



XVA GALLERY

Morteza Zahedi: Tickle

Vernissage November 3rd 6-9pm

November 3 – November 14th 2013

DIFC, GATE VILLAGE 7

00971 4 358 5117

November 18th – December 7th 2013

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce Iranian artist Morteza Zahedi's second solo show at the gallery. While contemporary Iranian pop culture has played a large part in the development of Zahedi's aesthetic, the artist draws his primary inspiration from everyday objects around him. Well known for his "Toy" Pop Art sculptures, Zahedi's new body of work marks an intellectual departure from his previous pre-occupation with 3D object-based practice and "Tickle" will feature the artist's large-scale carpets, "woolen sculptures," and most recent works on paper.

Persian carpets are undoubtedly one of the most historically distinguished forms of Persian art and culture, yet in his new body of work Zahedi subverts expectations of traditional Persian designs and motifs, opting instead to use the carpet as a canvas through which to develop the characters and narratives of his imagination.

Storytelling plays a crucial role throughout Zahedi's work and exemplifies the many different ways in which a self-conscious adult mind can travel between apparently opposing adult-child universes. Greatly influenced by mythology, Zahedi effortlessly weaves his narratives through the brightly coloured, often abstracted forms of fantastical creatures and beasts. Innocent, yet with a sly sense of humour, Zahedi's three large-scale carpets invite the viewer to uncover characters and narratives hidden within the larger structure, and a dreamlike landscape beckons the viewer to join the adventure. The accompanying collection of preparatory works on paper feature Zahedi's repertoire of recurring quirky characters, and facilitates a dialogue between these smaller works and the three large-scale carpets. Figures are abstracted and not instantly recognized, whimsical and often gently grotesque.

While technically a three-dimensional artwork, Zahedi's "woolen sculptures" are woven into abstract shapes depicting two-dimensional characters from the artist's imagination. With no remarkable or distinguishing features, these large-scale figure-heads float free, unrestrained from any particular narrative allowing repeated reinvention of their characters.

Zahedi's prize-winning illustrative talent and fondness for abstraction is perhaps most readily seen in the series of works on paper "Thundering Horses". The horse, a symbol of nobility, is the artist's embodiment of the "Refined Beast."

"Tickle" will open at XVA Gallery, DIFC on 3 November 2013 and run until November 14, 2013. The exhibition will re-open at XVA Gallery in the Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood on 17 November 2013 and will run until 7 December 2013.

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 has been part of numerous international group shows, most notably in Japan.

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 London, SH Contemporary and Art Basel Hong Kong 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. In 2011 XVA Gallery moved to DIFC. The XVA Art Hotel serves as an annex gallery for curated exhibitions and participates in the Sikka Art Fair.

XVA Gallery Contact

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