

LALEH KHORRAMIAN „WATER PANICS IN THE SEA, SCENE 9“

OPENING: WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2009 AT 7 P.M., DURATION: 25 MARCH – 23 MAY 2009

The past ten years, Laleh Khorramian's work has evolved around ideas of theater and spectacle, and of „hyperreality“ derived from artificiality and abstractions as points of departure to reflect upon human abysses. In particular, her work uses the viewer's imagination to create worlds on paper, that reappear in her videos within a repositioned frame of time and space.

Khorramian works on paper and with digital stop-frame animation. On paper, she begins with monotypes and upon them draws, paints and creates collages that result in spatial investigations through landscape-like images or small drawings. Together these images function as a vehicle of ideas and film notes that are used as the material origins for her animations. One room of her exhibition contains an installation of the drawings and sketches that form this loose storyboard, placed in a temporal structure that echoes the narrative timeline of the animation.

In a separate room, larger works on paper depicting landscapes function as independent and autonomous images. These works open up micro- and macro-universes that negate proportion and relation. As layered images, they generate narrative spaces that stimulate the viewer's potential for projecting their own story. Khorramian also uses the works on paper as source material for her videos – details of the pictures become backgrounds, objects, forms or personages and the video reveals the hidden tracks in the images by routing the recipients eye. Short stories take place in these microcosms that are often not any bigger than a brushstroke in her paintings. So the paintings reappear in the form of animated images, providing the basis for a second reality besides their physical, imaginative and artificial reality as works on paper.

The center of the exhibition at Krinzinger Projekte is scene 9 of Laleh Khorramian's video in-progress „Water Panics in the Sea“, which she has worked on as an artist in residence in Vienna since November 2008. The video is the fourth project in a series of five animations, each more or less involving the journey of a central character that embodies a vessel from within one of the five basic elements of air, water, fire, land and ether (the three previous animations – „Sophie and Goya“ (2004, 10:35 min.), „Chopperlady“ (2005, 9:35 min.) and „I Without End“ (2008, 6:20 min) – can be viewed in the basement of Krinzinger Projekte).

„Water Panics in the Sea“ depicts a ghostship as protagonist and its travel through time and space. Seemingly endless paintings serve as the backgrounds for small human occurrences and existential absurdities. The narrative is situated within a temporal scheme that has no beginning or end. And the apparent constancy and endlessness is depicted through the notion of movement – of water, sound, and production process itself. The ship with its built-in theater becomes a stage for the travelers itself while simultaneously acting as an autonomous metaphor for the journey, the means of transportation as an end in itself and the journey as the reward on a meta level: the production of the works itself.

While the ship is going deeper into the sea, the video is going deeper into the works on paper: The conception of the video is reflected in it's own content. This self-referentiality builds an endless loop that also incorporates the process of creation. Khorramian investigates and reinvestigates images and scavenges through details of paint marks in order to create complex realities from simple materials, such as paper, erasers, and ink stains. What starts with the ship as an allegory of human existence turns into a metaphor for life and production in the whole exhibition. Production itself is a general human need, but an artist's necessity. The exhibition thereby merges questions about artificiality of realities in artworks with existential issues of artistic reality into a reflection of image-generation and their presentation and representation.

Laleh Khorramian was born in Tehran in 1974 and lives and works in New York. Solo exhibitions: 2009: „Water Panics in the Sea, Scene 9“, Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna; 2008: „I Without End“, Salon 94 Freemans, New York, „Zenith and Nadir“, The Third Line, Dubai; 2007: „Surface to Air“, Mills College Art Museum, Oakland; 2006: „Laleh Khorramian“, The Third Line, Dubai; 2005: Chopperlady, Salon 94, New York; Group exhibitions (selection): 2009: „Drawing for Projection“, Site, Santa Fe, „Unveiled“, The Saatchi Gallery, London, „Play“, Monica de Cardenas Gallery, Milano, „RAAD O BARGH“, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; 2007: Moscow Biennial, Moscow, „Hello I'm Crashing“, Salon 94, New York, „Cosmologies“, James Cohan Gallery, New York; 2006: „Land Mine“, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield; 2005 „Greater NY 2005“, P.S.1 Museum, Long Island; 2004 „E-Flux Video Rental Project“, E-Flux, New York, ongoing worldwide tour.