

Press Release

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea

Anahita Hekmat

10-years is the best

Galleria Muratcentoventidue is pleased to present *10-years is the best*, the first solo exhibition in Italy by Anahita Hekmat, a young Iranian talented artist.

Anahita Hekmat was born in Tehran. She took a bachelor's degree in painting at Tehran University. In 2003 she moved to France where she continued her studies at the École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg, concentrating on video and installation. At the same time she discovered her interest in anthropology. Between 2007 and 2010, she was a member of the group of research and Innovation at the EnsadLab in the field of interactive devices, developing work that crosses ethnographic methodology and subjective imagination.

Anahita Hekmat uses traditional as well as new media. Her work includes a wide range of disciplines such as photography, drawings, videos and installations, but she also uses new technological media to create for example multidisciplinary multimedia experiences. Sometimes she works alone, but often she works with ethnologists, musicians, programmers and other specialists.

The artist, who has lived in her childhood the conflict between Iran and Iraq, in this exhibition deals with the most difficult of issues: the war, touching on one of the most dramatic aspect, which is the effects on the children.

Iran-Irak war in early 80s lasts for eight years. It is known as the 20th century's longest conventional war. For Iranian and Iraqi children of her generation, this war was an inherent part of the environment and life. The end of the war was already the end of the childhood. And like any other conflict, this war had many indirect and underlying effects in social as well as intimate level.

Trying to recall this vision of a birthday's remains in a bombed out ruin visited once, she proposes a video installation composed of three elements: the video *Acrophobia*, a series of birthday photos of friends and relatives grown up during the conflict (1980-1989) and a wall painting showing a bombed house. This drawing works as a scenery showing a hybrid image of ruin, mixed from images of different war ruins during time, Iran, Palestine, Syria, ...

Talking of her video *Acrophobia* she says: "*How can we remember the passing time? A lost memory, even recorded but taken out of its context, can just belong to the past, a time defined by its disappearance. Acrophobia attempts to deconstruct and reconstruct a moment, a breath infinitely repeating in an empty space, virtually endless.*" The text is the last dialogue by Aeschylus's Prometheus Bound.

The world of childhood is a recurring motif in her body of work. The childhood and rites of passage function as a referential basis for universal temporal units. Thus, each viewer can find a space-time base which is both very personal and common.

In her videos, she works from fragments of images (filmed in general mostly during her journeys) that create a documentary approach. By editing, time stretching, manipulating and overlaying the images, she is letting forth a poetic and mythical fiction.

In general, her work is building a suspended time in which the characters, abstracted of their spatial dimensions, graze the boundaries of documentary and fiction.

In her installations, she confronts several screens that she puts into dialogue. This type of medium also allows images to resonate with sounds to deconstruct the Ordinary Time. She generally uses the projection as the reminiscence of the facts which actually are experienced.

The sound has a great importance in her work. Sound composition is used to add the spatiality. It adds the distension of the time in my closed universes. The audio layers superimposed with their corresponding images, to provide a space to explore, a memory pool.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea
Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday February 14th, 2015 at 7.30 pm

Period

February 14 – March 25 2015

Opening hours

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 5.00 to 8.00 pm

Info

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Anahita Hekmat (Teheran 1978) lives and work in Paris

