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RAMIN HAERIZADEH / ROKNI HAERIZADEH / HESAM RAHMANIAN
SLICE A SLANTED ARC INTO DRY PAPER SKY *
FEBRUARY 21 - MAY 17 2015
PRESS INFORMATION: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 10 AM
OPENING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6 PM

Arriving in Dubai at Al Barsha Street at the house where the three Iranian artists Ramin Haerizadeh (*1975), Rokni Haerizadeh (*1978) and Hesam Rahmanian (*1980) currently live, you might think, "Wow, this is eccentric." Yes, it is an extraordinary villa full of things, but it is also a stage, a film set and movie theatre. It is their studio and a cabinet of curiosity; it is a test site-cum-monastery, an academy-cum-pleasure dome. The house informs their art as it results from both collective and individual endeavor – and half of it just has been shipped to Kunsthalle Zürich.

Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmanian work both individually and in collaboration, but do not form a collective. Their art translates into multiple forms – films, installations, artworks and exhibitions – and often evolves around friends, other artists or people they meet by chance. This includes Iranian artist Niyaz Azadikhah and her sister, a DJ, Nesa Azadikhah, Iranian sculptor Bita Fayyazi, polyglot writer Nazli Ghassemi, American artist Lonnie Holley, gallery manager Minnie McIntyre, Iranian graphic designer and artist Iman Raad, Maaziar Sadr, who works for a telecommunications company in the Emirates, Tamil friends Edward St and Indrani Sirisena. Sometimes these people occupy central roles, sometimes they are marginal, but in either case they bring with them a reality that interrupts the trio's universe and language, and channels their – and our – attention in unexpected territories.

Another important strategy in their practice is the inclusion of various artistic worlds that are as respectfully acknowledged as they are shamelessly appropriated and adapted. This ranges from artworks and objects held in their own private collection to broader aspects of Iranian culture. Confronted with their projects, their thinking and art-making, one can learn a great deal about how Iranian artists have absorbed modernity – how, for instance, filmmakers, cartoonists and artists such as Ardeshir Mohasses, Ali Hatami, Mahmoud Khan Saba, Kamran Shirdel, or Nouredin Zarrinkelk combined Persian culture with Western influences and vernacular traditions. One realises that there is another chapter of (dissident) modernity yet to be written.

These are some of the main ingredients to the exhibition, which partly transforms Kunsthalle Zürich into their house to offer us the trio's artistic universe through films, wall paintings, sound, a new floor, and an eclectic collection of their and other artists' works. Just like Al Barsha Street, Kunsthalle Zürich will be the center of a centrifugal world where divergent directions (and laughter) abound, and where one starts to wonder how it all holds together. Through aesthetics, one could argue, through the languages that they develop (and are still developing), and through that thing called art, which, in their case, is of stunning precision and craft backed up by broad, passionate, and generously shared knowledge. This makes their collaboration a model for how to approach a multi-directional, if not multi-chaotic, world as well as an art institution like Kunsthalle Zürich.

Slice A Slanted Arc Into Dry Paper Sky is the first institutional exhibition of the trio in Europe.

**Kunsthalle
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* From the poem "I Still Think About That Crow" written by Iranian poet Ahmad Shamlu in homage to Nima Yooshij, considered the father of modern Persian poetry. Translated from Farsi in collaboration with Christopher Lord as part of the trio's "Unfaithful Poem Project."

Press conference: Friday, February 20, 10 am

We are happy to provide additional information and digital visual material:
Tel. +41 (0)44 272 15 15 or email presse@kunsthallezurich.ch

Publication

The first monograph on the artists' collaboration will be published in cooperation with Kunsthalle Zürich and the Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai. *Ramin Haerizadeh Rokni Haerizadeh Hesam Rahmanian*. Edited by Tina Kukielski. Co-edited by Christopher Lord. Published on the occasion of the exhibition *Slice A Slanted Arc Into Dry Paper Sky* at Kunsthalle Zürich. Texts by Tina Kukielski, Daniel Baumann and Christopher Lord. Translation by Nazli Ghassemi. Design by Ghazaal Vojdani. Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland, February 21 – May 17, 2015, Mousse Publishing, Milan 2015. ISBN 9788867491353.

Theory & Programs:

Ramin Haerizadeh / Rokni Haerizadeh / Hesam Rahmanian / Daniel Baumann

Slice A Slanted Arc Into Dry Paper Sky

Artist talk (English)

Tuesday, February 24, 6.30-7.30 pm, Free entry

Living together, it is often said, in an eccentric house in Dubai, lies at the heart of Ramin Haerizadeh's, Rokni Haerizadeh's and Hesam Rahmanian's collaborative work. Conviviality and conversation then, provide specific access to their and multi-faceted aesthetic and critical discourse. Hence this evening with the artists' hopes to be generously anecdotal, intensively colloquial and spontaneously flamboyant.

Guided Tours

Wednesdays, 12.30-1.30 pm, with Daniel Baumann (Director Kunsthalle Zürich): February 25 / April 15

Thursdays, 6-7 pm, with Arthur Fink (Curator and Art Historian): March 12 / April 20

Sundays, 2-3 pm, with Yannic Joray (Artist and Curator): March 22 / May 17

Family Afternoons

Sundays, 2-3.30 pm, with Brigit Meier (Art Educator), March 29 / April 12

Book TV

Books presentation and public TV-recording (English), a project by Géraldine Beck
#04 Vincent de Roquin: *Illisibilismes – Observations on Esoteric Christianity, Hair Metal and War Propaganda*

#05 Luca Beeler: *Children's Books*

Friday, April 10, 5-6 pm, Free entry

Book TV is a web project recorded in public, which aims to present selected printed matter. This first event at Kunsthalle Zürich introduces episodes #04 and #05. Vincent de Roquin is an artist based in Geneva and will speak about the migration of selected ideas and symbols, connecting Christian hermeticism, underground music and war

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propaganda iconography. After a short break Zurich based art historian and curator Luca Beeler will look at artist publications catered to future generations - such as the ones by El Lissitzky, Andy Warhol, John Armleder, and Tana Hoban, among others.

Opening Hours

Tue/Wed/Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Thur 11 am – 8 pm, Sat/Sun 10 am – 5 pm, Mo closed
Holidays: April 3, April 5, May 5 & 14, 10 am – 5 Ppm

Please consult the up-to-date information on our website: www.kunsthallezurich.ch

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