



Arezu | Sarvenaz Farsian; *Net Worth*

Vernissage: 23 September, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: 23 September 2017 – 24 October 2017

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce the upcoming joint show of works on paper by Iranian artists Sarvenaz Farsian and Arezu. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artists on Saturday 23 September from 6pm – 9pm. Both artists will be available for interviews and tours from 20-30 September.

Through Arezu's *That Obscure Object - Redefined* (a continuation of the photographic series *That Obscure Object*), the audience witnesses an expression of frustration and defiance by the artist, in her attempt to redefine the meaning of "object" in reference to the female form. In this series Arezu continues the exploration of a familiar theme, yet through a more encompassing medium of collage. She uses and repurposes imagery from other people, places, times and societies, and juxtaposes them against images from her own. The result is a complex construct of elements that through their stark differences create a narrative of macabre and humorous provocation. These thrilling and dramatic compositions entice and confront the viewer, questioning specific notions of projection and prejudice.

My Magical Garden will be Sarvenaz Farsian's debut series with XVA Gallery. Her abstract works on paper consist of meticulous pen work and intricate cutouts. She describes her work as free of narration, with priority given to form. The net-like creations are a manifestation of instinct and passion. Farsian's pen or blade move freely across the page in graceful, elegant and subtle nuances. Through her work Farsian wages a quiet war for freedom of expression.

Arezu was raised in Iran, but now resides in Dubai, however the concerns about the perception of women in Iran that developed during her adolescence are still at the forefront of her mind. Sarvenaz Farsian, still living in Iran, explores themes of beauty and abstraction, turning toward her inner self and leaving the narrative of Iran unmentioned. One, from an outside perspective, confronts the stigma of an individual's net worth, while the native Iranian turns to her introspective self for freedom and peace.

About the XVA Gallery

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, SH Contemporary, Singapore Art Fair and Abu Dhabi Art in 2014, in order to further expose Middle Eastern contemporary art.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. For three years XVA was located in DIFC, and has now expanded its premises in Al Fahidi.

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