

Afarin Rahmanifar



Biography

Afarin Rahmanifar is an artist living and working in Connecticut. She holds a master degree of Fine Arts in Painting from University of Connecticut. As a professional practicing artist her work has been widely exhibited and collected internationally at numerous galleries and museums. Her work has been shown at Columbia University NY, University of California at Berkeley, University of Illinois at Carbondale, Stockton College NJ, Framingham State College MA, Boston University, Gallery Ovissi CA, Benton Museum, Barrette House gallery

NY, Chattahoochee Valley Museum of Art GA, Fuller Museum MA.

She also curating juried show and exhibitions. Her most recent open juried show was curated this year at "Mystic Art Association" gallery and she is currently vice president of Connecticut Women Artists.



Her work was selected at the cover piece for the "Eastern Art Report" Magazine published in London, January 2003. This wonderful success provided and brought well deserved recognition to her work. Her work was also selected and was presented on the cover of Connecticut review booklet this year.

Afarin Rahmanifar is a faculty member at ECSU and teaches courses in Painting, Drawing and 2D Design.

Statement

My work is relatively personal stories about female identity and reveals the aspect of "appearing", "disappearing" and "reappearing" that is situated within the structure of my native and cultural heritage.

The work expresses my need to reconcile these two cultures which reflect both my past and present. My motivation for creating these hybrid personalities relates to how I see myself in the American society.

Afarin Rahmanifar, *Interchangeable Heads and Bodies* series, top *Head # 4*, 20" x 20", bottom *Body # 8*, 39" x 19", 2005, mixed media on board

During the past few years I have collected American consumer images, such as postage stamp and coloring books and Asianized the features of their legendary figures. I carefully selected materials for their formal properties in order to communicate my intention to the viewer. I intend to generate a surface to draw, write, doodle and make personal notes in order to examine my personal view in relation to the media that I use.

Despite the distorted and dismembered body parts, my invented female figures are rather playful, humorous and sensual. I tend to confound fixed notion of female gender and foil preconceptions of the "exotic other" from both American and Iranian culture. I exclusively incorporate Eastern and Western female icon imagery to represent the perceived "feminine ideal".

"Interchangeable Heads and Bodies" extends the term "shifting statues" for me, and gives an access to share my experiences with the viewer. It reveals a deep sense of illusion and reality through layers of meaningful and traditional components that are placed side by side on the surface.

Animal skins (rawhide and sheep skin), Fragmented poems and written diary are another playful interpretation and metaphors for my interchangeable body parts.

Choosing this variety of materials gives me a chance to consider my personal viewpoint and reflect on aspects of my identity.