

HADIEH SHAFIE



10,000 Pages, 76 x 76 x 9 cm, ink and paper with printed and hand-written Farsi text *Esheghe* "love", 2011

Artist Statement

„Cultural signifiers from the East and West are often conflated to create complex formal and conceptual meaning. In Hadieh Shafie's ink and paper paintings, tightly scrolled and brightly colored rolls of paper hide hand-written text by the artist. Like 1000 blooming targets a la Jasper Johns, these paintings delight with the Op-art sensation of vibrating constellations of color and intrigue, with all the mystery that hidden words hold.“

Barbara O'Brien, Curator, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City

A constant element of my work has been the significance of process, repetition and time. In works comprised of paper scrolls, individual strips of paper have been marked with hand-written and printed *Farsi* (Persian language) text. Each strip is then tightly rolled to create a core, around which successive strips are added. During the repetitive process of adding paper strips to create individual rolls, text and symbols are sometimes revealed and often hidden within the concentric rings of the finished object. The time it takes to make each work can vary and the time spent in writing and rolling the strips of paper is an important part of the artistic process and a performative aspect of the making of this work. The title of each piece documents the number of individual strips of paper that complete the work. Concentric forms of text and material take direct inspiration from the Sama dance of the whirling dervishes and the act of turning-on-axis in search of ascendance through forgetting the body. Rumi's poetry and the search for the dervish within are at the core of my own search and rebellion, with the resulting work as the physical expression of my awe.

Repeated in the work is the *Farsi* word for love, or "*eshghe*". The repetition of text and this particular word is a recurring element in much of my work. In choosing to ignore the rules of calligraphy I create work that is grounded in the expressive beauty and individual power of the untrained hand. In addition, by removing certain language markers, such as the dots that signify specific vowel soundings, I eliminate a communicative element. In this way the resulting text is reduced to its most expressive form as a visual element.

GALERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND

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HADIEH SHAFIE

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1969
Lives and works in Baltimore, USA

EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA Imaging and Digital Art UMBC, MD, USA
- 1999 MFA Painting Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, USA
- 1993 BA Painting University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
KETAB, XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE
The Sweet Turning of the Page, Morton Fine Art, Washington D.C., USA
- 2010 Some Kind of Love, Jean Efron Art Consultants, Washington D.C., USA
- 2009 Paper Pattern Color Culture, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2008 Exodus, The Carriage House, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2004 The Little Black Fishes, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD, USA
Spin, MFA Exhibition, CVAC, UMBC, Baltimore, MD, USA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Jameel Prize tour, Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain
- 2011 Jameel Prize tour, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Select: Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
- 2010 Ritual: Form, Script and Gesture, A Pop Up Project, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC, USA
More of the best is yet to come, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Crazy Beautiful II, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Larchmont, NY, USA
I(RAN) Home (In America), CoCA, Seattle, WA, USA
Gallery Artists Group Show, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2009 Hidden Wounds, Paper Bullets: Iranian Contemporary Art, Grant Arts Central, Fullerton, CA, USA
I (RAN) Home (In America), The Fridge DC, Washington D.C., USA
CrossCurrents: Trends in Contemporary Art Media, Sarah Silberman Gallery, MD, USA
Protocol: Syntax / Semantics, Gallery 4, Baltimore, MD, USA
Baker Artist Awards Exhibition, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
Women's Work, Civilian Art Place, Washington D.C., USA
- 2008 Drawing Fusion, Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville, MD, USA
Hidden and Revealed, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD, USA
Full Circle, Rosenberg Gallery, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD, USA
Pinned, Pinkard Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2007 Iconology, Red Saw Gallery, Newark, NJ, USA
Changing Climate Changing Colors, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY, USA
- 2006 The Notebook, Current Gallery, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2004 Solace: Searching for Meaning in a Time of Distress, Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2003 Under The Table and Dreaming, Raleigh Studios, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 1999 30 x30, Cinque Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1996 Women, East Galleries, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, USA
- 1995 Art Made in Exile: Iranian Artists, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., USA

The artist has been recipient of numerous awards and grants.

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