



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Mahmoud Meraji

Ethnic Convergence

February 22 - April 3, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Mahmoud Meraji - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Mahmoud Meraji

Julie Oakes

There is an old world craftsmanship in Mahmoud Meraji's unique visions. He has the hand of a fine drawer that can lay rightful claim to the glory of admiration at his talent and ability to depict. He uses his technical ability to support a far more inaccessible narrative. Like the story-line of dreams where the connections are hard to make but the sense is embedded in the memorable impact of the visual, so his figures and their situations veer away from logic to enter a more instinctual realm. He uses a vocabulary of images that seem to possess romantic underpinnings.

The work is subtle and classy, intellectual and yet fresh. His use of colors illustrates his taste. It is never too much, sparingly doled out to accentuate the detailed rendering. Mahmoud uses repetition in a symphonic sense, subverting rhythms in favor of a melody that forms agreeable successions and arrangements of shapes and movements. It is a classical melody with attention to form lending a general effect of balance while the emotions are distant and collected. Mahmoud Meraji is graceful in his depiction. He is discrete with a gentleman's manners. And because of these layers of meanings, not quite revealed, but refined and cultured, the work touches the finer aspects of our own connoisseurship. It invites us into the Meraji realm, one of good breeding where the origins of drawing are accomplished and can thus enter into higher conversations.

If the iconography is not always clear, it is because there is a learning process in place and Meraji is teaching us how to see his world as he offers a respite from the clarion perspective of contemporary depersonalization.



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 17 x 12 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 17 x 12 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 10 x 8 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 15 x 11 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 26 x 19 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 26 x 19 inches
1999



Untitled
charcoal & acrylic on paper, 40 x 32 inches
2006



Untitled
charcoal & acrylic on paper, 40 x 32 inches
2006



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 50 x 38 inches
2006



Untitled
charcoal & pastel on paper, 39 x 30 inches
2007

Mahmoud Meraji

Exhibitions

- 2007 Varley Art Gallery of Markham, Canadian Artists without Borders, Toronto 2006 Under the Azure Dome - Persian Festival at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto
- 2006 Headbones Gallery, Iran,Iran I ran with Bogos, Toronto
- 2004 Metamorphosis, Scarborough Art Council, Toronto
- 2004 Arta Gallery, Toronto
- 2003 Drawing 2003, John B. Aird Gallary, Toronto
- 2002 Illuminary Art Gallery
- 2002 Scarborough Art Council, Annual Juried Show Scarborough, Toronto
- 2001 A Celebration of the Arts North York, Ontario
- 2001 Art at the heart (Arts week2001), Toronto
- 2001 Odyssey (SAC) Scarborough, Ontario
- 2001 Art at the heart, Toronto, Ontario
- 2000 39th Annual Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto
- 1999 38th Annual Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto
- 1998 Transition: Changing States (S.A.C.), Toronto
- 1997 Iranian Community Association of Ontario, Toronto
- 1997 The Third Iranian painting Biannual, Tehran
- 1997 Arya Art Gallery, Tehran
- 1996 Arya Art Gallery, Tehran
- 1995 Golestan Art Gallery, Tehran
- 1995 Kavaran Cultural Institute, Tehran
- 1993 Fair of Flowers and Nature, Tehran
- 1993 Golestan Art Gallery, Tehran
- 1993 The Second Iranian Painting Biannual , Tehran
- 1993 Azadi Cultural Centre, Tehran
- 1992 The First Iranian Painting Biannual, Tehran
- 1991 Golestan Art Gallery, Tehran
- 1991 City Theater, Tehran
- 1988 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tehran
- 1986 Yasmine Institute, Tehran
- 1985 Niyavaran Cultural Centre, Tehran

Publications

- 1997- Shahrvand Publication-the Largest Persian Publication in North America
- 2000 Multicultural Calendar, Skills for Change, Toronto, Ontario
- 1997 "SUITCASE: A Journal of Transcultural Traffic" Volume two
UCLA Program in Comparative Literature Los Angeles, CA

Achievements

- 2002 Honorable mention Award, Scarborough Art Council, Toronto, Ontario
- 2001 Honorable mention Award, Art at the heart, Toronto, Ontario
- 1993 First Prize Winner, Iranian Fair of Flowers & Nature, Tehran

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