

EXHIBITIONISM: INTERNATIONAL



ROGUE SPACE GALLERY
'PORTRAITS: REFLECTIONS BY EMERGING IRANIAN ARTISTS'

This pioneering exhibition, taking place from September 17-29, is staged on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the opening of 'Iran Inside Out' at the Chelsea Museum in 2009 and on the first anniversary of 'Iran Modern', which debuted at the Asia Society in 2013, both ground breaking exhibitions for Iranian art in New York. In much the same light, this show will further reveal, and explore, Iran's contemporary art scene by showcasing work by over 20 young Iranian artists who were raised and educated in Iran. "Despite all of its societal and political challenges over the past thirty years, which led the country into isolation, Iran has experienced an artistic revival that has defied all expectation, yet the work of most emerging artists is still unknown in the United States," says curators of the exhibition Roya Khadjavi Heidari and Massoud Nader. "It is for this reason that we began this project with the hope of bringing awareness to our U.S. audience, and to familiarise them with this new body of work." Participating artists include Ahmad Morshedloo, Alishia Morassaie, Arash Sedaghatkish, Babak Bidarian, Bahar Behbahani, Dadbeh Bassir, Hossein Edalatkhah, Jinoos Taghizadeh, Morteza Pourhosseini, Nasser Bakhshi, Samira Alikhanzadeh and Sepanta Ghassemkhani, many of whose work will be exhibited for the first time in the United States. *Until September 29. Rogue Space Gallery, 508 West 26th Street, New York, New York. +1 212 751 2210. Roguespacechelsea.com*



LEILA HELLER GALLERY
GROUP SHOW 'ETHEREAL'

Dr Amin Jaffer, Christie's International Director of Asian Art, feels its time for a change. Indian contemporary art has for too long, reveled in the visually exuberant, perhaps brash tones of Pop and flash. To this end, following an encounter with the redoubtable Leila Heller of New York in London, he is presenting a (paradoxically) substantive exploration of the ethereal (as the show is titled) at Heller's New York gallery this autumn. 'It's ethereal in the sense of unlikely,' he tells HBA. 'Challenges to the mind. The artists I have chosen range from the very abstract and there are many works around the theme of perception. For instance, an artist I adore is the Pakistani artist Noor Ali Chagani who works with bricks. Or there is Sonia Khurana, who's made a work that uses water and evaporation.' With most pieces having been directly commissioned for the show, Jaffer is intending this show to appeal to audiences who have yet to experience the vast depth and stillness found amidst the South Asian contemporary art scene. Given his dedication to ferreting out some of the finest examples thereof, this is set to be a memorable collection indeed.

'Ethereal' Leila Heller Gallery, 568 West 25th Street/ 43 West 57th Street, New York. + 212 430 5800 www.leilahellergallery.com From Oct 23rd - Dec 13th



TAYMOUR GRAHNE GALLERY
TAREK AL GHOUSSEIN 'K FILES'

The first solo exhibition in New York for Palestinian-Kuwaiti artist Tarek Al-Ghoussein, 'K- Files' presents work that examines the artist's relationship with his birthplace of Kuwait. The works, which were inspired by an invitation to represent Kuwait for its first national pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale, employ two distinct approaches. The self-portrait photographs on display in the upper gallery depict Al-Ghoussein's exploration of the collective spaces of Kuwait through interactions with its iconic landmarks. These include renderings of the man-made island where the British first drilled for offshore oil and the Kuwait National Assembly – each manifestations of Kuwait's efforts to form a modern nation-state. The work on the lower level of the gallery reveals Al-Ghoussein's attempt to track his family history through documents that have entered the public realm. For example, Al-Ghoussein's father served as Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States in the 1960s. He found traces of this history online when he came across photographs of his parents available for purchase through websites such as eBay and Amazon. One such image depicts his father presenting Jacqueline Onassis with a check on behalf of Kuwait for the JFK Memorial Library. These works juxtapose the physical and digital proof of such images with newspaper clippings from his family albums. Born in Kuwait to Palestinian parents in exile, the exhibition examines issues of displacement and the continual struggle to set boundaries between public and private life.

Until 9 November. Taymour Grahne, 157 Hudson Street, New York, New York. +1 212 240 9442 taymourgrahne.com