

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

LEILA HELLER GALLERY TO EXHIBIT AT THE ARMORY SHOW

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Reza Aramesh, *Action 143/001*- collage, 2015, 12.5 x 10.2 x 1 in

For the 17th edition of The Armory Show, **Leila Heller Gallery** is please to present a booth featuring four contemporary Iranian artists: Hadieh Shafie, Shiva Ahmadi, Reza Aramesh and the late Farideh Lashai. All four artists engage tradition through various artistic practices across a range of mediums. They work against a facile dichotomy between tradition and modernity, making art with a global resonance.

Hadieh Shafie's paper scroll pieces represent a re-interpretation of Sufi poetics, calligraphic design, and the tradition of Persian manuscript culture. For the booth at The Armory Show, the artist will present a new piece from her *Transition* series, in which thousands of stacked and rolled strips of paper are placed in a frame, each containing a combination of revealed text along with scrolls of inscribed hidden text.

Also engaging with Persian manuscript culture, **Shiva Ahmadi** reinterprets miniature painting to address contemporary global conflicts. In creating new works on paper featuring ethereal creatures in volatile landscapes, she will experiment with scale making her largest pieces in this medium to date.

Aramesh will show new collages and a lime-wood sculpture recalling the opulence of Baroque and Renaissance traditions from which his works are directly inspired. He reverses the historical

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significance of these traditions to memorialize unknown individuals and soldiers who have suffered through traumas of war and violence.

Farideh Lashai's work directly engages with Western canonical art history to place Iranian art within a larger cultural and art historical framework. In her final artwork before her passing in 2013, she created a multi-media installation based on Goya's *Disasters of War*, which comments on the continued suffering of mankind in light of recent Arab uprisings.

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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