

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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RSS

September 2012 Newsletter

Events

CURRENT

REZA DERAKSHANI

SILENCE OF THE NIGHT

Sand Paintings

September 6 – October 6, 2012

568 West 25th Street

Reza Derakshani is internationally recognized and lauded for his fearless exploration of form and style. His works are known for their monumental scale and their embodiment of poetry and lyricism, each cast in an ongoing array of materials that include oil, tar, gold and silver leaf, enamel, glitter, soil and sand.

[Press Release](#)

Image: Reza Derakshani, *Void*, 2012, Enamel and gold on canvas 80 x 60 in (203.2 x 152.4 cm)



COLORADO COLLEGE

I.D.E.A. Space

InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts

Cross-Currents: Tradition and Innovation in Contemporary Art of the Islamic World

September 3 – October 24, 2012

What will Islamic societies look like in the twenty-first century? While political analysts make predictions, artists within the Islamic world also intervene in these debates, often with profound impact on cultural discourse. As Robin Wright notes in the 2011 prologue to her book *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World*, "The profound political stirrings are supported by a strong culture of change. ... The social transformations are as pivotal as the political upheavals. Activists are not only adapting the technology of Facebook and Twitter to their causes. They are also experimenting with culture — from comedy to theater, poetry to song — as an idiom to communicate who they are and to end isolation caused by extremists within their ranks." Focusing the lens on contemporary visual arts, *Cross-Currents: Tradition and Innovation in Contemporary Art of the Islamic World* presents the work of seven international artists whose work lays claim to and honors their varied and complex heritages, while simultaneously challenging accepted norms.



Featuring: Azra Akšamija; Ayad Alkadhi; Shoja Azari; Reza Derakshani; Hayv Kahraman; Naiza H. Khan; Soody Sharifi.

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Image: Ayad Alkadhi, *Will not be Silenced (I will not be silenced)*, 2011, Acrylic, pen & yarn on canvas, 48 x 60 in (122 x 152.5 cm)

JULIA MANDLE at dOCUMENTA (13) – Travelling Academy – Edition 2012

September 11 – 15, 2012 Kassel (Germany)

Julia Mandle has been selected as one of fifteen artists to participate in the first edition of Nature Addicts! Fund Academy hosted by dOCUMENTA (13). "The selected group of artists create work whose themes relate to environmental and civic responsibility. Nature Addicts! Fund is convinced that art has a key role to play in sustainable development awareness and is inspiring tomorrow's world. The Fund seeks to an approach that is less about scaring people and making them feel guilty and more about sharing the real concerns of experts and scientists through the subtle, sensitive and unconventional vision that artists can express."



Participating artists are: Ackroyd & Harvey (UK), Frederique Ait-Touati (France), Geir Backe

Altern (Norway), Linus Ersson (Sweden), Aurélien Gamboni (Switzerland), Fernando Garcia Dory (Spain), Mustafa Kaplan (Turkey), Zissis Kotionis (Greece), Julia Mandle (USA), Clare Patey (UK), Erik Samakh (France), Asa Sonjasdotter (Sweden), Elisa Strinna (Italy), Maria Thereza Alves (Brazil), Toril Johannessen (Norway), and Clare Pentecost (USA).

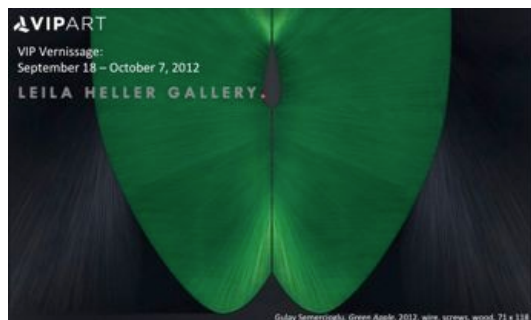
[Read More](#)

Image: Julia Mandle, *Dirty Cookies* (From *Dirty Cookies* event), 2009, Cardboard and earth collected from various neighborhoods in Brooklyn

VIP Vernissage

September 18 – October 7, 2012

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to present new works by Gulay Semercioglu, Reza Derakshani, and Hadieh Shafie in the inaugural version of [VIP Vernissage](#) (September 18 – October 7, 2012). The first event of its kind, VIP Vernissage will launch concurrently with the newly expanded version of VIP Art Fair: VIP ART, and will allow collectors to take the pulse of the international contemporary art season this Fall from one centralized online location. To view Vip Vernissage, click [here](#). For additional information or assistance, please contact Jessica Davidson at (212) 249-7695 or jessica@leilahellergallery.com



