

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Roya Khadjavi Projects presents “Unification” by Zahra Nazari at High Line Nine

1 MAY – 15 MAY

Roya Khadjavi Projects is pleased to showcase an exhibition of sculptures and paintings by multidisciplinary artist Zahra Nazari at High Line Nine Gallery 9.1 (507 W 27th St, New York, NY, 10001). Public opening receptions will be held for the artist on May 1st from 4 to 8:00 p.m. and on May 2nd from noon to 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through May 15th.



Unification, 12 gauge stainless steel, 5.5'x8'x5', 2020

Unification is an artistic project rooted in the formal blending of Persian and Western influences. It emerges from Zahra Nazari’s exploratory practice in painting and sculpture and her identity as an immigrant from Iran in the U.S.

In the paintings and works on paper, Nazari represents architectural forms with flowing, abstract lines. She derives inspiration from the spectacular 17th century monuments of the Safavid dynasty in Isfahan, such as the Shah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace, and its Music Room. Traces of Persian archways, niches, vaults, lattices, and the eight-pointed star are combined with fractured and deconstructed architectural shapes.

Nazari's sculptures are a fusion of 17th century Persian monuments and Western and postmodern architecture. Built from stainless steel and displayed directly on the ground, the geometric patterns of the sculptures cast shadows and reflect lights onto the surrounding areas enabling a multidimensional experience. Nazari's use of industrial material alludes to sculptors such as Anthony Caro and Robert Morris, who manipulate solid raw steel into lyrical, freeform shapes. Nazari's deconstructionism additionally intimates the works of architects like Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry.

Zahra Nazari (b.1985 in Hamedan, Iran) is a New York based painter, sculptor, and installation artist working with architectural themes.

She has given artist talks and participated as a panelist at institutions including NYU, Columbia University, Cooper Union, and Pratt Institute in New York City. She has been interviewed by and published in Hamptons Art Hub, Hyperallergic, Whitehot Magazine, ZH Magazine, and more. Her works are included in private and public collections throughout the US, Canada, and Asia.

Nazari has exhibited both nationally and internationally in galleries and museums including: the Bronx Museum, NY; Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, NY; MANA Contemporary, NJ; Spartanburg Art Museum, SC; Masur Museum of Art, LA; New York Academy of Art, NY; Denise Bibro Fine Art, NY; Boccara Art Gallery, NY; Painting Center, NY; A Center for Contemporary Art, NJ; Illinois Institute of Art, IL; Manifest Gallery, IL; Woman Made Gallery, IL; China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China; Xuancheng Museum, Anhui, China; Lite-Haus Galerie, Berlin, Germany; Saba Institution, and Baran Gallery in Tehran, Iran.

Nazari has been a recipient of many awards including: the AIM Fellowship from the Bronx Museum, NY; the Creative Engagement Grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, NY; the Mentoring Program from New York Foundation for the Arts, NY (NYFA); a Visiting Artist Fellowship from MASS MoCA; an Artist Residency Fellowship from Cooper Union; an Artist Residency from Sculpture Space in Utica, NY, and; an Artist Residency from the Vermont Studio Center, VT.

Nazari received her MFA from the State University of New York in New Paltz in 2014 and her BFA from the School of Art & Architecture in Tabriz, Iran.

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This exhibition is open Tuesday through Saturday 12:00 to 5:00 PM and by appointment.

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Sponsored by: LMCC, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and Sculpture Space in Utica