

## April 2013 Newsletter

### Events

#### CURRENT

##### FARIDEH LASHAI

*Thus is silence in dreams' projections*

April 4 – May 2, 2013

Public Opening, Thursday April 4, 6 – 8pm

Leila Heller Gallery

568 West 25th Street

Leila Heller Gallery and Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art (ETNFA) are pleased to present two posthumous New York exhibitions celebrating the life and career of internationally renowned, recently deceased, Iranian artist Farideh Lashai (1944 – 2013). An Extended version of Lashai's work *Rabbit in Wonderland*, 2010, will be on view at Leila Heller Gallery from April 4 to May 2. On view, from April 3 to May 7, at ETNFA will be works such as *El Amal*, 2011--2012, *Le Dejeuner au Park--e--Mellat*, 2007--2011, among others. A joint--gallery catalogue, featuring an essay by Negar Azimi, Senior Editor of Bidoun magazine, will be published to accompany the exhibitions.

##### [Press Release](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *Dear, Dear, How Queer Everything is Today*, 2010, Painting with projected animation and sound, oil acrylic and pencil on canvas, 5 minutes, 40 seconds, 78.8 x 39.5 in (200 x 100 cm) Edition of 6, 1 AP, Unique painting

##### FARIDEH LASHAI

*In Memory of Farideh Lashai (1944 – 2013)*

March 18 – June 18, 2013

Farjam Foundation DIFC

Dubai, UAE

The Farjam Foundation, Dubai, will present the exhibition *In Memory of Farideh Lashai (1944–2013)*, opening March 18, 6–9 pm at the Farjam Foundation, DIFC. The exhibition will run through June 18, 2013.

Lashai's intricate and wholly commanding works speak not only to Iranians, but also to a global audience who are captivated by the delicate layers of meaning and reference present in her oeuvre. Through the amalgamated use of layered mediums such as video, paintings, and sound, she brings to life ephemeral movements of iconic figures and other characters projected upon striking paintings of nature. Her search for meaning in identity and self are revealed through a personal journey of navigating through the competing dissonant political and intellectual struggles present in her homeland. She has established a prominent legacy through putting forth a compelling Iranian aesthetic in Contemporary Middle Eastern art and she will undoubtedly continue to be an inspiration to artists at home and abroad for generations to come.

Image: Farideh Lashai, *Le Temps Perdu*, Oil on canvas with video installation, 53 x 59 in (134.6 x 150 cm)

MECA and Leila Heller Gallery present

*The Space Between: Contemporary Perspectives on Tradition and Society*

March 3 – May 5, 2013

MECA, Middle East Center For The Arts

888 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ

At Mana Contemporary, the Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) in collaboration with Leila Heller Gallery show works by prominent Iranian and Arab artists that explore not the binaries and stereotypes of the Middle East, but rather the space between. Having undergone geographical relocation and exile, these artists inhabit an ambiguous and contested space, situated within a contemporary landscape permeated by cultural and historical legacies.

Artists included in the exhibition are: Shoja Azari, Leila Pazooki, Roya Akhavan, Ayad Alkadhi, Khosrow Hassanzadeh, Hadieh Shafie, and Youssef Nabil.

[Read More](#)

### POURAN JINCHI

*New Blue and White*

February 20 – July 14, 2013

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

465 Huntington Ave, Boston MA



"Blue and white" means, at its simplest, cobalt pigment applied to white clay. Over the course of a millennium, blue-and-white porcelain has become one of the most recognized types of ceramic production worldwide. With roots in the Islamic world and Asia, and strong presence in Europe and the Americas, various cultures adapted blue-and-white, from the Willow pattern to *isznik*. Taking inspiration from global blue-and-white traditions, today's artists continue the story, creating works that speak to contemporary ideas. They tackle diverse issues, ranging from the public (the political landscape, cross-cultural interchange), to the personal (family, memory, the act of collecting), to the aesthetic (abstraction, pattern, the role of decoration).

