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"'Open Secrets' by Rachel Lee Hovnanian in the Palazzo Mediceo of Seravezza." *Ilogo*. (June 12, 2019).

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Until November 3, in the Palazzo Mediceo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Seravezza in Versilia (Lu), you can visit the exhibition of New York artist Rachel Lee Hovnanian entitled "Open Secrets". Curated by Annalisa Bugliani and organized by Pechersky Family Foundation in collaboration with Galleria Poggiali and the Terre Medicee Foundation, the exhibition embraces the last ten years of work of this multi-faceted and multidisciplinary artist who combines painting, sculpture, interactive installations, works on paper and video art. With "Open Secrets" Hovnanian proposes a personal artistic

research on the relationship between man and the digital age, characterized by dependence on perfection, and on the effects of media on our psyche. In his works the social themes that reveal the dichotomy between personal value systems and our public image are addressed, continuing and deepening his previous project: "Perfect Baby Showroom". The exhibition path of "Open Secrets" composed of 14 works, highlights with irony the infatuation of the company for hyper-connectivity. Despite all the new digital media, Hovnanian asks: "Are we connecting more intimately with others in this post-internet era?"

The exhibition highlights the pressures exerted on individuals to use these new modes of communication, to show our interesting and cared for lives. In the quest for gratification, our increasingly virtual lives have begun to influence and obscure our relationship with reality. "Open Secrets" reveals the double existences that have evolved online through the advent of the digital revolution. Among the exhibited works, one can see in particular the series of works "Too Good to be True", the installation "Swipe Left, Swipe Right" and the monumental "Beauty Queen Totem". The great Carrara marble sculpture, winner of a competition in which the artist expresses the idea that our conceptions of beauty are encoded as touchstones of social power. Following the genesis of social media platforms and the ubiquity of smartphones, Hovnanian then created "Dinner for Two", an

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installation that shows a long dining table. Sitting at both ends there are two diners, represented with their images on a screen. Rather than looking at each other, the two characters spend most of their time looking at their phones. The installation sound reproduces only digital notification sounds. With the series "Happy Hour", "House of Empty Bottles" and the sculpture "Taped Shut", Hovnanian then expresses his personal experience of a person raised in a family where the effects of addiction have been hidden by the social pressures aimed at offering a image of perfection. The spread of digital technology and great advances in science and global connectivity are another strand of Hovnanian's research. With the video installation entitled "CREEPS", the artist tells with his style how we offer our personal information in exchange for the opportunity to participate in the digital revolution. "I conceived and realized this exhibition - explains Rachel Lee Hovnanian - to start complex dialogues on modern relations with technology. With my works I want to challenge viewers to confront the future potential of digital technology, and the role that humanity can play ". The exhibition is open until 3 November on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 4 to 8 pm, full ticket 7 euros reduced price 5 euros. Info:www.palazzomediceo.it www.rachellehovnanian.com