

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SONATAS AND PARTITAS

MAHMOUD HAMADANI

February 26 – March 20, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 26, 6-8pm



Untitled (Requiem) III, 2014

Shirin Gallery NY is pleased to present *Sonatas and Partitas*, a solo exhibition featuring the work of Mahmoud Hamadani. For the first time in New York, Hamadani will present works from all four series of drawings: *Requiem*, *Traces*, *Endless Roads*, and *Odes*. In his work, Hamadani examines dualities: light and shadow; order and chaos; chance and will.

In *Requiem*, Hamadani draws rhythmic patterns, each restrained by a simple structure, such as a grid, line, or dot. The drawings suggest the dynamics of complex systems, like a city, or a beehive. "Look closely at each drawing and you will see a myriad of haphazard elements," Hamadani explains. "Step back, and a resolved serenity appears."

The series of drawings entitled *Endless Roads* reflects an idea best captured by the poem, "The Untimely Traveler," by Azadeh Farahmand:

*I am the last child;
in search of the origins of my belatedness
forever searching
all corners of desire
and the endless roads
of wonder...*

The process of making the drawings in *Endless Roads* is akin to a "search for that which cannot be found" (Rumi). The images are a result of that process, the product of decisions and accidents.

Traces, another series of works, is made by blowing ink on paper. The process itself is an experiment that involves both chance and will. The body of work mirrors the essence of the poem "Forever Parted: Graveyard," by Gu Cheng:

*Now, on my heart's page
there is no grid to guide my hand,
no character to trace,
only the moisture,
the ink blue dew
that has dripped from
the leaves.
To spread it I
can't use a pen,
I can't use a writing brush,
can only use my life's
gentlest breath
to make a single line of
marks worth puzzling over.*

Odes is a study of light and shadow, a preoccupation of the moral being. Hamadani considers this duality through a process that allows no room for error (the opposite of that in *Endless Roads*, which relies on accidents). The drawings in this series are composed of repeated, carefully drawn straight lines.

Mahmoud Hamadani earned a BA in mathematics from the State University of New York and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Hamadani's work is in the permanent collection at the British Museum. He has exhibited work at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, as well as solo exhibitions at Karen McCready Fine Art, Michel Steinberg Fine Art, both NY; XVA Gallery, Dubai; 7 Bedford Row, London; and various group shows in New York, London, Dubai, and Lausanne, Switzerland. He is the recipient of the 2005 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant.

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.