

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Heller, Leila. "The Rose Tinted Issue Curated By Leila Heller." *Selections*. (December 2014).

SELECTIONS

ARTS / STYLE / CULTURE FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND

The Rose Tinted Issue Curated By Leila Heller

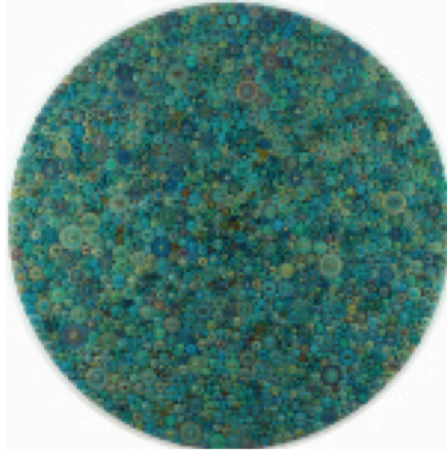
written by **Selections Magazine**



“Art to me is beyond a purely aesthetic appeal or financial value, it is also an immediate feeling and reaction. Since I was a young child, I have been surrounded and inspired by the art that was on the walls of my family home and the creative traditions that have been part of my culture for centuries – mesmerising geometric labyrinth designs, poetic miniature narratives and illuminated spiritual texts which still inhabit my memories of that long ago era. Memory is one of the most boundless and mysterious states of the human mind that instills in me the sense of infinity and even – spirituality. Spirituality, in all its forms, and the sense of infinity which it fosters continues to inspire artists from all over the world. For this curated section. I have chosen works by artists who are in conversation with notions of spirituality and the infinite.

Light has been used by countless traditions as a universal symbol of divinity and is also synonymous with infinity. James Turrell's work not only evokes these notions but is the result of a lifetime of exploration into the qualities and perspectives of light and space. YZ Kami also explores spirituality in his portraiture and his abstract collage paintings. His series Endless Prayers interweaves scriptures from prayer and poetry into captivating geometric patterns recalling Islamic domes. Hadieh Shafie's paper scroll paintings represent a reinterpretation of the tradition of calligraphic script and design repetition present in Islamic art. The process of creating her multi-dimensional works is comprised of the layering of thousands of strips of hand-painted and rolled paper and results in a deeply meditative journey for both the artist and the viewer. Ayad Alkadhi's works on paper from his Hear My Words series feature calligrams of hands as a visual symbol of prayer and spirituality while seamlessly intertwining Arabic spiritual sayings.

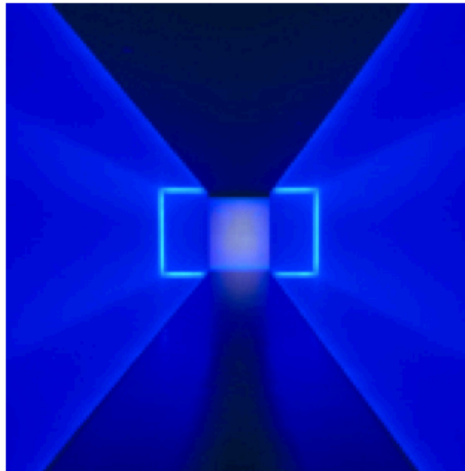
In many of the works, a sense of an infinite space is produced in an enclosed and finite environment. Yayoi Kusama's Narcissus Garden, comprised of hundreds of mirrored spheres placed outdoors, is a large-scale installation where viewers see countless reflections of themselves. This piece touches upon the spiritual links that humans have with the earth and, furthermore, with the universe. Dilip Chobisa explores the mysteries of human consciousness through the depiction of solitude; he creates multi-dimensional framed rooms that are starkly empty and that often play with light and perspective. Steven Naifeh's inspiration stems from his deep appreciation of Islamic architecture. His Saida works are modular experimentations in which a single simple geometric form is combined to create complex Islamic motifs. Ran Hwang incorporates Buddhist spirituality in all her works. In her Snowfall of Spiders installation, the weaves of the spider webs are symbolic of the complex cyclical nature of life. Ultimately, the works that I chose reflect aspects of traditions of spirituality and infinity through the lens of contemporary critical thought."



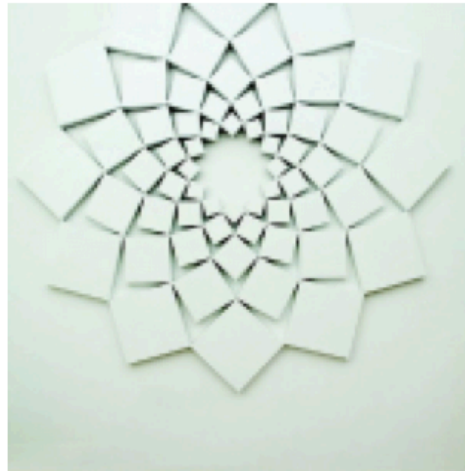
*HADIEH SHAFIE 22300 Pages (Telesm Series), 2013
Ink, acrylic and paper with printed and hand written
Farsi text Eshgh (Love-Passion) 121.9 cm diameter
Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery*



*DILIP CHOBISA I don't hide...it's there A, 2014
Graphite on paper and canvas, acrylic color, mixed
media, painted wooden frame and acrylic glass 91.4 x
91.4 cm Courtesy of the artist*



*James Turrell, The Light Inside, 1999, neon and ambient
light, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Museum
commission, gift of Isabel B. and Wallace S. Wilson-
copyright James Turrell*



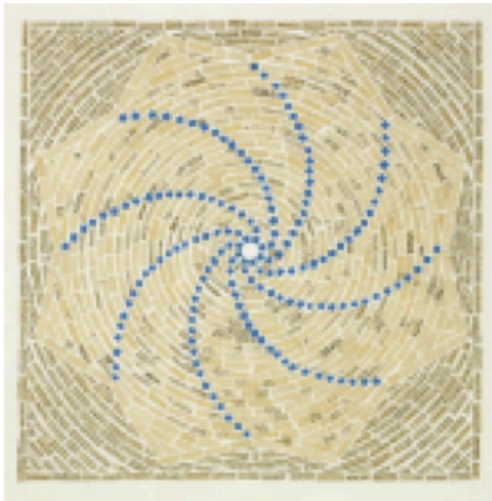
*STEVEN NAIFEH Saida II- White, 1998 Enamel on
canvas 304.8 x 304.8 cm Courtesy of the artist and
Leila Heller Gallery*



*YAYOI KUSAMA, Narcissus Garden, 1966,
Installation, Mixed Media Installation View- Venice
Biennial, Italy Copyright- Yayoi Kusama*



*AYAD ALKADHI Hear My Words, 2018 Mixed media
on heavy paper 94 x 76.2 cm Courtesy of the artist and
Leila Heller Gallery*



Y.Z. Kami, *Endless Prayers III*, 2006, Mixed media on paper, (106.7 x 75.6cm), KAMI 2006.0012, copyright Y.Z. Kami. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery. Photography by Robert McKeever



Ran Hwang, *Snowfall of Spider*, 2014 Paper Buttons, beads, pins on Plexiglas Dimensions variable Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery

-Words by Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller, President of the Leila Heller Gallery New York

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by Selections Magazine

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