[Read More](#)

Image: Pouran Jinchi, *Prayer Stones 2*, 2012. Baked clay and lacquer paint. Courtesy of artist and Art Projects International, New York

### REZA DERAQSHANI

SALSALI PRIVATE MUSEUM

March 18 – July 9, 2013

Al Serkal Avenue, Unit 14, Al Quoz 1, Street 8

Dubai, UAE

Salsali Private Museum is pleased to present a new solo exhibition by critically acclaimed Iranian artist Reza Derakshani from March 18th 2013, opening to coincide with the citywide Art Week.

Renowned for his vibrant, richly-textured canvases, Derakshani draws inspiration from his Iranian heritage, while simultaneously exploring modern-day conceptual and philosophical preoccupations. Marrying a vivid colour palette with esoteric mediums such as tar and sand, Derakshani held his first solo exhibition at the age of nineteen and has since, gone on to captivate critics, collectors and art-lovers worldwide with his unique creations.

[Read More](#)

Image: Reza Derakshani, *Peacock Throne*, 2012, Black sand and enamel on canvas, 80 x 70 in (203 x

## UPCOMING

### Group Show Curated by AMIR SHARIAT

*Bass: How Low Can You Go?*

May 8 – June 1, 2013

Leila Heller Gallery

568 West 25th Street

Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition curated by the renowned collector Amir Shariat. Artists included are; Erica Baum, Raphael Danke, Rachel Lee Hovnanian, Sheree Hovsepian, Anthony Pearson, Raha Raissnia, Gibb Slife, Andy Warhol among others.

Image: Sheree Hovsepian, *Column #6*, 2013, Bronze, wood, Sculpture: 17 in (43.1 cm) Base: 7 in (17.7 cm)

### FAIG AHMED is on the shortlist for the Jameel Prize

V&A Jameel Prize

London, UK

The Jameel Prize is an international award for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic tradition. Its aim is to explore the relationship between Islamic traditions of art, craft and design and contemporary work as part of a wider debate about Islamic culture and its role today.

Faig Ahmed is one of the ten artists and designers that have been shortlisted for this year's £25,000 prize which will be shown at the V&A from 11 December 2013 until 21 April 2014. Leila Heller Gallery will present Faig Ahmed exhibition in the gallery project space during the month of June.

[Read More](#)

Image: Faig Ahmed, *Double Stretching*, 2011, Woolen, handmade carpet, 39.3 x 90.5 in (100 x 230 cm)

GULAY SEMERCIOGLU and KEZBAN ARCA

BATIBEKI

*Sublime Porte: An Exhibition of Contemporary Turkish Art*

March 15 – May 2, 2013

St. John's University

Dr. M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery/

Sun Yat Sen Hall

8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, New York

St. John's University is honored to present *Sublime Porte: Art and Contemporary Turkey*, an exhibition which features a broad range of contemporary works by a select group of emerging and internationally acclaimed artists whose works respond to Turkey's rich cultural diversity. The exhibition addresses issues of race, gender, sexuality, religion and politics as well as broader arguments concerning art, culture and globalization.

The group exhibition features works by: Osman Akan, Burak Arikan, Kezban Arca Batibeki, Nezaket Ekici, Paul Fabozzi, Murat Germen, Peter Hristoff, Gözde İlkin, Michael Marfione, Alex Morel, Arzu Ozkal, Murat Pulat, Gulay Semercioglu, Orkan Telhan and Elif Uras.



