



Morteza Zahedi: *Toy Story 2*

Vernissage: March 13th, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition Dates: March 13th – April 27th, 2016

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

In his upcoming solo exhibition *Toy Story 2* Morteza Zahedi continues the exploration of materials and themes introduced in his 2012 exhibition *Toy Story 1*. The exhibition comprises a variety of mediums including a large number of works on paper, bronze and acrylic sculptures and installations using neon and found objects.

Morteza Zahedi evokes memories of our early childhood by repurposing the items from that period of our lives. Upcycling the surplus, the rubbish and the forgotten, and transforming them into raw material for artwork that is both conceptual and beautiful.

Although many of the objects may not immediately be recognizable to the viewer they do have a reminiscent quality which helps us to identify how those objects may have affected us at a certain point in our past. The thing that gives a child hope is something that brings joy, such as toys, this is particularly poignant now, during a time where thousands of children are being displaced.

Being an award winning children's illustrator Zahedi understands that the most complex issues can be communicated through such simplicity. His work, which one could describe as extremely quirky, delivers a straightforward message. It touches our most innocent, childish selves.

Toy Story 2 will open on the 13th of March 2016 and will coincide with the Sikka Art fair. The exhibition will run until the 27th of April 2016.

About the Artist:

Morteza Zahedi was born in 1978, in Rasht, Iran and today lives in Tehran. He graduated from the Art and Architecture College, Tehran in 2001 with a B.A. in Painting. He previously exhibited with XVA Gallery in 2012 and 2013, and has been part of numerous international group and solo shows, most notably in Iran, Japan and China. His work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art Yinchuan.

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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