

DIRIMART NIŞANTAŞI

AS WORLDS COLLIDING

Jessie Edelman, Raha Raissnia, Summer Wheat

SEPTEMBER 13 – OCTOBER 28 2017

OPENING 13 SEPTEMBER | 16.00



Raha Raissnia
Nadir
Mixed media on canvas
2016

Dirimart is pleased to announce the group exhibition *As Worlds Colliding* opening on September 13 at Dirimart Nişantaşı. The show brings together Jessie Edelman, Raha Raissnia, and Summer Wheat, who implement a distinctive gaze as the core of their work. Each artist presents a window-space, conceptually and figuratively, through which the nature of making art is studied and analyzed by looking at traditional forms, media, and technique. Often, the limits of material and process are challenged. Varying from romantic to dark, we are facing scenes where questions on value systems, gender, labor, and time underlie as well. While drifted in the flux of distracting imagery of our time, these paintings make us slow down and contemplate together with the staring and stared figures in these simply presented yet loaded settings.

Raha Raissnia's high-contrast black and white paintings in the show are derived from her films. The artist learned to paint from filmmakers and musicians rather than painters. Her films, drawings, and paintings are closely imbricated: paintings are contrapuntal compositions catalyzed by film stills, transferred faintly onto the surface of the panel and elaborated upon with oil and gesso. Her films echo this archaeological process, constructed from fragments of earlier work and structured as overlapping pairs of 35mm slide and 16mm film projections. Raissnia's drawings and collages, likewise comprised of image transfers, with Sumi ink and compressed charcoal, examine this relationship of mutual influence. All are guided by the materiality of their media. The artist's densely textured work draws in equal measure on the gestural and photographic, the figurative and abstract. It features passageways to indeterminate locations and irrational architectures. "My paintings brought abstraction to the vision I captured from the world on film and now the films are bringing elements of reality into my paintings," Raissnia says. Her viewer is left with the (impossible) task of excavating the two.

Jessie Edelman's work explores issues from throughout the history of painting that have an impact on contemporary art. Her recent work has taken the role of the observer or spectator as the painting's subject. She turns the viewer's orientation to the *mise en scène*, such as a rocky ocean outcrop or a meadow and explores the position of the figure within it. The work spans a high-low range of image viewing, from film stills to travel photos to Impressionist paintings. The paintings she creates in her paintings emerge amid textured and gestural brushstrokes combined with highly developed and rich color palettes.

Summer Wheat's paintings are characterized by expressive structure and color that challenge the limits of material and process. She centers her subject matter upon the figure and narrative, and utilizes her painting technique—pushing acrylic paint through wire mesh—to create rich, fiber-like surfaces. Wheat explores ideas of female empowerment through the lens of Egyptian pictography. While looking at renderings of men pouring water, cutting fish, and moving carts around—essentially "running things" in daily life—Wheat seeks to superimpose a series of women into their places, thereby telling the same story slightly differently. The large-scale tapestries in the exhibition are windows zooming in a beehive where masculine roles are taken over by women.

As Worlds Colliding reveals the hidden viewers, the agents of the artists, embedded in each work where the works and the audience would start mirroring one another in acts of contemplation. The exhibition runs through October 28, 2017 at Dirimart Nişantaşı.



Jessie Edelman (b. 1986, Milwaukee, WI, the USA) isconsin received her MFA from Yale University and her BA from Skidmore College. She has had solo exhibitions at Denny Gallery in New York, Andrew Rafacz Gallery in Chicago and Robert Blumenthal Gallery in New York, and was in a two-person exhibition with David Humphrey at Michelle Grabner's space The Suburban in Milwaukee. Edelman lives and works in New York.

Raha Raissnia (b. 1968, Tehran, Iran) received her BFA from the School of the Art institute of Chicago in 1992 and her MFA from Pratt Institute in 2002. In the interim, her interest in avant-garde filmmaking led her to work at Anthology Film Archives (1995-1999), where she has also exhibited. In 2016, Raissnia's work was the subject of a solo presentation at the Museum of Modern Art (New York). In 2015, her work was included in *All the World's Futures*, 56th International Art Exhibition, curated by Okwui Enwezor, Venice Biennale. Previously, her work has been featured in exhibitions at White Columns (New York), Access Gallery (Vancouver), the Museum of Contemporary Art St. Louis, Khastoo Gallery (Los Angeles), Thomas Dane Gallery (London) and The Kitchen (New York), among others. Recent solo shows were held at Ab/Anbar Gallery (Tehran), Galeria Marta Cervera (Madrid), Galerie Xippas (Paris), and the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art (Isfahan, Iran). Raissnia's projection-performances, often undertaken in collaboration with Aki Onda and Panagiotis Mavridis, have been held at Arnolfini – Center for Contemporary Arts (Bristol, UK), the Drawing Center (New York), Issue Project Room (New York), and Emily Harvey Foundation (New York), among others. Raissnia lives and works in New York

Summer Wheat (b. 1977, Oklahoma City, OK, the USA) received an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design and a BA from University of Central Oklahoma. Solo exhibitions include Oklahoma Contemporary, Oklahoma City, OK (2016). Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Her work has been included in recent museum exhibitions, including ICA Collection: *Expanding the Field of Painting* (2013–14), Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; *Paint Things: Beyond the Stretcher* (2013), deCordova Museum and Sculpture Park; and *Paradox Maintenance Technicians: A Comprehensive Manual to Contemporary Painting from Los Angeles and Beyond* (2013), Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA. She is the recipient of the Artadia Prize given to one artist at 2016 NADA New York. Wheat lives and works in New York.

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