[Read More](#)

Image: Gulay Semercioglu, *Silver Waves*, 2009, Wire wood screws, 78.7 x 47.2 in (200 x 120 cm)

## KEZBAN ARCA BATIBEKI

Istanbul INN London

April 12 – April 15, 2013

Victoria House

London, UK

The artist represented by Leila Heller at ISTANBUL INN LONDON is: Kezban Arca Batibeki. INN London is an organisation set up to bring the best of a foreign city's culture, creativity and commerce to life in the heart of London. Once a year, over the next 5 years, INN will focus on a city from Turkey, Russia, India, China and Brazil at a 4-day event, showcasing leading art, architecture, film, fashion, food, drink, music, stories, and other aspects of culture which make that city unique. The showcase will be a chance for visitors to immerse themselves in the city's culture, discovering emerging creative talent, sampling authentic food and drink, and learning about contemporary culture and customs rather than cliché.

[Read More](#)

Image: Kezban Arca Batibeki, *Nest*, 2013, 59 x 59 in (150 x 150 cm)

---

## News

### CANVAS

"Artist in Wonderland"

by Roger Mandle

March 2013

Though Farideh Lashai and New York dealer Leila Heller had been working together for some years now, 4 April will see the late artist's debut solo at Leila's eponymous gallery Leila Heller Gallery. The day before will see another first solo by Lashai at Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art, also in the Big Apple. And less than a month before that and in collaboration with LHG, a large scale video work *Between the Motion/And the Act/Falls the Shadow*, will be presented at Art Dubai through the fair's *Projects* section.



[Read More](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *El Amal*, 2011, Projected animation on painting with sound, 78.7 x 78.7 in (200 x 200 cm)

## CANVAS

"The Power 50"

March 2013

LEILA HELLER: Imagine being a dealer promoting Middle Eastern art in New York post-9/11. It has been a tough job, but Leila Heller has pulled it off. The Iranian-born Brown University graduate – who has worked with the likes of Andy Warhol and Jeffrey Deitch – is a cultural island in the Big Apple. A fierce networker, her vernissages see the likes of Christian Amanpour, Bob Colacello, Her Majesty Farah Pahlavi, Tom Wolfe and Eleanor Coppola in attendance.

[Read More](#)

Image: Leila Heller



## Art Bahrain

"Leila's Lay of the Land"

by Laura Stewart

Spring/Summer 2013

Laura Stewart: How many years have you been participating in Art Dubai?

Leila Heller: We first participated in Art Dubai in 2009 with a solo presentation of video paintings by our artists Shoja Azari and Shahram Karimi. They presented seven video paintings of Burning Oil fields all shown together in a dark room. It was called the highlight of Art Dubai that year! Since then we have gone with group presentations. Last year we had an amazing three-person show of new works by Shiva Ahmadi, Ayad Alkadhi, and Kezban Arca Batibeki which was very well received.

[Read More](#)





Image: Iké Udé, *Leila Heller*, 2012, Pigment on satin paper, 40 x 36 in (101.6 x 91.4 cm)

*Bloomberg*

"Sex Toys, Piped Pollution, African Lesbians:  
Chelsea Art"  
by Katya Kazakina  
March 21, 2013

Leila Heller: Iranian artist Shiva Ahmadi marries 16th-century Persian painting with images of pipelines, monkey worshipers and enthroned rulers with bloody faces and explosives in their hands. Despite its dark symbolism, the work has a feathery touch with luminous washes of watercolor and calligraphic ink curls.



[Read More](#)

Image: Shiva Ahmadi, *Pipes*, 2013, Watercolor ink and acrylic on Aquaboard, 40 x 60 in (101.6 x 152.4 cm)

*Gallery Intell*

"Sunday Exhibition Recommendations"  
February 24, 2013

Shiva Ahmadi's *Apocalyptic Playland* at Leila Heller Gallery. This contemporary Iranian artist has graduated to a whole new format in her work and we now see her embrace a scale that allows for a more expansive dialogue with the artist and her vision. Ahmadi is well known for transforming oil barrels into spectacular works of art that are nothing short of masterpieces. She now brings this vocabulary, rich with intricate vegetal and arabesque patterns, to her new series of works on aqua board and paper, making the work at once captivating and thought-provoking. In this exhibition Ahmadi returns to the traditional Persian manuscript illustration techniques and couples it with her own unique commentary. There are labyrinths of bent oil refinery pipes floating unanchored through space, faceless elephants dancing with ribbons, birds with tiaras carrying stained figures of faceless people, and many more fascinating stories.



