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CHAOS, A MIND OF ITS OWN

ROYA FARASSAT

April 16 – May 9, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 16, 6 - 8pm



All small things float in the air, 2015

Shirin Gallery NY is pleased to present the solo exhibition of Iranian-born, New York-based artist, Roya Farassat. The exhibition, entitled *Chaos, A Mind of Its Own*, features new paintings inspired by Rorschach inkblots. Made with an instinctive love for detail and symmetry, Farassat's works on paper reveal multiple layers of depth, and represent the more haunting and turbulent side of nature. Initially, what seems to look like an accidental spill matures to a ghostlike explosion that rises like smoke and leaves debris of delicate stains, linear lines, and thickened shadows.

Within her work, Farassat describes a feeling of loss and melancholy, as a reaction to the violence and destruction that surrounds everyday life. Two series in particular, "Turbulence" and "Contained," convey such sentiments through a careful balance of abstraction and representation. In describing her process, Farassat explains that the Rorschach-ink blot approach "has been to spill or apply paint with a brush on one side of a folded paper, press and reopen to discover biomorphic forms that resemble humans, animals and plants. [She]

repeats this process multiple times, each time crafting it with more deliberate brush strokes." The results are fragments of looming landscapes that render the unconscious and reflect the harsh realities of our time. "My work is always changing in form," Farassat writes. "It finds its beauty in the grotesque, and humor in the most absurd."

Roya Farassat's work was recently included in an exhibition that travelled from the Queens Museum to the Taubman Museum in Roanoke, Virginia. She has exhibited her paintings and sculptures in numerous solo and group shows across the U.S. and abroad, including art fairs in New York, Miami, Dubai, and Kuwait.

Shirin Gallery NY is a contemporary art gallery and platform for curatorial and educational activities that seek to foster international cultural exchange. Originally established in Tehran in 2005, the gallery opened a New York space in 2013 in Chelsea's gallery district. The New York space furthers Shirin Gallery's commitment to exhibiting works that push the boundaries of contemporary art, as well as international perceptions of the Middle East.