[View More](#)

Image: Gulay Semercioglu, *Green Apple*, 2012, Wire, screws, wood, 71x 118 in (180.34 x 299.72 cm)

INSTITUTE for WOMEN and ART at RUTGERS presents
The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art and Society
August 13, 2012 – January 13, 2013

The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art and Society, conceived and produced by Ferris Olin and Judith K. Brodsky, co-directors of the Institute for Women and Art at Rutgers, is an ambitious and unparalleled showcase five years in the making of exhibitions, public programming, and an accompanying catalog (ARTBOOK/D.A.P., September 2012) of the same title centered around the work of 24 contemporary feminist artists of Middle East heritage who do not want to be pigeonholed by national or religious identities. The work of these “transnational” artists examines and reveals from their global perspectives the complex social, theological and historic issues that have, and continue to shape, the state of Middle East women. The exhibition includes Leila Heller Gallery artists Negar Ahkami and Shiva Ahmadi.



On November 14, at the New York Public Library, Negar Ahkami will be part of a panel that

will discuss the complex social, political, theological and historic issues that shape the status of Middle East women in Middle East countries and the diaspora as expressed through their art.

[Read More](#)

Image: Negar Ahkami, *Hot and Crusty*, 2011, Acrylic glitter and gesso on panel 48 x 36 in (121.92 x 91.44 cm)

UPCOMING

GULAY SEMERCIOGLU

October 11 – November 10, 2012

Leila Heller Gallery

568 West 25th Street

The first solo show in New York City of mixed media work by Turkish artist Gulay Semercioglu will be on view at Leila Heller Gallery in Chelsea at 568 West 25th Street from October 11 through November 10, 2012. The artist forms geometric, 3-dimensional compositions by weaving thin vibrantly colored metal wires on to a wooden plank. More than twenty layers are created from one long piece of metal wire wound around numerous nails. The result is an abstract, perhaps even meditative, work inspired by the shapes of microorganisms, simple leaf forms, mountains, and water. Light plays a significant role in Semercioglu's oeuvre. The aluminum knit works transform visually as light reflects off the work at different points according to the time of the day and the viewing position.



Image: Gulay Semercioglu, *Inside*, 2011, Wire, screws, wood, 60 x 39.5 in (150 x 100 cm)

ART PLATFORM

LOS ANGELES

At the Barker Hangar

Santa Monica, California

September 28 – 30, 2012

September 27 Preview

Booth 719: Leila Heller Gallery

Booth 706: Leila Heller Gallery / Rachel Lee
Hovnanian *Cafe 2012* Installation



Leila Heller Gallery will feature artworks by Rachel Lee Hovnanian, Ran Hwang, Hadieh Shafie, Ayad Alkadhi and Farideh Lashai.

Art Platform – Los Angeles, the modern and contemporary art fair for Los Angeles, will debut its second edition at the historic Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport, just minutes from the beach and the Santa Monica Pier. The move to the Barker Hangar emphasizes **Art Platform – Los Angeles'** commitment to greater Los Angeles as an international art capital, and to the growth of the fair as an essential event in the ever expanding art world. As the premier art fair in Southern California, **Art Platform – Los Angeles** seeks to capture the very essence of this great city – light, space, innovation, and recreation.

[View More](#)

Image: Rachel Lee Hovnanian, *Cafe*, 2012, Installation

HVCCA HUDSON VALLEY CENTER for CONTEMPORARY ART

RAN HWANG at *PEEKSKILL PROJECT V*:

THE NEW HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL

*Contemporary Artists Address the Regional
Landscape*

September 29, 2012 – July 28, 2013

Kick off weekend: September 29 –30

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art

(HVCCA) is pleased to announce the fifth installment of Peekskill Project: a citywide art festival devoted to bringing cutting edge contemporary art out of the museum and into the community. Using the city as a stage, Peekskill Project activates the urban environment and its inhabitants through site-specific art exhibitions, performances and screenings sited in multiple venues throughout Peekskill.



Visitors of Peekskill Project V can explore the **work of over 100 emerging and established contemporary artists** in venues throughout the city and within the galleries of HVCCA. Venues include parks, local businesses, former industrial spaces, vacant lots and storefronts. HVCCA is partnering with the City of Peekskill, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill BID, Field Library, Westchester Community College and others for programming and exhibition space. Downtown Peekskill and the Peekskill Waterfront also serve as major sites of

the project.