[Read More](#)

Image: Shiva Ahmadi, *Untitled 16 (from Throne)*, 2012, Mixed media on Aquaboard, 12 x 16 in (40.6 x 53.3 cm)



## VIPART

### "An Apocalyptic Playland"

March 21, 2013

At first glance Ahmadi's work looks playful and vibrant but upon closer inspection a much darker meaning comes to light.

[View More](#)

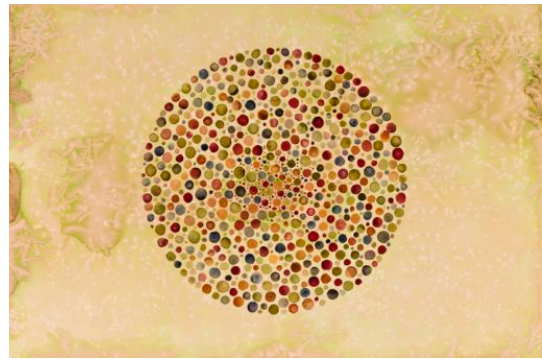


Image: Shiva Ahmadi, *Circles*, 2013, Watercolor ink and acrylic on Aquaboard, 40 x 60 in (101.6 x 152.4 cm)

## Al Arabiya

### "Art Dubai 2013: An international identity crisis explodes to life"

by Saffiya Ansari

March 23, 2013

Depicting the human situation has been a common artistic theme for centuries, a particularly funny installation piece by artist Rachel Lee Hovnanian did just that. A banquet table is set up with untouched golden plates and a decadent centerpiece, a man and a woman sit at either end, the distance perhaps an indication of their fading relationship. What's more, the man and the woman do not look up at each other during their artificial 'meal,' they are busy in conversation but their heads are bowed. It is a position all too familiar to us- they are on their technological devices; pings, message alerts, ringing and disconcerting buzzes play out over a speaker. What makes the piece so appealing is that it is instantly relatable, "oh I get it," laughed one woman, "that is pure comedy, I'm always on my phone too" she exclaimed. A final salute to the idea that technology is taking over our lives; the people aren't people at all, just heads on a screen that has been affixed to each chair.

[Read More](#)

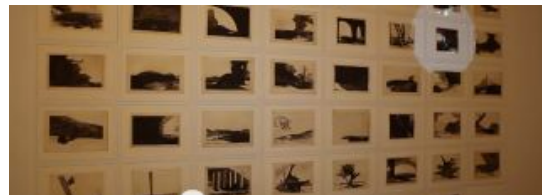
Image: Rachel Lee Hovnanian, *Dinner for Two-Gold*, 2013, Installation

## CANVAS

### "The Thomas Crown Lists – Art Dubai 2013

[VIDEO]"

March 2013



Art Consultant Dina Nasser-Khadivi pays homage to Farideh Lashai and Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli.

[View Video](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *When I count, there are only you... But when I look, there is only a shadow*, 2013, Projection of animated images on a suite of 47 original photo-intaglio prints, 11.8 x 9 in each (30 x 22.8 cm each)

## CCTV

### "Art Week in Dubai highlights Iran [VIDEO]"

by Lourda Sexton

March 24, 2013

One of Iran's most well known artists Farideh Lashai recently passed away and a lot of people here in Dubai are paying tribute to her such as the museum here which specially commissioned this cinema to showcase her favorite films of all time.



Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller, owner of Leila Heller Gallery, said, "This work is her last work, inspired by the gross disaster of war. And this is a smaller version which is 47 plates. There is a bigger version which is 80 plates and what she has done is she has taken from this series all the animation and figures out and she has made these plates, done in London, etched in London. They are Italian and then she has reanimated them with video so as you can see these are the etchings and each of the video when the moon goes over the plates the figures come back in animation."

