



Mahmoud Hamadani:

Vernissage: 15th October, 6pm-9pm
Exhibition Dates: 15th October – 14th November 2016
XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA is pleased to announce the next solo show of Mahmoud Hamadani at XVA Gallery. The exhibition presents works on paper from the ongoing series *Requiem*, *Traces*, *Odes* and *Traces*.

Mahmoud Hamadani was born in Iran. He has exhibited at the British Museum, New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, New York University, and galleries in New York, London and Dubai. He is a recipient of Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant. His works can be found in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the British Museum London. Hamadani earned a BA in Mathematics from State university of New York and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He lives and works in New York City.

The exhibition opens on October 15th at 6pm, and runs until November 14th, 2016.

Artist Statement

The works in this exhibition are from three series: *Requiem*, *Traces*, *Odes* and *Traces*.

Requiem is a study of the dynamics of order and chaos. The rhythmic pattern in each drawing is restrained by a simple structure. This can be a grid, a line or a dot. Without a structure the system is not sustainable, and without freedom it cannot thrive. Look closely at each drawing and you'll see myriad of haphazard elements. Step back and a resolved serenity appears.

I create the works in the second series *Traces* by blowing ink on paper. These are studies of chance and will. The inspiration for the series is best captured in the following poem by Gu Cheng:

Now on my heart's page
there is no grid to guide my hand, no character to trace
only the moisture
the ink blew dew
that has dripped from the leaves.
To spread it I can't use a writing brush, can't use a pen.
I can only use my life's gentlest breath to make a line of marks
worth puzzling over.

The process of making these drawings is akin to "the search for that which cannot be found." An image appears through a process of decisions and accidents. And just as in life where much depends on chance, it's ultimately our decisions that give shape and meaning to this out of control process.

The third series, *Odes*, is a simple study of light and shadow, a most basic preoccupation of the artist as well as the moral being.

Altogether these works are explorations of basic dualisms, with which we grapple everyday, often with little awareness.

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.

XVA Gallery Contact

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