

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Faig Ahmed

EAST IN TWIST

June 6 – July 6, 2013



Flood of Yellow Weigh, 2007, Woolen, handmade carpet
59.1 x 39.4 in / 150 x 100 cm
Courtesy of the artist and YAY Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan

Reception:

June 20, 6 -8 pm

568 West 25th Street, NYC

New York - Leila Heller Gallery, in conjunction with YARAT, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and nurturing of contemporary art in Azerbaijan, will present the first solo show in New York of Azerbaijani artist Faig Ahmed. *East in Twist* will take place in the Gallery II space at Leila Heller Gallery, 568 West 25th Street from June 6 – July 6, 2013. The exhibition will feature five contemporary artworks inspired by Azerbaijani carpet weaving.

Ahmed reinterprets the tradition of Azerbaijani carpet making by giving his textiles a modern twist. As he weaves, Ahmed stretches, reworks, and disassembles conventional Azerbaijani

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patterns and shapes, transforming the Azerbaijani carpet into a contemporary and sometimes surreal artwork.

One half of *Flood of Yellow Light*, 2007, exhibits vegetal and fine geometric patterns in deep, rich hues, following the tradition of Azerbaijani carpets. However, the other half of the carpet is saturated with yellow dye, which, as the title of the work suggests, floods the textile, slowly melting into the traditional shapes, as if to eventually absorb every last bit of pattern.

Recently shortlisted for the Jameel Prize by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Ahmed's work can also be found on show in Venice at this year's Biennale. His *Untitled 2012* (Thread Installation) features in the official collateral exhibition, *Love Me, Love Me Not: Contemporary Art from Azerbaijan and its Neighbours*, produced by YARAT for the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, June 1 – November 24 2013.

Born in Azerbaijan in 1982, Ahmed lives and works in Baku. The artist studied at the Azerbaijan State Academy of Fine Art where he specialized in sculpture. He works with various media, including painting, video and installation. The artist has exhibited at a number of international institutions including the National Center of Contemporary Art in Moscow, Russia; The Kunsthalle im Lipsiusbau in Dresden, Germany; and Phillips de Pury & Company in London, UK. In 2007, Ahmed was chosen to represent Azerbaijan in the country's first appearance at the 52nd Venice Biennale. He is one of the founding artists behind YARAT Contemporary Art Organisation, which nurtures an understanding of contemporary art in Azerbaijan, as well as promoting the work of Azerbaijani artists both nationally and internationally.

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