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Image: Ran Hwang, *Healing Blossoms* (detail), 2012, Paper buttons, beads and pins on wood panel, 66 x 325 in (167.64 x 825.5 cm)

SHIRIN FAKHIM at *UNLIMITED BODIES*

Corps sans limite

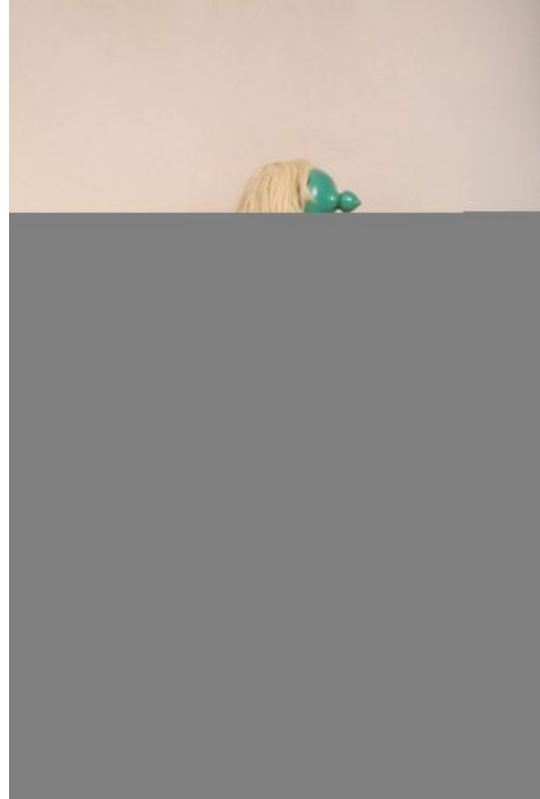
Palais d'Iéna

Siège du Conseil économique, social
environnemental

9 Place d'Iéna Paris, France

October 13 – 24, 2012

UNLIMITED BODIES presents an exclusive show of 30 international sculptors. Representative of several generations, these artists will move into the 1000 square meters of the hypostyle room in the Palais d'Iéna for twelve days. UNLIMITED BODIES explores contemporary sculpture in a one-on-one confrontation with its public, revealing an art that is deeply rooted in the present moment. The sculpture-bodies of the show are of a human dimension and emphasize the formal analogy between sculpture and the human figure.



Restless Meat is a series of sculptures by Shirin Fakhim that express the artist's vision of the body as a carcass. Composed of crumpled pages from Tehran's daily newspapers, and bound in packing wire, the artist has modelled the sculptures on her own body. The curves are swollen and each sculpture appears weighted down by its uncomfortably sexualized pose.

These bulging forms depict the body as a separate, lifeless entity – an object that she says is “dragged around” and “maintained like a car” for the pleasure of the eyes of others. The body must be kept in shape, it must be washed and made presentable with make-up and accessories. The body is dressed up like a carcass to be devoured; the golden hoofs, for instance, are a symbol of this gussied ugliness.

[Read More](#)

Image: Shirin Fakhim, *Untitled 7 (from the Tell-Tale Tart)*, 2010, Mixed media, Dimensions variable

SHIVA AHMADI at The College of Wooster Art Museum

October 23 – December 9, 2012

Ebert Art Center

1220 Beall Avenue

Wooster, OH

The College of Wooster Art Museum presents Shiva Ahmadi solo exhibition. Born in Tehran, Iran, in 1975, Shiva Ahmadi's representational watercolors are influenced by Persian and Indian miniature painting, yet occupy a charged psycho-visual space. According to the artist, her loosely spattered and highly layered paintings on aqua-board, "Create an allegorical realm where faceless tyrants and religious authorities sit on ornate gilded thrones while subservient minions bow to them."



Safe Heaven, 2012, takes its formal cues from Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Early Delights*, c. 1505–1515, by using a triptych format in which the upper middle portion is occupied by a throne and its occupant, and myriad acts of implied destruction tumble around and below. Although Ahmadi's lush and seductive painting creates an uneasy tension that appears to be geopolitically specific, her work is a critique of all overt and covert dictatorial authority.

Image: Shiva Ahmadi, *Safe Heaven*, 2012, Mixed media on aquaboard, 60 x 120 in (152.4 x 304.8 cm)

News

Ahram Online

"Iranian artist Reza Derakshani holds solo exhibit in New York gallery"

September 1, 2012

Reza Derakshani is a multifaceted artist; a musician, a visual and an installation artist. He was born in Sangsar in the northeast of Iran and studied visual arts in Tehran and the United States. His art career took him to New York and Italy, but his art traveled to exhibitions and festivals throughout the world.

Through his work he portrays his cultural roots, the influence of global art movements and his movement across the globe. His artwork – best known for its large scale and experimental use of materials, including glitter, soil, sand, tar, gold and silver leaf among others – is a reflection of his multi-layered identity as an artist and a citizen of the world.



[Read More](#)

Image: Reza Derakshani, *Peacock Throne*, 2012, Black sand and enamel on canvas, 80 x 70 in (203.2 x 177.8 cm)

Paddle 8
Leila Heller Gallery | Reza Derakshani
September 13, 2012

Paddle8's "In the Gallery" series is re-launching this Fall as a series of solo gallery exhibitions beginning this week with [Leila Heller Gallery's Silence of the Night](#) – an exhibition of 10 large-scale paintings and

an installation by Reza Derakshani. Known for his monumental scale, these new works by Derakshani offer a slight departure from past works in their limited employment of color and material – created primarily with a strict black and white palette in the mediums of sand, soil and enamel. Go to "[In the Gallery September | Leila Heller Gallery](#)" to view available works from Derakshani as well as text from his new catalogue and a Q&A about this new body of work.

[View More](#)

Image: Reza Derakshani, *Peacock Throne*, 2012, Black sand and enamel on canvas, 80 x 70 in (203 x 178 cm)

CANVAS
Highlights from Canvas Guide
"Reza Derakshani"
September/October 2012

Iranian painter and musician Reza Derakshani's solo exhibition *Silence of the Night* features 10 of the artist's large-scale sand paintings. His body of work has gained recognition for its fearless exploration of form and style. His works are known for their monumental scale and embodiment of poetry and lyricism cast in an ongoing array of materials including oil, gold and silver leaf, enamel glitter, soil, and sand.

[Read More](#)

Image: Reza Derakshani, *Chained to the Night*, 2012, Black sand and enamel on canvas, 80 x 80 in (203 x 203 cm)

CANVAS
Society Page
"Group Show at Leila Heller Gallery"
July/August, 2012

On 12 July, Leila Heller Gallery hosted an opening reception for *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, an exhibition of works by nine established and emerging artists. On show were pieces by Louise Bourgeois, Rob Carter, Jim Dine, Soonja Han, Kim



Chun Hwan, Louise Nevelson, Jackson Pollock, Hadieh Shafie and Kasper Sonne. curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath of art reoriented, the show's title is derived from the name of the popular hand game and refers to the variety of media and formal elements of the works on display.

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Image: Writer Bob Colacello and Alexander Heller with a work by Jackson Pollock

ARTnews

"Jackson's Other Actions: Pollock's Sculptures Resurface"

By Robin Cembalest

September 13, 2012

Though Pollock showed the sculptures at various galleries during his lifetime, including Peridot and Betty Parsons, they had been absent from the scene in recent years. That is beginning to change. A basalt head Pollock made in 1930–33 (later cast in a bronze edition by Reuben Kadish) was in a few exhibitions at [Jason McCoy](#) and is now being offered for sale by [Leila Heller](#).



[Read More](#)

Image: Jackson Pollock, *Untitled*, 1930 –1933, Stone, 4.25 x 3 x 2.75 in (10.8 x 7.6 x 7 cm)

CANVAS
"Shiny Cunning Things"
By Leila Heller
July/August, 2012

Vibrant paintings layered with flashy sequins, embroidery and carpet collage feature glamorous women in scenes of mystery, drama, suspense and action. This could only be the work of Turkish artist Kezban Arca Batibeki, undeniably a pioneering figure in the Turkish Pop art scene. Batibeki's signature style of bold designs complimented by kitsch materials creates a fantasy world where women – both villainous and heroic – take center stage. These scenes of battling women are highly influenced by the escapist pulp fiction magazines read by the artist as a young girl.



[Read More](#)

Image: Kezban Arca Batibeki, *Reflection 1*, 2011, Acrylic embroidery and collage on canvas, 39.37 x 59 in (100 x 150 cm)

Art Clvb
"Christie's Dubai October Auction Highlights"
July 30, 2012

Early highlights consigned for the Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art sale at Christie's in Dubai on October 23 and 24, 2012 will include works by Paul Guiragossian, Reza Derakshani, Ahmet Elhan and Chafic Abboud. There will also be 6 lots sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation, a new educational initiative that supports art students from the region to enable them to study abroad. The sale is sponsored by Zurich and will be held at the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai with pre-sale viewing from the Sunday prior to the sale.

