Salzburg, Austria

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 FOREVER, MUSA Museum auf Abruf, Vienna, Austria
2008 Es ist, was es ist, Galerie Viktor Bucher, Vienna, Austria
2007 SIOSEH#31, Galerie Blumberg, Vienna, Austria
Sissi, c'est moi, Scaloguye Galerie, L.A., USA
2006 Return to Sender, Viktor Bucher, Vienna, Austria
Who is the Other?, National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland
2005 Nur Ich, Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria
2003 Lichtbildkunst, Nürtingen, Germany
Eins zu Eins, Sammlung Essl, Vienna,
2002 An kühlen Tagen, Kalco Galerie, Vienna
2001 Im Osten Nichts Neues, k/haus Passagengalerie, Vienna, Austria
2000 Andere Objekte der Fotokünstlerin Sissi Farassat, Podroom, Vienna, Austria
1999 Portraits VI, aai-galerie, Vienna, Austria
1998 Ich, Ich Immer Ich, Cult Galerie, Vienna, Austria
1997 Ich, Galerie Cosmos, Vienna, Austria
Portraits V, Cité internationale des Arts, Paris, France
1996 Portraits IV, Fotogalerie im Wuk, Vienna, Austria
1994 Flächendiagonale, Finsterer Stern, Vienna, Austria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Staging Identity, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland
Contemporary Design by Contemporary Artists, Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, Innsbruck, Austria
News, Galerie Wolfrum, Vienna, Austria
2010 Tracing Reality, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland
Aus der Sammlung: Surface-Oberfläche als Prinzip. Landesgalerie Linz am Oberösterreichischen Landesmuseum, Linz, Austria
2009 Sharp Chic – Über die Anziehungskraft des Kristallinen, Quartier 21, Vienna, Austria
2008 June Begins in May, Laleh June Galerie, Basel, Switzerland
Left but a Trace, Corner House, Manchester, UK
2007 SIOSEH#30, Museum of Vienna, Austria
2006 Galeria Fondazione Studio Marangoni, Florence, Italy
Bon Appétit, Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria
2005 Taboo, Fototriennale "Backlight 05", Verein FLUSS, Vienna, Austria
Simultan, Zwei Sammlungen österreichischer Fotografie, Art Club, Vienna/ Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria
2004 PREVIEW, Galerie Schloss Mondsee, Mondsee, Austria
2003 AMFL, Solar Grandjean de Montigny, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2002 Design Now. Austria, Hara Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2001 Innere Szene Wien, NОMI Galerie, St. Petersburg, Russia
Innere Szene Wien, Russian Art Museum, Pärnu, Estonia
2000 Album00, Ausstellungsraum Buchsenhausen, Innsbruck, Austria
1999 Fast Forward, Künstlerhaus Wien, Vienna, Austria

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