

Ghazel: Mismappings

A solo exhibition by French/Iranian artist Ghazel examines the politics of representation

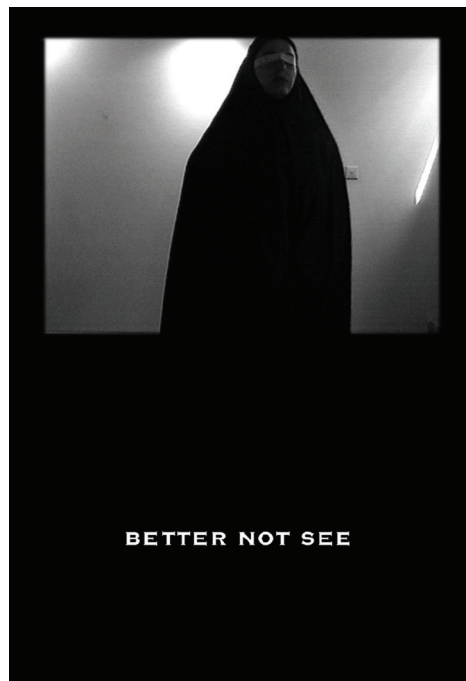
February 14–April 7, 2017

Opening Reception:
Tuesday, February 14,
6–8pm

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday–Friday,
12–6pm



Ghazel, *Dyslexia*, 2015-17, acrylic and ballpoint pen on printed Iranian maps of the world, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist and Carbon 12, Dubai



Ghazel, *Better Not See*, still from *Me*, 2000–03, Triptych video installation with color, black and white, and sound. Courtesy of the artist and Carbon 12, Dubai

The International Studio & Curatorial Program announces a presentation of work by French/Iranian artist, Ghazel, a 2001 ISCP alumna. *Mismappings* is the artist's first solo exhibition in the United States, and includes recent *Marée Noire* and *Dyslexia* drawings, a video triptych from the *Me* series, and a new *Road Movie* performance that deals with issues of immigration and borders and that will take place during the opening reception.

Mismappings focuses on issues of migration, exile, transnational identities, expulsion, discrimination and displacement. Ghazel's work addresses the political aspects of representation, which relate closely to her personal history. Since leaving Iran during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, she has navigated between Tehran and Paris for over thirty years.

Interested in radical cartography—an activist approach to mapping—Ghazel's *Marée Noire* and *Dyslexia* works use ink and pen to erase the national borders indicated on Iranian-produced world maps. Clear and direct, more than twenty of these works on paper are shown in the exhibition. In gestural marks, the artist covers the national flags on the maps with black ink, and incorporates drawings of tree roots, suitcases and houses, illustrating the uprootedness of many people caused by political and social forces.

In another video work in the exhibition, the artist documents a performance she made in a domestic space, where she folds and throws 51 paper airplanes made from world maps. Her mechanical and repetitive folding is shown in real-time, and a pile of paper planes gradually accumulates in the room.

Also included in the exhibition is a video triptych from Ghazel's ongoing *Me* series. Begun in 1997, and currently comprised of over 730 minute-long scenes, the videos document the artist going about daily activities dressed in a chador, with accompanying captions written in the first person. Ghazel is the sole performer in each scene, which show her as a busy, active woman in diverse contexts and engaged in

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pursuits such as swimming, ironing, sleeping, crawling and reading next to an army tank, all in a humorous slapstick style. Several of the scenes on view were filmed in New York City during Ghazel's ISCP residency, and deal with local issues from that time. While the work references Ghazel's own in-betweenness as someone living in both the East and the West, it also points to universal issues of humanity. As the artist enacts the everyday scenes in the videos, the chador suggests she could be any Iranian woman.

Ghazel (born 1966, lives in Tehran and Paris) is a pioneer in video and performance art from Iran. Her work has been shown extensively around the world since 2000, including at the 50th Venice Biennale; the 8th Havana Biennial; Hayward Gallery, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; MAC Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago and Musée d'Art Contemporain de Marseille. Ghazel's work is in the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; MUMOK, Vienna and Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris.

A catalog for *Mismappings* is forthcoming in April 2017, which will include an essay by Hamid Naficy, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor in Communication, Northwestern University.

This exhibition is curated by Kari Conte, Director of Programs and Exhibitions, ISCP.

About ISCP:

ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP is New York's most comprehensive international visual arts residency program and fourth largest in the world, founded in 1994. ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences.

This exhibition is supported, in part, by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Greenwich Collection Ltd., New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



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