

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 26, 2013

ENCYCLOSPACE IRANICA

ALI AHADI
ABBAS AKHAVAN
AMIR ALI GHASEMI
SOHRAB KASHANI
GELARE KHOSHGOZARAN
TALA MADANI
REZA NEGARESTANI
RAHA RAISSNIA
ANAHITA RAZMI
NOOSHIN ROSTAMI

CURATED BY MOHAMMAD SALEMY

Showcasing the work of nine emergent Iranian artists, *Encyclonospace Iranica* is a group exhibition developed in response to the ideas of contemporary Iranian philosopher Reza Negarestani and his reconceptualization of the modern system of knowledge. The exhibition marks the first output of curator Mohammad Salemy's multi-faceted research project, *Tahghigh*. Developed through a year-long curatorial residency at Access Gallery, *Tahghigh* explores the emergence and widespread use of networked computers and their irreversible role in transforming the evolving relationship between art, technology and the process of knowledge production. The works in *Encyclonospace Iranica* are presented as a singular project: the institutionally imposed borders normally separating individual works of art in an exhibition space have been intentionally blurred. For this exhibition, Ali Ahadi, Abbas Akhavan, Sohrab Kashani, Gelare Khosgozaran, Tala Madani, Anahita Razmi, Raha Raissnia, and Nooshin Rostami each respond to the 'digital turn' in the humanities and sciences, and address the ways in which this shift must be accounted for and incorporated into an inherently political understanding of the contemporary theory of knowledge.

OPENING RECEPTION:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2013, 8PM

IN CONVERSATION:
MOHAMMAD SALEMY AND EXHIBITING ARTISTS,
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2013, 4PM

Join curator Mohammad Salemy and exhibiting artists as he unpacks the ideas that underlie and inform *Encyclonospace Iranica*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH COMPUTERS?
A CONFERENCE: MARCH 7-8, 2014

Philosophers, scholars and artists agree that the global and widespread use of networked computers in the last two decades has forever transformed the overlap between art, technology and the process of knowledge production. What is still being contested is the way in which this shift needs to be accounted for an incorporated into a political understanding of the contemporary theory of knowledge. Hosted by Access Gallery at SFU Woodward's, this conference probes the ramifications of knowledge and artistic production's entanglement with machines, mechanical thinking and telecomputation. Confirmed speakers include Alexander R. Galloway, Reza Negarestani and Sohrab Kashani.

Part of Mohammad Salemy's curatorial residency at Access Gallery, What Should We Do With Computers is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts; Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery; UBC Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory; SFU Woodward's; Centre A and Sazman-e-Ab artist-run centre in Tehran, Iran.

BIOGRAPHIES

ALI AHADI is an Iranian born Vancouver-based artist. He graduated from Azad University of Tehran with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2007 and completed his Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of British Columbia in 2012. In May of 2012, he participated in a solo exhibition at the grunt gallery titled *Here There Nowhere: Flaccid Means Without End*. In September 2012, his work entitled *The Pedagogical State of Metamorphosis* was featured in *Hail to the Destroyers* held at UBC's Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery. *Warning: Use By Other Than Registered Owner Prohibited by Law* was the title of Ahadi's last solo exhibition held at Vancouver's AMS Gallery in October 2012. Ahadi is currently participating in *Ten Thousand Suns*, a group exhibition at Vancouver's Satellite Gallery.

ABBAS AKHAVAN's practice ranges from site-specific ephemeral installations to drawing, video and performance. The domestic sphere—understood as a forked space between hospitality and hostility—has been an ongoing area of research in Akhavan's work. More recent works have shifted focus, wandering into spaces just outside the home—the garden, the backyard, and other domesticated landscapes. Akhavan is the recipient of Kunstpreis Berlin (2012) and Abraaj Group Art Prize (2014). He lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

AMIRALI GHASEMI is a curator, media artist and graphic designer. He graduated in 2004 with a BA in graphic design from Central Tehran Azad University. In 1998, Ghasemi founded Parkin Gallery, an independent project space in Tehran and in 2002 he set up *Parkingallery.com*, an online platform for young Iranian artists. Ghasemi has shown his photographs, videos and design works in various festivals and exhibitions internationally. As a curator he has organized several exhibitions, workshops and talks at Parkin Gallery. He has also been involved in a variety of projects for institutions, project spaces and universities in Germany, Netherlands, Serbia, UK, Egypt, Turkey, United States, Brazil, Canada, France, Sweden, and India. He was the guest curator for the CCBRUGGE in 2010 and recently guest programmed a video art section for 2013 Rotterdam and Göteborg film festivals.

SOHRAB KASHANI is a multidisciplinary artist and independent curator based in Tehran. His work has been exhibited at numerous exhibitions and festivals worldwide. Kashani founded and runs *Sazmanab Platform for Contemporary Arts*, an independent non-profit art space in Tehran and *Lost in Teh(e)ran*, an Iranian video data bank and curatorial bursary.

