



KENTLER INTERNATIONAL DRAWING SPACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TRACES: Drawings in Motion

Sepideh Salehi and Kamran Taherimoghaddam

Exhibition Dates: November 8 – December 15, 2013

Opening Reception: Friday, November 8, 6 – 8 pm

Artist's Talk: Saturday, November 23, 4 pm

Gallery Hours: Open free to the public, Thursday – Sunday, 12:00 – 5:00pm

Kentler International Drawing Space is proud to present *TRACES: Drawings in Motion*, a collaborative exhibition of drawing and animation by artists Sepideh Salehi and Kamran Taherimoghaddam.

TRACES: Drawings in Motion reveals the psychological effects of hostility, imprisonment, and disenfranchisement upon individuals living under despotic rule. Using drawing, painting, photography, found images, and video animation, Salehi and Taherimoghaddam transform real-life subjects of social injustice into personal reflections of their own identities as displaced artists. Their multi-media approach, by which scenes and figures are obstructed, abstracted, and illuminated, results in powerfully confrontational works that are more enigmatic than they are militant.

Taherimoghaddam and Salehi are husband and wife. Born in Tehran at a time of social upheaval, their work speaks to similar experiences and concerns. Taherimoghaddam's *Men at Work* series is comprised of individual wood panels marked with black ink. The compositions show scenes of violence and abuse rendered in stark isolation. Collectively installed, relationships form among the works, activating and empowering them as a group. Also featured in the exhibition is a dynamic digital drawing titled, *Faces*.

Sepideh Salehi's recent work, including animations and works on paper, highlights the daily struggle between civilians and law enforcement in Iran. She obtains films of civil unrest and confrontations from the Internet and reinterprets their content using a multi-step process. The films are first frozen into stills, which are printed individually onto photo paper. Salehi uses paint and ink to mark the images, and then reassembles them back into a video. Through added line, color, and soundtrack, the films are elevated and transformed from simple reportage to evocative, expressive, and highly emotional vignettes.

Taken together, the drawings and animations of Salehi and Taherimoghaddam provide a forceful, albeit ghostly account of the ongoing fight for human rights in the Middle East. While specific to the experiences of the artists and their countrymen, the universal themes of identity, dignity, and perseverance are effectively felt and applied across cultural barriers.

A brochure with an essay by Iranian writer, filmmaker and artist Shoja Azari accompanies the exhibition.

Kentler International Drawing Space is located at 353 Van Brunt Street (between Dikeman and Wolcott Sts.), Red Hook. See www.kentlergallery.org for directions. For more information contact Florence Neal, Director, 718.875.2098.

Exhibitions, events and education programs are made possible with public funds from: The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council; and New York City Council Discretionary Award /NYC Council Member Sara Gonzalez. Other supporters include: Estate 4, Bloomberg Philanthropies; The Fort Trustee Fund, CFCV; Brooklyn Community Foundation; Postindustrial Productions; Fifth Floor Foundation; The Gifford Foundation; Epson America Inc.; Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/NYC Department of Sanitation/ NYC Department of Education and the many valued artists, friends & supporters of the gallery.

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