EXHIBITIONS / SCREENINGS

2014 Group show "*Breath from a warm locale*", Croxhapox, Gent, Belgium/Group show "*A review of decade of video art in Iran*" - Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran/Video creation for *Christophe S. 'play*, Clyde Chabot, La Communauté Inavouable / *La Fabrique MC11* - Montreuil, France/2013 Solo show "*The Third Vertice [V.0.1: EM]*", Casa Blanca Museum - Viejo San Juan, Porto Rico/Discussion panel *Building a Monument of Speech [A Metalogue Around the Cult of Monuments]*, Beta Local art Centre - VSJ, Porto Rico/Sanandaje Contemporary Art Festival, Kurdistan, Iran/Invited curator for "*Limited Access IV Festival*", Arran Gallery, Tehran, Iran/Artist talk, Honar Gallery – Sari, Iran/2012: Screening/Presentation: *mise en abyme*, video program curated by Sandra Skurvida, Sazmanab Platform for Contemporary Arts - Tehran, Iran - Part of me : *Mise en abyme* / IRANIAN ARTS NOW Festival - Cité internationale des Arts - Paris, France - THE INVISIBLE PRESENT, Curated by Amirali Ghasemi / CAMERA/Stephen Bulger Gallery / Toronto, ON - Group Show "Control Tower", Faravahar Gallery – Tehran, Iran Artist talk, Parking Gallery, Tehran, Iran Solo exhibition "Üres Terek [empty spaces]", CEAAC [European Center of Contemporary Art] – Strasbourg, France Solo exhibition "île-Wald", Shaufenestre Gallery - Selestat, France 2011 Group Show, "Iran via Video Current", Thomas Erben Gallery - NYC,

