

Falling Leaves

Golnaz Fathi

January 22 - March 7, 2013

Golnaz Fathi returns to The Third Line gallery with a new body of work *Falling Leaves*. Using traditional Iranian calligraphy and the epic poem *Shahnameh* by Persian poet Ferdowsi as a point of departure, Fathi interprets the work through a contemporary lens that breathes new life into an ancient practice and story.



Golnaz Fathi, *Untitled 4*, 2012, Mixed Media on Canvas, 150 x 200 cm

A trained calligrapher, Fathi has the ability to skillfully transform known language into form and composition. Shifting from the stringent rules of the calligraphic discipline, she soon found artistic solace in a new form of expression in her paintings: an imaginary language deeply rooted in Persian tradition while simultaneously hinting at a social renaissance.

This new series revolves around the seminal Iranian text of the *Shahnameh* as its central theme. The *Shahnameh* or Shah-nama (*Book of Kings*) is a long epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi between c. 977 and 1010 AD and is the national epic of Iran and related societies.

The work represented branches out from her usual approach, incorporating instead figurative elements that were inspired from a lithographic illustration of the poem. This distinct departure from her original text based exploration demonstrates Fathi's inner visual dialogue and interpretation of the poem. The artist relates to the book themes of futile wars as still relevant today in her native Iran, and in the Middle East in general - confirming the notion of history repeating itself.

About Golnaz Fathi

Fathi has exhibited in a number of international shows, including *at The Art of Writing, Art Forum* of Wiesbaden, Germany (2011); *Transvanguard, Contemporary Art from Around the World*, October Gallery, London, UK (2011); *Ride Like the Wind*, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait (2010) and participated in the *International Woman Artists' Biennial*, South Korea (2009). Fathi received the *Young Global Leader 2011* award and her works are housed in the collections of Brighton & Hove Museum, England; Carnegie Mellon University, Doha, Qatar; Asian Civilization's Museum, Singapore; The British Museum, London; Museum of Islamic Art, Malaysia; and Farjam Collection, Dubai. She currently lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

About The Third Line

The Third Line is a Dubai based art gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally and internationally. In addition to on-going exhibitions, The Third Line hosts non-profit, alternative programs to increase interest and debate in the region.

The Third Line also publishes books by associated artists from the region. Books published to date include *Presence* by Emirati photographer Lamy Gargash (2008), and *In Absentia* by Palestinian-Kuwaiti Tarek Al-Ghoussein (2009), *Cosmic Geometry*, an extensive monograph on Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, edited by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Karen Marta (2011), and most recently the self-titled treatise *Huda Lutfi* about the artist's Cairo based practice.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Arwa Abouon, Babak Golkar, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Golnaz Fathi, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Lamy Gargash, Laleh Khorravian, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Poursan Jinchi, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan Sherin Guirguis, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein and Youssef Nabil.

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