GELARE KHOSHGOZARAN is an Iranian artist, independent scholar, writer and translator based in Los Angeles. Born in 1986 in Tehran, Iran, she received her BFA in photography from the University of Arts in Tehran and moved to Los Angeles in 2009 to join the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Southern California. Since graduation Gelare has contributed to multiple Persian and English magazines, journals and websites, including *Parkett*, *Mardomak* and *WildGender* as art and cultural critic. She is currently a contributor of *ZanNegaar Journal of Women Studies*, the first of its kind published in Persian by the Institute for the War and Peace Reporting. Gelare has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Middle East. She was the winner of the Neely Macomber Travel Award in 2011 and *ArtGenève's Metal Young Art Critic Award* in 2013.

TALA MADANI is a Los Angeles-based Iranian painter, whose work is characterized by loose expressive brushwork rendered in a bold, distinctive palette. Rich in narrative and heavy in irony Madani's paintings depict darkly comic *mise-en-scènes*. After receiving her MFA from Yale University School of Art in 2006, Madani made her solo debut in 2007. Recent solo exhibitions include *Rip Image*, Moderna Museet Malmö & Stockholm (2013); *The Jinn*, Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam (2011) and *Manual Man*, Pilar Corrias, London (2011). Group exhibitions have included *The Future Generation Art Prize@Venice 2013*; *Palazzo Contarini Polignac*, Venice (2013); *New works 13.1*, Artpace, San Antonio (2013); *No Borders*, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol (2013); He disappeared into complete silence; rereading a single artwork by Louise Bourgeois, Museum De Hallen, Amsterdam (2011); *Speech Matters*, Danish Pavilion at the 54th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venice (2011) and *The Great New York*, P.S. 1 MoMA, New York (2010).

REZA NEGARESTANI is an Iranian writer and philosopher based in Connecticut who has pioneered the genre of 'theory-fiction' with his expansive *Cyclonopedia: Complicity with Anonymous Materials*. He has written widely online and in print on contemporary theory, philosophy and politics, notably in journals like *Collapse* and *CTheory*. He is currently working on two books, *Beyond the Wall of the State* (co-authored with Manabrata Guha) and *The Mortiloquist*.

RAHA RAISSNIA emigrated from Iran to the United States in 1983. She received her B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1992 and her M.F.A. from the Pratt Institute in 2002. From 1992 to 1995, between her two degrees, Raissnia worked as an intern and a full time employee at Anthology Film Archives in New York, a time that she describes as being "directly formative years" for her exposure and knowledge of avant-garde cinema as well as for the paintings she made during this period. In all of her gallery exhibitions and in various configurations she has presented elements of each of the three areas of her practice: painting, drawing and filmmaking. She is represented by Miguel Abreu Gallery in New York, Galerie Xippas in Paris and Gallery Marta Cervera in Madrid.

ANAHITA RAZMI is an Iranian video and performance artist based in Stuttgart, Germany. Her previous works have dealt with issues concerning identity and gender, employing objects with a national and cultural significance or citing the work of high-profile artists. Working within the tradition of appropriation and reenactment, Razmi detaches cultural symbols from their established meanings by employing them in unexpected situations and contexts. Within this milieu, her work often builds up a relation to contemporary Iran. Her recent solo and group exhibitions include *Swing State*, Kunstverein Hannover (2013); *Automatic Assembly Actions*, Carbon12 Dubai (2013); *Frischzelle_17*: Anahita Razmi, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2012); *Bucharest Biennale 5: Tactics for the Here and Now* (2012); *Videonale 13*, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany (2011); *Make - Believe - Remake*, Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Germany (2011); *The State: Social? Antisocial?*, Traffic, Dubai (2011). In 2010 Razmi received a work stipend from the Edith Russ Site for Media Art, Germany for her work *The Paykan Project*, in 2011 she was awarded The *Ermdash Award* (Frieze Foundation, London) for her project *Roof Piece Tehran*.

NOOSHIN ROSTAMI is a New York-based Iranian artist. She received her BA in graphic design from the University of Art in Tehran in 2009, and her MFA from Brooklyn College (CUNY) in 2011. Rostami has exhibited her work in Iran and the United States. She was the recipient of the Brooklyn College Teaching Fellowship, Adele Norman Morris Memorial Award, and the Bernard Horlick Award in 2010. She presented her work at the Iranian Art: Self Exile, Self Censorship conference, held during the 47th Annual Comparative Literature Conference at the California State University, Long Beach. In 2012, she was invited to do a solo performance at Flux Factory in Queens, New York.

MOHAMMAD SALEMY is a Vancouver-based independent curator from Iran. He has curated exhibitions at Satellite Gallery, Koerner Gallery, AMS Gallery and Dabase, and co-curated an exhibition at the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery in Vancouver. Salemy holds an MA in Critical and Curatorial Studies from the University of British Columbia.

Design by Erica Wilk

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