

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Leila Heller Gallery at The Armory Show, New York
March 6 – 9, 2014
Booth 729, Pier 94



Hadieh Shafie, *Spike 6* (detail), 2014, Ink, acrylic and paper with printed and hand-written Farsi text *Eshgh* "Love/Passion", 48 in diameter x 6 in depth

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce its participation in The Armory Show 2014, running from March 6 -9, at Pier 94. There will be a Vernissage on Wednesday, March 5 from 5-8pm. The gallery will debut new works by Pouran Jinchi, Leila Pazooki, and Hadieh Shafie, which engage with the tradition of calligraphy from a contemporary perspective by deconstructing Farsi text. Two new sculptures by Richard Hudson that explore the human form will also be on view.

Throughout her career **Pouran Jinchi** has engaged in numerous dialogues with Persian and Islamic literature to pursue her own contemporary artistic investigations. Jinchi's practice involves the use of Farsi script, and a delicate deconstruction of the aesthetics of language to its most basic elements. For The Armory Show, Jinchi will present six new copper works on panel, titled *Hammered (The Blind Owl)*, a reference to Sadegh Hedayat's modern literary masterpiece.

Together they represent the first six pages of Hedayat's novel - a previously censored narrative that Jinchi first explored as a teenager in Iran. In her new works, the physicality of hammering each mark by hand into the copper is an homage and celebration of hand-written books, including the 50 or more copies that Hedayat is claimed to have penned himself in the face of

censorship. The circular marks that puncture the surface represent the “dots” or “accent marks” extracted from the individual Farsi letters that comprise the words in Hedayat’s novel. The appearance of the dots as confined, sharp protrusions contribute to the sense of isolation and danger conveyed in the novel, while the warm color of the copper and abstract patterning of the dots evoke the depth and beauty of Hedayat’s words. The use of repetition and opaque visual symbolism in Hedayat’s novel is also mirrored in Jinchi’s works, which ultimately provides a very moving and yet personal experience, open for individual interpretation.

Hadieh Shafie’s intricate paper scroll pieces represent a re-interpretation of the tradition of calligraphic script and design repetition present in Iranian and Islamic art. For The Armory Show, Shafie will debut a new 48-inch *Spike* work, her largest work of the series to-date. The largely white-based work is interspersed with soft hues of iridescent colors. Shafie’s scroll paintings begin with hundreds of strips of paper upon which the artist hand prints and inscribes the Farsi word *Eshgh* (“love/passion”). These strips are then rolled together to create individual miniature *Ketabs* (“books”), and finally they are placed within a frame. For the *Spike* works, Shafie pushes at the scroll’s base until it unravels into a long, pointed shape. Through this process the word *eshgh* becomes illegible as the text is stretched and broken, until it appears as nothing more than speckles of ink on the painted paper spikes. The prickly shape of the spikes, which protrude into the viewers’ space several inches from the frame, also serve to protect the words that are hidden within. Also on view by Shafie will be two new vertical works that mark a turning point in her oeuvre as she explores deconstructing the elements in her work. While these works include sections that are filled with rolled scrolls, the majority of the frames are filled with hundreds of strips of unrolled paper, revealing to the viewer the beginning stages of the artist’s process.

Leila Pazooki is a multi-media based artist whose work explores the creative force within various religious, societal, or ideological frameworks and the means by which people transcend the boundaries marked by these structures. There is often something confrontational in her encounters as she documents the complexities of specific social and historical contexts. For The Armory Show, Pazooki will present a new neon work, titled *Democracy*, in which the word is phonetically spelled in Farsi and produced in mirrored text. With *Democracy*, the artist seeks to push viewers beyond the one-dimensionality of a literal understanding of her works as she questions the prominence and provenance of Western terminology, and by extension, ideology throughout the Eastern world. As a physical and tangible object of the “Persianophied” term, *Democracy* is also a reflection on Western constrained notions of democracy, which are implicitly imposed upon Eastern governments.

Sculptor **Richard Hudson** will present two white marble form-based sculptures, *Envelope* and *Torso II*. Inspired by great Modernist artists like Henry Moore, Jean Arp and Constantin Brancusi, Hudson’s work is often emblematic of the body, and manifests a surrealist nature while hinting at dada-esque philosophies. Hudson’s sculptures directly embody the beauty of the female form, with their caressing curves, polished surfaces and simplified touches of line. The free interpretation of Hudson’s forms is at once strikingly contemporary and transcendent driven by the artist’s intuitive process of creation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pouran Jinchi was born in Mashad, Iran and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Jinchi's works are included in important public collections worldwide including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Brooklyn Museum, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, New York; The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; and The Farjam Collection, Dubai. She's held several solo exhibitions in New York, Dubai, Japan, among other places. Her work has also been included in several group exhibitions in prominent venues such as Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2013); Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2012); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2010); and the Brooklyn Museum, New York (2009).

Hadieh Shafie was born in Tehran, Iran and currently lives and work in Maryland. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize in 2011. Most recently she was the recipient of the 2012 Space Program by The Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation.

Shafie's work has been included in numerous exhibitions in the United States and abroad including, The Jameel Prize traveling exhibition presented at The Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Institute du Monde Arabe, Paris; Casa Arabe, Madrid; Cantor Arts Centre, Stanford University; and the San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas. Shafie's work is a number of prominent public collections, which include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The British Museum, London; The Farjam Collection, Dubai; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles.

Leils Pazooki was born in Tehran, Iran and currently lives and works in Berlin. She has exhibited internationally, with solo shows in Dubai, UAE; Mexico City, Mexico; and Tehran, Iran. Her work has also been included in various museum exhibitions, such as the Museum of Seam, Jerusalem; ZKM Museum, Berlin; and the Chelsea Art Museum, New York. Most recently she participated in the last Thessaloniki Biennale in Greece. Her work is part of the permanent collections of museums and institutions, including The Devi Art Foundation, India; the Salsali Private Museum, Dubai; the Nadour Collection, Germany; the Boghossian Foundation, Belgium; and the Langgeng Art Foundation, Indonesia.

Richard Hudson was born in Yorkshire, UK and currently lives and works in Madrid, Spain. His work has been exhibited internationally in the UK, Europe, US, South America, and Middle East. Past exhibitions include Monumental Sculptures Al Fresco at Great Fosters, UK; Beyond Limits, Sotheby's Chatsworth, UK; Monumental Sculptures, Miami Beach; City of Leeds Public Exhibition, UK; Museum Palau de la Musica de Valencia, Public Exhibition, Spain; and Aire, Centro Cultural Andratx, Mallorca, Spain.

##

Press Contact: Lauren Pollock, Director, Lauren@leilahellergallery.com
Ally Mintz, Exhibitions Coordinator: Ally@leilahellergallery.com