

Cardi Black Box Announces a Solo Show Dedicated to Artist Shirana Shahbazi

On View at Artissima 19 Art Fair
Taking Place November 9–11, 2012 in Turin, Italy

MILAN, ITALY, November 7, 2012 —

Cardi Black Box, the Milan-based independent art gallery, is proud to announce a multimedia solo exhibition dedicated to Iranian-German artist **Shirana Shahbazi**. The show will be on view at **Artissima 19**, the international art fair taking place in the Oval pavilion from November 9–11, 2012 in Turin, Italy.

Although Shirana Shahbazi works primarily with photography, she continually pushes the form's boundaries by combining it with other media, such as painting, printmaking and construction. The still-life theme is a recurring focus of her work, but Shahbazi also experiments with portraiture, landscape work, and history painting, questioning the dichotomy between modernity and tradition, epic and ordinary. Her photographs, translated into different mediums and arranged in different groupings each time they are displayed, play differently with the viewer's perception with every new showing.



Shahbazi's imagery is closely connected to the tradition of Western painting, particularly the Dutch and Flemish masters of the 17th century. The meticulous arrangements of fruits, animals, flowers and jewelry bring to mind the vanitas paintings, containing allegories touching on the themes of death's inevitability, the inconsistency of material goods, and the futility of earthly pleasures. Shahbazi creates new possibilities of representation by juxtaposing simple images against monochrome backgrounds in a dramatic manner. She transforms reminders of man's mortality—from a human skull to butterflies and plants—into desirable, consumerist objects.

With this upcoming exhibition, Shahbazi has taken her analogic photographic work to a compelling new level of abstraction. Her geometric compositions, completely done without digital image processing, illustrate her ongoing concern with pictorial genres and modes of production. To make her abstract compositions, she photographs painted pedestals and other geometric volumes; sometimes she makes multiple images of the same objects, playing with exposures to create a dynamic interplay between surface and depth.

More recently, Shahbazi has produced work that is architectural in scale, creating an installation of multiple images hung on wallpaper. The site-specific installation features a repeated geometric pattern derived from one of the artist's abstract photographs, printed as a wallpapered lithograph with applied pigment and wrapped around the center wall of a gallery.

About the artist:

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1974, Shahbazi moved to Germany at a young age. She studied photography in Zurich, Switzerland before completing a series of residencies in New York, USA (2003); Berlin, Germany (2006); and the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, USA (2008). She now lives and works in Zurich.

Card Black Box

Her critically acclaimed solo shows have been viewed internationally, including at Galerie Rudolfinum (Prague, Czech Republic), 2012; The Breeder (Athens, Greece), 2010; The Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, USA), 2008; and Barbican Art Gallery (London, Great Britain), 2008; among others. She has been involved in group exhibitions such as "New Photography" at The Museum of Modern Art (New York, USA), 2012.

Cardi Black Box is dedicated to exhibiting both young artists as well as great masters, contemporary as well as historicized art, with the goal of confirming its position as an eclectic and versatile independent gallery. Currently on view at Cardi Black Box is a retrospective dedicated to **A.R. Penck**, open to the public through the end of November 2012.

Image caption: Shirana Shahbazi, *[Composition-48-2012]*, 2012, C-print on aluminum framed in white glazed maple frame, behind non-reflective glass, 210 x 168 cm.

Cardi Black Box

Corso di Porta Nuova, 38 - 20121 Milano

Tel. +39 02 45478189

Fax +39 02 45478120

gallery@cardiblackbox.com

www.cardiblackbox.com

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Meg Blackburn

FITZ & CO

212-627-1455 x225

meg@fitzandco.com

Jenny Isakowitz

FITZ & CO

212-627-1455 x254

jenny@fitzandco.com

#