#### [View Video](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *When I count, there are only you... But when I look, there is only a shadow*, 2013, Projection of animated images on a suite of 47 original photo-intaglio prints, 11.8 x 9 in each (30 x 22.8 cm each)

## Canvas Daily

### "In Memoriam: Farideh Lashai"

March 19, 2013

After a long battle with cancer, celebrated Iranian artist Farideh Lashai passed away on 24 February at the age of 68. With a degree in German literature, Lashai pursued studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and then worked as a crystal designer in Austria and Germany. Painting had always been an enduring passion and practice for Lashai, who, in her over five-decade-long career, held solo and group exhibitions all over the world and participated in biennials and museums shows.

#### [Read More](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai



*Gulf News*

"Art Dubai 2013: A diverse affair"

by Jyoti kalsi

March 14, 2013

The fair is honouring renowned Iranian artist Farideh Lashai, who passed away recently, by dedicating Art Dubai Projects 2013 to her memory. Under this not-for-profit initiative, Art Dubai has commissioned 12 artists to create performances and site-specific works that explore the fabric, economy and theatrical nature of an art fair. Lashai has a strong presence at the fair through a video installation titled *Between the motion/ And the Act/ Falls the Shadow*.

[Read More](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *Between the Motion/And the Act/Falls the Shadow*, 2013, Two-channel video projection on a painting (oil, acrylic and pencil on canvas), sound

*Canvas Daily*

"Off the Wall"

March 22-23, 2013

Leila Heller Gallery (A39) – This multimedia work by New York-based Rachel Lee Hovnanian is a commentary on contemporary culture, in which human communication has changed from being physical and personal to detached and impersonal. During this digital dinner for two, there are cell phone message alerts, music, as well as typing sounds, without the two people at the dinner table exchanging a single interaction.



[Read More](#)

Image: Rachel Lee Hovnanian, *Dinner for Two: Gold*, 2013, Installation

## ARTINFO

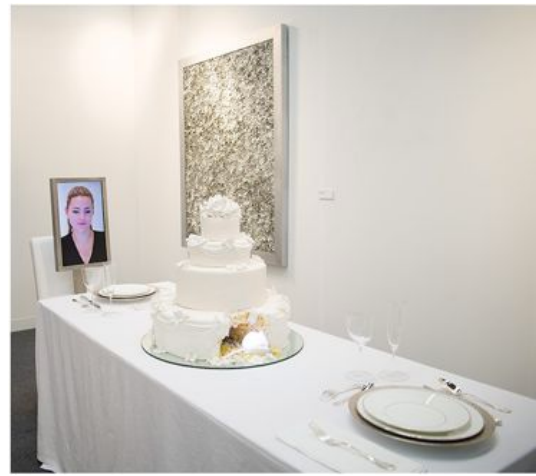
### "Highlights from the 2013 Armory Show"

March 7, 2013

Rachel Lee Hovnanian's *Dinner for Two: Wedding Cake* was featured in Artinfo's Highlights from the 2013 Armory Show.

[View slideshow](#)

Image: Rachel Lee Hovnanian, *Dinner for Two: Wedding Cake*, 2013, Installation



## Gallery Intell

"Contemporary Artists explore renaissance imagery and more at Leila Heller Gallery [VIDEO]"  
March 2, 2013

For The Armory Show 2013, our selection of galleries is an exuberant mix of specialists. This well-known Chelsea gallery specializes in presenting artists from the Middle East and America, whose works are continuously acquired by major national and international museums.

We asked Leila what she is bringing to the Armory this year and her response brought to mind the words "exotic" and "thoughtful". The gallery's highlight this year is a video installation by the late Farideh Lashai. The video is a lush combination of "Dejeuner sur l'herbe" by Édouard Manet and its contemporary interpretation by Lashai.



