

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

LEILA HELLER GALLERY TO EXHIBIT AT ART DUBAI

MARCH 21-24, 2012

Booth A37, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai



Shiva Ahmadi, *Safe Heaven*, 2012, Mixed media on aqua board, 60 x 120 in (152 x 304 cm)

Leila Heller Gallery will show new work by three Middle Eastern artists at the sixth edition of Art Dubai, March 21 -24, 2012, at Madinat Jumeirah, booth A37. The Gallery will present three solo shows of Iranian artist Shiva Ahmadi, Iraqi artist Ayad Alkadhi, and Turkish artist Kezban Arca Batibeki.

Among the highlights will be a new painting by Shiva Ahmadi, a 10 foot long triptych, *Safe Heaven*, 2012, her largest and most ambitious work to date. The painting is on exhibit for the first time. Using patterns from Persian miniatures and Islamic art combined with depictions of nuclear power plants and bombs, she creates a scene of instability and uncertainty to express how the world is constantly threatened by war. Yet by using rich colors and highly detailed figures, Ahmadi transforms even the most violent scenes into beautiful works of art.

Shiva Ahmadi lives and works in Michigan. Her work has been exhibited at a number of institutions including the Chelsea Art Museum, New York; South Bend Regional Museum of Art, Indiana; and the Portland Museum of Art, Maine. Her works are also in the collections of the DePaul University Art Museum and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Another monumental work, Ayad Alkadhi's 12 foot long painting, *Unchained*, 2012, uses charcoal, acrylic, pen, and pencil to depict clouds of smoke tangled with vibrant hued limbs and

a winged gasoline pump. The painting is from Alkadhi's new series *Umbilical*, 2011-2012, which conveys the artist's experiences living in Iraq, the casualties of war, and the politics of oil. References to pop culture are also quite evident as he depicts the iconic Rolling Stones' lips and tongue logo filled with Arab iconography, perfectly melding East with West.

Ayad Alkadhi lives and works in New York City. His work has been exhibited at numerous national and international institutions including the Queens Museum of Art, New York; Australian Cultural Forum, New York; Regis Center of the Arts, Minneapolis; the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston; and the European Parliament, Belgium.

Mixed-media paintings by Kezban Arca Batibeki present a thematic continuation of her *Pulp Fiction* series. The series refers to the popular magazines and books published in the first half of the 20th century on cheap "pulp" paper with lurid cover art that offered escapist and sensationalist fiction for a mass audience. Batibeki delves back into a fantasy world of drama, danger, mystery and suspense where women—villainous and heroic—take center stage. Batibeki employs her signature bold designs complimented by kitsch materials such as glitter and sequins to draw the viewer in and make this world come to life.

Batibeki lives and works in Istanbul. Her work has been exhibited at the Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art, Turkey; The Istanbul Modern Museum, Turkey; and the Costume Design Museum, Tokyo.

For more information, please contact Lauren Pollock at Lauren@leilahellergallery.com or call 212-249-7695.

#

Leila Heller Gallery

Chelsea, 568 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10011

www.leilahellergallery.com

Press Contact:

Nicole Straus Public Relations

Nicole Straus, 631-369-2188, nicole@nicolestrausr.com

Margery Newman, 212-475-0252, MargeryNewman@aol.com