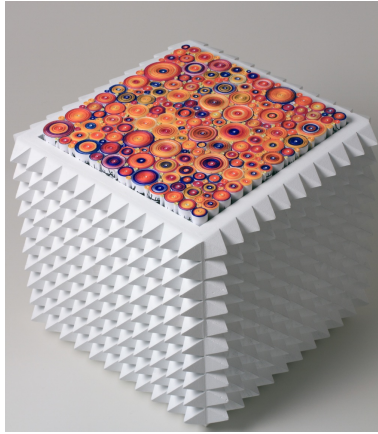


# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

## LEILA HELLER GALLERY TO EXHIBIT AT ART DUBAI

MARCH 18-21, 2015



Hadieh Shafie, *Block*, 2014

Ink, acrylic, paper and wood with printed and handwritten Farsi text

13.5 x 13.5 x 13.5 in/34.3 x 34.3 x 34.3 cm

For the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Art Dubai, **Leila Heller Gallery** is pleased to present a booth featuring art by four contemporary artists: Loris Cecchini, Noor Ali Chagani, Hadieh Shafie, and Kambiz Sharif. Curated by Dr. Shiva Balaghi, a leading scholar of contemporary Middle Eastern art and a Visiting Scholar of Brown University, the booth explores ways artists use formal experimentation to create art that is both beautiful and speaks to pressing social conditions. “The dream of a suitable political work of art,” wrote the philosopher Jacques Rancière, “is in fact the dream of disrupting the relationship between the visible, the sayable, and the thinkable without having to use the terms of a message in the vehicle.” Showcasing artists from South Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean, the booth explores this notion from a transregional perspective. Refusing a didactic artistic perspective, these artists make works that are evocative rather than provocative.

**Loris Cecchini** makes art that cradles the space between emotions and science. His recent works mine the interplay between the physical reality of materials and their artifice in systems of representation. Cecchini explores this paradox by employing seemingly rigid materials to forge organic, fluid sculptural pieces inspired by nature. The booth features one large work from his *Wallwave Vibration* series, which the artist explains are a physical manifestation of delicate electromagnetic waves. Two other works, *The Developed Seed* and *The Ineffable Gardener*, are welded steel modules that form a semblance of climbing plants forming organically from an array of twisting trails.

**Noor Ali Chagani** explores the walls we erect in society—that contain the spaces in which we live and keep hidden that which mustn’t be seen. Chagani transforms traditional miniature paintings into surreal three-dimensional sculptural forms made from handmade bricks. “Walls are always a medium of expression to me,” he explains. The artist has created all new works for Art Dubai

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that extend his art practice in new dimensions, including two sculptures *Gold Wall I* and *Gold Wall II*, made from gold-plated bronze bricks to underline the precious sanctity of the idea of a place called home.

**Hadieh Shafie** creates a distinct visual poetics that speaks to various social and political circumstances that can be silencing. Combining the traditions of Persian manuscript culture and the modernist color field, she has created a distinct form of abstraction. At first glance, her work seems a burst of color. From an angle, we see the scrolls are inscribed with words that are barely legible. For Art Dubai, the artist has created several new works including, *Block*, which extends her experimentation with paper into an exciting new sculptural direction. Her new diptych pieces juxtapose flat scrolls with stacked paper where the text is directly applied to the surface edges; the works derive their form and meaning from an interplay between what is hidden and revealed.

In 2003, **Kambiz Sharif** won the top prize at the Third Tehran Sculpture Biennial; his art came to the attention of Parviz Tanavoli, known as “the father of modern Iranian sculpture,” who judged that competition. Tanavoli has mentored Sharif since and the two collaborate on larger installations. Drawing on a pop sensibility, Sharif’s bronze sculptures are reflections on the enduring impacts of war and violence. The booth features a work from Sharif’s new series, *Silence*, the delves into the impact of censorship on the individual and society at large. “With this series, I bring to light something that is hidden. My work is affected by social issues that I want to make manifest in my own unique way,” Sharif explained.

The booth will highlight experimental art that sheds light on social issues through beautiful artistic forms that can be read universally.

## About Leila Heller Gallery

Located in the heart of Chelsea’s gallery district, Leila Heller Gallery promotes a cutting edge program of international contemporary emerging and mid-career artists. Founded in 1982, the gallery has gained worldwide recognition for being a pioneer in promoting contemporary artists from the Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and Turkey.

In addition to its roster of contemporary artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. The gallery presents a dynamic exhibition schedule, actively engaging world-renowned curators, hosting educational panels, and publishing books with scholarly essays.

Leila Heller Gallery regularly participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as an extension of its curatorial program. The gallery’s artists are included in major museum holdings—such as Tate Modern, the British Museum, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, LACMA, and the Centre Pompidou, amongst others.

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## For press inquiries

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