[View Video](#)

Image: Farideh Lashai, *Le Temps Perdu*, Oil on canvas with video installation, 53 x 59 in (134.6 x 150 cm)

### *Gallery Intell*

"Top Recommendations: The Armory Show,  
ADAA: The Art Show"

March 2, 2013

Leila Heller Gallery will be showcasing works by gallery artists: Farideh Lashai, Reza Aramesh's photographs of Palestinian refugees at the Versailles and his *Pietá*, Ayad Alkadhi's "*Untitled - Doha*", Leila Pazooki, Rachel Lee Hovnanian's brand new "*motherboards*" and Hadieh Shafie's new Turkmen jewelry-inspired installations.

[Read More](#)



Image: Hadieh Shafie, *Five Colors, Ultramarine Blue, Violet, Black, Bronze & White (Telesm series)*, 2013, Ink, acrylic and paper with printed & hand written Farsi Text Esheghe "Love Passion", 30 x 30 x 3 in (76.2 x 76.2 x 7.6 cm)

### *The New York Times*

"Evening Hours"

by Bill Cunningham

March 10, 2013

March 6: The Armory Show celebrated its centennial, on the Hudson River Piers 92 and 94. The fun stuff is on Piers 94. The original historic 1913 show presented the groundbreaking artists of Paris to Americans, many of whom never stopped ridiculing the show. As one showgoer's descendant lamented, if they had only stopped laughing long enough to buy some of the art.

[Read More](#)

Image: Reza Aramesh, *Action 121*, 2013, Hand printed Silver Gelatin, mounted on aluminum and archival board, and framed in black aluminum and museum glass, 76.8 x 106.3 in (195 x 270 cm), ed of 3 & 1 AP

"Exploring The Armory Show of 2013"

by Elizabeth Daley

March 21, 2013

While most galleries showed one or two pieces of interest, Leila Heller Gallery and Rokeby managed to capture the attention of visitors for more than a few moments. At Leila Heller's, Rachel Lee Hovnanian's piece "Dinner for Two" featured a digital mouse nibbling at a wedding cake, while a digital man and woman, seated at the table looked on. Visitors enjoyed the piece and gave it more than a passing glance. It was also nice to see something on display that was very non-commercial. Afterall, even if one were to buy the piece, how would the wedding cake be preserved?

[Read More](#)

Image: Rachel Lee Hovnanian, *Mirror Motherboard X*, 2013, Steel and cast metal in artist's frame, 48 in diameter (122 cm)

*Newtopia Magazine*

"NewArtLab: Ayad Alkadhi"

by Kimberly Nichols

March 2013

I met Ayad Alkadhi through a gallery we both showed our work at and learned he was originally from Iraq. His paintings at the time were large textural articulations with Arabic markings revealing an ancient poetic past that the artist still longed for beneath his home country's explosive contemporary identity. We bonded over our common hunger for expression and I spent a few enjoyable afternoons in his small apartment that doubled as a studio while we discussed our global dynamics over bran muffins and tea.

Over the course of the next decade, I watched with glee as his career exploded and took him back to New York City where he remains today, perpetually evolving his creative process. He continues to create amazingly poignant work in a world where the constant flux of political, economic and social change continues to inspire his profoundly personal yet universal paintings.

[Read More](#)

Image: Ayad Alkadhi, *Untitled II (In Vitro series)*, 2013, Charcoal, acrylic, pen and pencil on canvas, 94 x 132 in (238.8 x 335 cm)



568 West 25th Street New York, NY 10001

(Tel) 212 249 7695

(Fax) 212 249 7693

[www.leilahellergallery.com](http://www.leilahellergallery.com)

[info@leilahellergallery.com](mailto:info@leilahellergallery.com)

[add us to your address book](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2011, Leila Heller Gallery, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this](#) update subscription preferences

Partnership with: