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ARTISTS MAKING MOVIES & THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM
TOWARDS THE INEFFABLE

Farideh Lashai’s new exhibition opens at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on 20 November, signalling the start of a new era of openness to cultural dialogue in Iran following this year’s international agreement for lifting the sanctions that have isolated the country and its people for almost 40 years. Mahnaz Fancy previews.

The rapid rise of the Middle Eastern art market over the last 15 years has garnered recognition for artists like Lashai, Shirin Neshat, Farhad Moshiri, Nicky Nodjoumi, Parviz Tanavoli and Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian outside of Iran due in part to the fact that their works have offered important insight into what had become an isolated Iranian culture. Behind this public art market, curators such as Fereydoun Damirchi, Layla Diba, Linda Komaroff and Venetia Porter, along with gallerists Rose Issa, Leila Heller, Isabelle Van den Eynde, Taymour Grahne and Janet Rady have quietly played a key role in bringing Modern and Contemporary Iranian art to wider audiences and into important public and private collections around the world. This exhibition represents a culmination of these various efforts.

Lashai has a unique place in this recent history of Contemporary Iranian art. A wildly prolific artist, she worked in media ranging from crystal to abstract painting and stop motion video animations projected onto landscape paintings over a 50-year career. Her body of work speaks to an acutely intelligent and agile mind and political commitment. Referencing film, literature, and art history with equal ease, Lashai’s art was produced against the backdrop of a dramatic history of revolution and violence.

Farideh Lashai: Towards the Ineffable runs 20 November–26 February at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. For more information, visit www.tmoca.com