

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

547 W. 27th Street, Suite 301
New York, NY 10001
(212) 367-8994
(212) 367-8984 fax
Tues. – Sat. 12 – 6PM
info@soho20gallery.com
www.soho20gallery.com

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For Immediate Release:

Shirin Kazemi I Still Dream of Paradise

October 29 – November 23, 2013

Opening Reception:
Thursday November 7, 6-8pm

Above: *Unseen Rain*, Acrylic on clayboard, 10 x 8", 2013



SOHO20 Gallery presents *I Still Dream of Paradise*, an exhibition of recent landscape paintings by Shirin Kazemi, on view through November 23. Kazemi's body of work is an exploration of environments that are vivacious and dynamic, at once visceral and ethereal.

Through her work, Kazemi seeks to bridge dichotomies in order to stage a vast scale of intensified emotion. She embraces a fractured surface dimensionality in which form, color and space coexist on planes dictated by a dream-like logic. Saturated colors push and pull against muted palettes; figure and ground dissociate. Universal iconography, such as plant life and birds, emerge and recede into space. Captured by the simplicity of line and forcefulness of color, these forms seem to participate in a shared experience that hovers in infinite irresolution. An intrinsic sensitivity emerges, echoed and amplified by this seemingly intangible surrounding.

Unseen Rain, above, borrows the title of a Coleman Barks book of Rumi poems, selected it for its poeticism in alluding to the symbolic significance of rain in some Middle Eastern cultures. Another universal element often articulated in her work, rain presents forces of both regeneration and obscurity. Kazemi's aesthetic tug of war is in many ways a reflection of her dual eastern and western background. Through the elusiveness of artistic translation, she captures the complexity of harmonizing this split, reconciling with the chasm both culturally and aesthetically. Memory of a distant landscape is pared down to a quiet thin line on a canvas.

Shirin Kazemi (b. 1968), of Iranian-American descent, is a Philadelphia based painter, born in Boston and raised in Greenwich Village. She received her BFA from the University of Iowa in 1991, and her MFA in painting and printmaking from Yale University in 1995, where she received the Helen A Winternitz Award for excellence in painting and printmaking. Shirin Kazemi worked as an adjunct professor of painting at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania from 2004 through 2009. Her work has been exhibited at 80 Washington Square East Galleries, AIR Gallery, and Kentler Gallery in New York in Philadelphia at Pentimenti, Axis Gallery, and Fedulov Gallery; and YYZ in Toronto Ontario. This is her first exhibition with SoHo20 Chelsea.

For more information please contact the gallery at 212-367-8994 or info@soho20gallery.com