

REZA DERAKSHANI
Black Water

Opening reception, Sunday, 19 February 2017, 12–3 p.m.
Königsallee 27 + 31

We are very pleased to present the first gallery exhibition in Germany of Reza Derakshani (*1952 Sangsar, Iran). The painter, poet, musician and performance artist is considered – both in the Middle East and in the West – as one of the most important Iranian artists today.

After immigrating to the USA in 1983 in the wake of the Islamic Revolution, Derakshani's cosmopolitan identity led him to reflect aspects of Western abstraction in his work. In addition, abstract expressionism greatly influenced his work during the many years spent in New York, where he was in close contact with artists such as Francesco Clemente, Shirin Neshat and Cy Twombly.

After experimenting with pure abstraction, Derakshani developed his very own personal artistic language, uniting both abstract and figurative elements from Persian culture with the tradition of Western painting. In his work, the figure often retreats to the background, giving priority to more painterly intentions. The diversity of elements in his oeuvre enables him to achieve a highly concentrated, dynamic mode of artistic expression.

The exhibition's name refers to the series *Black Water*, which is devoted to portraits of important female singers and female poets from modern Iran, who have been denied their artistic expression in recent history. Characteristic of these works is their reduction of colour – and often also of pictorial spatiality. The distinctly painted women's faces give way to the hazy, shimmering silhouettes of their bodies standing in 'black water'. The series is a homage to these personalities, depicting their strength and their vigorous smiles in spite of the complex times.

Today, Derakshani's works are found in numerous renowned international collections, museums and private collections – for example, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in the British Museum, London, and in the Teheran Museum of Contemporary Art. Reza Derakshani recently held solo exhibitions in the Chemnitz Kunstsammlungen and the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg.

SETAREH GALLERY

REZA DERAKSHANI

(*1952, lives and works in Austin, TX, USA)

EDUCATION

- 1978 Pasadena School of Art, USA
1976 University of Tehran, IRN

SOLO SHOWS (Selection)

- 2016 Reza Derakshani, Kunstsammlung Chemnitz – Museum Gunzenhauser, Chemnitz, DE
Reza Derakshani - Retrospective, The State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, RUS
2013 Reza Derakshani - Retrospective, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
2013 The Pink House Stories, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, London, UK
2012 Everyday & Every Night, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Zurich, CH
The Armory, Solo Show 2012, Leila Heller Gallery and Jamm Art, New York, USA
2011 Circus of Life, Dar Al Funoon Gallery and Jamm Art, Kuwait City, KWT
2010 Reza Derakshani, Osborne Samuel Gallery, London, UK
Voice and Circus, AB Gallery, Zurich, CH
2009 Eternal Rebirth, Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, KWT
2008 Beyond the Darkness, Khak Art Gallery, Tehran, IRN
2007 Reza Derakshani. Exhibit, Seyhoun Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2003 Reza Derakshani, Caterina Pazzi Arte Moderna e contemporanea, Rome, IT
Reza Derakshani, Niavaran Palace Cultural Centre, Tehran, IRN
2002 Retrospective, House of Artists, Tehran, IRN
1992 Nour Foundation Gallery, New York, USA
1971 Sarah Ghandriz Gallery, Tehran, IRN

GROUP SHOWS (Selection)

- 2015 Bazm and Razm: Feast and Fight in Persian Art, The Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA
2013 Renoir to Damien Hirst, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, KOR
Heavenly Paradise, Schloss Stetteldorf am Wagram, Vienna, AT
2012 The Rule and its Exception, Debora Colton Gallery, Houston, USA
2011 Show off, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
2010 Hope, Palais des Arts et Festival, Dinard, FR
Tehran - New York, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
2009 Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA
L'Iran sans frontieres, Galerie Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, FR
2008 The Colour of Love, Farhangsara Cultural Centre, Tehran, IRN
2004 Gardens of Iran, Ancient Wisdom – New Vision, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IRN
2003 6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IRN
1976 Tehran University Gallery, Tehran, IRN
1995 Montclair State University, Montclair, USA
1994 Anzio City Hall, Anzio, IT

COLLECTIONS (selection)

British Museum, London, UK · Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA · Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, RUS
· Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, DE · SPM, Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE · Passargad Museum, Tehran,
IRN · Tehran Contemporary Art Museum, Tehran, IRN ·
Collection of Leon Black, New York, USA · Collection of Sam Bardaouil, New York, USA · Collection of Athena
Andreadis, London, UK · Collection of Maryam Eisler, London, UK · Collection of Mr and Mrs Lancillotti,
IT · Collection of Roger Federer, Zurich, CH · Collection of The Royal Family of Abu-Dhabi, UAE · Collection
of Sting and Trudie Styler, London, UK · Mirella Haggiag collection, Rome, IT