USA Group Exhibition "The Invisible Present" - Oi Futuro, Flamengo - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Artist talk, Séquence Gallery - Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada Group Exhibition "100 drawings for Vietnam war", Complot Gallery, Bruxelles, Belgium - Le Commissariat Gallery, Paris, France Ikono.tv, Invited by Amirali Ghasemi - Online Group Show "Actual French Video Art", Invited by Écrasement Faciale, French Cultural Centre of Yogyakarta - Yogyakarta, Indonesia "Vidéoformes 11" festival, official selection - Clermont-Ferrand, France Group Exhibition, Aubette Gallery - Strasbourg, France "Limited Access 3" festival - Tehran, Iran | London, UK 2010 MADATAC 2010 festival / Special Mention - Madrid, Spain El Festival de Vidéo Arte de Camaguey - Camaguey, Cuba La Nuit Blanche : Projection of "re-iter" vidéo séries //// "memoria" application, Le CENTQUATRE - Paris, France Transfere TV Program - Madrid, Spain Solo exhibition : Interactive Installation « arboreal », Le CENTQUATRE - Paris, France Projection & Artist talk « Impasses », Le CENTQUATRE - Paris, France DEMO version of project « memoria », recited routes, GPS guided sound walks in 19th district - Paris, France Solo exhibition : Installation « Jardins persans (persian gardens) », Le CENTQUATRE - Paris, France 2009 Group show : Experimental 3 / Ciné Nouveau & Festival Acqua Suito - Osaka, Japan Athene Film Festival - Athene, Greece 2008 CologneOFF IV Mother (special festival program) Videochannel - Cologne/Online, Germany « 21th Instants Vidéo » festival - Marseille, France "Oslo Screen" festival - Oslo, Norway Group exhibition "MultiChannel", ArtSway's galleries - Sway, UK Performance "Visions Prénatales", MAMCS (Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Strasbourg)'s Auditorium - Strasbourg, France 2007 Artist talk, Art Centre "Afsan-Honar" - Bandar Abbas, Iran 2006 "Filmer en Alsace" Festival - Strasbourg, France Performance "Visions Prénatales" for the opening of the new Strasbourg's Conservatoire at the Medical Department, Marc Bloch University - Strasbourg, France Projection of "Apparition # II" at the Art Centre "Maison d'Image" - Strasbourg, France Collective exhibition "Fenêtre sur rue", Gallery of Beaux Arts Art School of Rouen - France 2005 VideoArt Festival - Bordeaux, France 2004 Presentation of the one-channel video "AIR" at the Cable Television of the city of Strasbourg, France COLLECTIVES 2006 Member of "NoctILUCA" (Ubiquitous Laboratory of Artistic Creation), Artists, musicians and scenographers - France | Spain | Netherlands Founder member of "Horizome" association of artists and anthropologists - France 2007 Founder member of "GRAA" (Group of Artistic Research in Apartments), Artists Collective - France RESIDENCIES 2011 Artist-in-Residency, Schaufenster Gallery, Selestat, France Artist-in-Residency, Budapest Galleria | CEAAC | Historical Museum of Budapest Artist-in-Residency, pa-f (Performing Art Forum) - Saint Herme, France Artist-in-Residency, « Géographies Variables », Séquence - Chicoutimi, Canada 2010 LA VILLA DU LAVOIR Artist-in-residency, "L'entreprise Culturelle" - Paris, France - Artist-in-residency, Le CENTQUATRE, Artistic establishment of the city of Paris - Paris, France 2006 VOYAGE À DISNEY LAND - UNE FICTION ETHNOLOGIQUE workshop Euro Disney, Marne la vallée AWARDS 2011 Scholarship of Budapest Galleria | CEAAC | Historical Museum of Budapest for residency Scholarship of Ministry of International Relations of Quebec - General Consulate of France at Québec - FFQCD for residency 2011 Bursary award for multimedia and digital artistic creation (DICRÉAM), Cinematographic National Center(CNC) - France 2010 Scholarship for residency in CENTQUATRE, Paris - France MADATAC 2010 / Special Mention - Madrid, Spain 1996 Ranked #1 in the entire nation at the National University Entering Concourse - Iran INTERVENTIONS / WORKSHOPS 2010-2011 Guest Artist in Workshop-Project "archi-portrait", in "Art and Culture at High School" project, Joliot-Curie school - Stains, France 2010 Workshop in digital art, Plaine Commune's libraries : Albert Camus / Epinay-sur-Seine, France Workshop "Turning and experiments" with children from 3-6 years, CENTQUATRE, Paris, France Workshop "How my city will be more beautiful?" Synesthesia Association and Cyber Nanterre, Nanterre, France Experimental workshop on space and video, kindergarten Olivier Metra, Paris, France 2009 Two weeks of workshop in the framework of program "Art Hors Format" partnership between ESAD and ABA, Academy of Fine Arts of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, DRC Workshops in digital art, Plaine Commune's libraries : Jacques Duclos / Pierrefitte-sur-Seine and John Lennon / La Courneuve, France Guest Artist in the module "Assembly(s) and Friction(s)" on the 2nd semester with students from first year of the ESAD, Strasbourg, France Workshop "Making an animated film", Synesthesia Association and Cyber Nanterre, Nanterre, France 2008 Teaching Assistant / Guest Artist during "Benda Bilili" festival, Superior School of Decorative Arts, Strasbourg, France 1999-02 Drawing workshops «Dreams» & «Illustrating tales» for children of 3-5 & 6-10 years, «Forough» kindergarten, Tehran, Iran Drawing workshops and music for the deaf and dumb, in collaboration with the sixth district of Tehran, Iran INTERSHIPS July 2010: Mediamuseum, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany 2008-2009: Lowave : Independent DVD label, Paris, France 1997-1999: Animator of animation films for national television (TELE 2), Cinematographic and Animation «Film-e-Aval», Tehran, Iran EDUCATION: 2007-2010: Researcher in Interactive Arts at ENSAD [Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts Décoratives], Interactive installations & Locative Media Research Groups with Jean-Louis Boissier / Jean-François Depelsenaire / Samuel Bianchini - Paris, France 2010: MA Art and Technology of New Media with Jean-Louis Boissier, Paris VIII University - Paris, France 2004-2006: Participant at courses in ethnology, Marc Bloch University (Strasbourg II) - Strasbourg, France 2006: DNSEP [National Superior Diploma of Fine Arts, MFA] with honors - France 2003-2006: ESADS [Superior School of Decorative Arts] with Pierre Mercier / Francisco Ruiz de Infante / Eléonore Hellio - Strasbourg, France 2001: BA in Painting, Tehran University, Department of Fine Arts -