

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

568 WEST 25TH STREET | 39 EAST 78TH STREET

Leila Heller Gallery To Exhibit at Art Beat - Istanbul

September 14 – 18, 2011

Opening Preview, September 13

Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre



Kezban Arca Batibeki, *Tiger...Tiger 1*, 2011

Acrylic, embroidery, and old carpet collage on canvas, 250 x 350 cm

New York, NY- Leila Heller Gallery will present a solo exhibition of work by Turkish artist, **Kezban Arca Batibeki** at the first edition of Art Beat-Istanbul, from September 14 – 18, 2011. The exhibition will be comprised of seven new works from Batibeki's *Twilight* Series, 2011, exploring the contrast between female liberation and oppression. Art Beat-Istanbul is a new contemporary art fair that coincides with this year's 12th Istanbul Biennial and will be a new platform for Turkish and International galleries.

By using vibrant colors, kitsch materials, and flashy sequins, Batibeki's paintings, which are undeniably eye-catching, focus on women as figures stuck in an endless battle. The work explores the common theme of femininity, pervasive in all her work, through the juxtaposition of the feminine physique in exotic environments.

Batibeki will also present one new video, which will explore the relationship between the mediums of painting and film, bringing her painted subjects to life using moving images.

Kezban Arca Batibeki was born in Istanbul, Turkey, where she currently lives and works. Her versatility is seen through different art mediums including painting, installation, short film, and photography. Her first solo exhibition in the United States, *Pulp Fiction: The Sequel*, was held in January 2010 at the Leila Heller Gallery.

In addition to this solo exhibition, Leila Heller Gallery will present a two-channel video installation by Iranian artist and filmmaker **Shoja Azari**. *There Are No Non-Believers in Hell*, 2010, is informed by the timelessness of Renaissance art seen through the lens of contemporary existential anxiety. Projected on two sides of a suspended cross structure, the video installation creates a powerful yet disturbing experience: famous Old Master paintings burning. As the paintings burn, the viewer hears the preaching of evangelical radicals talking about the apocalypse.

The booth will also include works by Turkish artist **Osman Akan**. Akan, known for his large-scale installations made of fiber optics, will exhibit the neon light installation *Harvest*, 2008. The installation will be accompanied by three photographs from 2011.

Exhibited outside of Leila Heller Gallery's booth and in the project space of the fair will be two aluminum wall installations by French-born, San Francisco-based artist Alexis Laurent. The new work addresses the impact and influence of Twitter and social media on the world today.

Leila Heller Gallery, founded in 1982, is a leading gallery in the contemporary Middle Eastern art market. The gallery is well known for its commitment to artists from the Middle East and its Diaspora as well as its devotion to the expression of Middle Eastern culture in the contemporary art market.

Leila Heller Gallery is located at 39 E 78th Street and Madison Avenue. For more information contact Lauren Pollock at Lauren@lthmgallery.com or (212) 249 7695.

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Press Contact:

Nicole Straus Public Relations

Nicole Straus, 631-369-2188, nicole@nicolestrausr.com

Margery Newman, 212-475-0252, MargeryNewman@aol.com