Among the artists and galleries who have already agreed to participate are Ali Banisadr represented by ROPAC, Shirazeh Houshiary represented by the London-based Lisson Gallery, Shoja Azari & Shahram Karimi and Hadieh Shafieh from the Leila Heller Gallery in New York and Pouran Jinchi from the Third Line Gallery in Dubai.

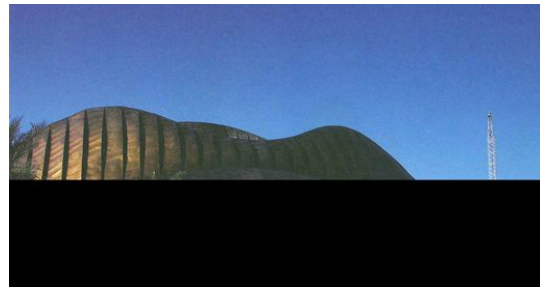
[Read More](#)

CANVAS

"Return To The Island"

By Anna Wallace-Thompson

September/October 2012



Last year witnessed a marked change in the format of Abu Dhabi Art (ADA), as it transitioned from its previous home in the Emirates Palace Hotel to Saadiyat Island. In due course it will stand alongside the much-awaited Zayed National Museum, Gugenheim Abu Dhabi and Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Other returning galleries this year include Waterhouse & Dodd (London/New York), Leila Heller (New York), Sfeir-Semler (Beirut/Hamburg) and Agial Art Gallery (Beirut), in addition to blue chip galleries Gagosian, Thaddaeus Ropac (Paris) and Kamel Mennour (Paris), among others. With roughly a third of this year's galleries hailing from the Middle East, the list promises to be an organic mixture of regional and international, with crossover between the two in several of the gallerie's stables...

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Image: Exterior view of Manarat Al-Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi. Image courtesy Tourism Development & Investment Company, Abu Dhabi

The Wall Street Journal

"Fashion Goes Back to School at F.I.T.'s New Exhibit"

By Gary Shapiro

September 16, 2012

A show featuring clothing of the boarding school set and elite college sportsmen has unfolded in town. Oxford shirts, school blazers and the like abound at the Fashion Institute of Technology exhibition called "Ivy Style." The show examines the durable impact of Ivy League style in America from its British influence to present-day democratization by designers like Tommy Hilfiger and Mr. Lauren.

Artist Iké Udé said that Ivy style by any measure was a standard of good taste, restrained flamboyancy and decorum. John Major, wearing a tie from Clare Hall, Cambridge, said he was wearing the clothes of his youth: "It's like seeing myself in a mirror."



Queen Hoffmann/Patrick McMullen

[Read More](#)

Image: Jean Shafiroff and artist Iké Udé

Black Tie Magazine

"Portrait of Glamorous Philanthropist Stops Traffic at Art Southampton"

August 6, 2012

Crowds swarmed **Leila Heller's** booth to get a glimpse at Ude's portrait of the woman who has become famed not only for her generous philanthropy but her elegant personal style. The portrait was displayed with additional featured works by artists including Rachel Lee Hovnanian and Ran Hwang among others. Depicting a be-jeweled and be-gowned Shafiroff in a provocative pose lounging on a chair, the image clearly draws comparison to an international style icon of another era – **Audrey Hepburn** with whom Mrs. Shafiroff shares a common link in terms of combining philanthropy with a unique personal style.



[See Article](#)

Image: Iké Udé, *Jean Shafiroff*, 2012, Pigment on Satin Paper, 36 x 40 in (91.44 x 101.6 cm)

Hariri & Hariri for Swarovski
"Kryptonite Jewelry Collection"

This collection originated from working with Nadja Swarovski on a chandelier for the Crystal Palace collection. The idea of creating a collection in the form of an enormous crystal extended to this jewelry collection. New Asymmetrically Large crystals were designed by Hariri & Hariri and fabricated by Swarovski specifically for this collection. The collection is named Kryptonite (a fictional element from Superman mythos) because it gives one Superpower from its sheer size and design, it is almost super-natural! Like all our work this collection cannot be defined as one thing, it is the amalgamation of many things, where beauty, sensuality, functionality, technology and philosophy connect the body and mind.



[View More](#)

Image: Hariri & Hariri, Kryptonite Jewelry

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ART AND CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD