



XVA Gallery presents solo exhibition by Arezu: "Trespassing"

New body of photographic work from young female Iranian artist

20 November 2011, Dubai, UAE – The XVA Gallery today announces its next exhibition, a solo show by Arezu, an emerging female Iranian artist with an arresting surrealistic vision. Her most recent work of contemplative and captivating photography entitled 'Trespassing' will be on view at the XVA gallery from 13 December, 2011 to 12 January 2012.

Iranian born Arezu is based in Dubai, travelling to the Emirates with her family in 2004 to continue her artistic studies at the American University. She first achieved recognition through her graduate show held at the Empty Quarter in 2009, and entitled 'That Obscure Object', referencing the film by Luis Bunuel. It was here that Madeline Yale; Curatorial Advisor for XVA Gallery also came into contact with the young artist, and began following her trajectory through ensuing exhibitions in Dubai and abroad.

Commonly explored themes in Arezu's work revolve around representations of body and self, based around the artist's life experiences as a female growing up in Iran. Adopting a visual style that is aligned to 1980 studio practice in the West, and has drawn favourable comparisons with Francesca Woodman, Arezu uses black and white photography as her principle art form, shooting entirely on soft film. A distinct stylistic thread of her work is the distressed feel of the finished image, which is achieved by using a special technique during the development process.

The new body of work at the upcoming exhibition at the XVA will feature two distinctly separate sets of images, one of which depict portraits of the female form and one which has been inspired by the dual concepts of flight and space. The collection of portraits are part *Odalisque*, referencing 19th Century Orientalist discourse. However, in traditional artistic works from of this period, women are devoid of identity, and portrayed as objects of desire. By contrast, in Arezu's work, the self becomes both subject and object.

In creating the latter set of images examining the elements of freedom achieved through the act of flight, Arezu spent time studying crows, which drew her to reflect of the idea of space and what it means to us. In the series, the distinctive crow becomes a metaphor for freedom and anonymity. Arezu comments, "They are one, or better to say one is the desire of the other".

'Trespassing' A Solo Exhibition by Arezu
13 December, 2011 – 12 January 2012
XVA Gallery, DIFC, Dubai



About XVA

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East specialising in contemporary art from the Arab world and Iran. Its rigorous exhibition programme includes works by emerging, mid-career and established artists who are responding to their local environments in thoughtful and provocative ways. XVA offers art consultancy services, providing expert consultancy and full project management for companies and individual requirements in art.

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