



Since 1973, a gallery promoting the work of women artists and serving the community through public events

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Women Redrawing the World Stage January 29-February 23, 2013

Samira Abbassy, Zeina Barakeh, Milcah Bassel, Nezaket Ekici, Dahlia Elsayed, Chitra Ganesh, Mona Hatoum, Farah Ossouli, and Armita Raafat

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery
547 West 27th Street, #301
New York, NY 10001

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 31st, 6-8pm

Thursday, February 7th, 7pm - The Iranian Diaspora: Women Redrawing the World Stage, panel discussion moderated by , **Aphrodite Navab** with guest speakers **Samira Abbassy, Farah Ossouli, and Armita Raafat**,

Sunday February 17th, 1pm – The Feminist Art Project and the College Art Association in conjunction with SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery present: Place and Performance Art: Women Relocating the World, Chair and Moderator: Dr. Kathleen Wentrack, Artist participants: Aphrodite Navab, Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow, and Maria Hupfield.

TheFeministArtProject *CAA* All events are free and open to the public.

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery is pleased to announce **Women Redrawing the World Stage** which will be on view from January 29 through February 23, 2013. This exhibition was inspired by an extraordinary collection of events called the Fertile Crescent Project which swept through central New Jersey this Fall. Its many exhibits and programs were organized by Judith K. Brodsky and Ferris Olin, Co-Directors of the Institute of Women and Art at Rutgers University. The effect on artists and the public has been both inspirational and educational. In the spirit of the Fertile Crescent Project, SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery is exhibiting nine of these artists at our New York gallery.

These artists are breaking free of their traditional roles as they leave their homelands, some by choice, and others as exiles. They have traveled to new parts of the world and draw on themes and values from their heritage. Some have struggled to find a voice that bridges the cultural divide, while others have embraced their cultural diversity and celebrate it in their work. Each of these artists addresses complex legacies of identity, violence, gender, mobility, dislocation, religion and culture. In **Women Redrawing the World Stage**, borders collapse, heritages combine and a new map emerges of a cross-cultural mix that is emblematic of our time.

The work in this exhibition is richly varied including paintings, drawings, sculptural installations, and video performances. Disorientation is a major theme. **Mona Hatoum** has created an immensely disturbing and unfamiliar world map by cutting the boundaries of the continents out of handmade paper, which she then subjects to shape distorting shrinkage. In two powerful videos **Nezaket Ekici** enacts and renders visible the interior psychological depth



that marks painful situations in everyday life. Three-dimensional wooden spaces constructed by **Milcah Bassel** cause the viewer to enter situations requiring a sudden and total shift in one's physical vantage point and body orientation. **Samira Abbassy** writes "As an immigrant in predominantly white Britain... I questioned many aspects of my dueling cultures ...examining and defining myself in a constantly shifting cultural context". One of **Zeina Barakeh's** artworks is a set of fictive family passports. **Dahlia Elsayed** explains, "My family has moved from continent to continent due to political and religious persecution. This has fostered a deep curiosity into how story shapes a landscape, and its inverse, how landscape takes a mythic form in narrative." **Armita Raafat** reveals traditional ornamental forms that have undergone cultural and personal transformations. In her painting **Farah Ossouli** references iconic Western art and handwritten quotes from contemporary Persian poetry. **Chitra Ganesh** draws from Hindu, Greek and Buddhist mythology, 19th century European portraiture and fairytales, song lyrics, as well as contemporary visual culture to reveal "the contrast between serene surface beauty and lurking violence."

For more information please contact the gallery at info@soho20gallery.com or 212.367.8994
Please check back soon for more information regarding the upcoming panel discussion.

SOHO20
C H E L S E A

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