

KÜNSTLERHAUS STUTT GART

PRESS RELEASE

January 31, 2012

ARTISTIC DIALOGUES

Solmaz Shahbazi: Dreamland

February 11 – April 1, 2012

Opening: Friday, February 10, 2012, 7pm

Künstlerhaus Stuttgart is pleased to present Solmaz Shahbazi's first solo show in Stuttgart. As a graduate of the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design, Shahbazi will be presenting a selection of her video and photographic works from the recent years.

In her videos and photographs, Solmaz Shahbazi makes use of a seemingly documentary style which in its reduced aesthetic reveals the artist's actual subject: the questioning of the collective perception of images as reality-framing media which define and form what is within and – even more significant – outside of their boundaries. In doing so, the artist manipulates familiar traditions, stereotypes and codes that tell us how to read and decode images. By using motifs devoid of people without references to time, location or culture, taken at places all around the world, Shahbazi forces us to go beyond asking where the shot might have been taken.

Although places of contradiction and inconsistency are of major importance to Shahbazi, she is not concerned with localizing or defining them; her interest lies in the mechanisms that establish references and inscribe history. Shahbazi lays open the many uncertainties contained in the reproduced image. While her viewers are constantly searching for clues and orientation, her works remain projection surfaces of images and expectations that will not come true.

The essence of Solmaz Shahbazi's works lies not only in what is being revealed but rather in what remains hidden behind the image. Shahbazi exposes what we think we know in order to then deconstruct seemingly familiar formats such as documentation, books, interviews or postcards in a simple and subtle way. Eventually, Shahbazi's works bear witness to the potential fictitious nature of images and demonstrate how we perceive, filter and analyse images in order to formulate an idea that may be shaped more by viewing habits rather than the objective imagination.

Solmaz Shahbazi was born in Tehran in 1971 and has been living in Germany since 1985. She studied architecture and design at the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design and has been based in Berlin in the last few years. In addition to her participation at the 7th Sharjah Biennale and the 9th Istanbul Biennale as well as the 1st Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, Shahbazi's works have been exhibited extensively in Europe, the U.S. and the Middle East.

With "Persepolis" (2005), the exhibition "Dreamland" at Künstlerhaus Stuttgart will be presenting the third part of Shahbazi's "Tehran Trilogy" as well as the photo series "Dreamland Cairo" and a video with the same title which was completed in 2010. The exhibition also showcases two of the artist's work-in-progress pieces.

“Dreamland” is a continuation of “ARTISTIC DIALOGUES”, a series which was launched last year and aims at integrating and discussing different artistic approaches towards a mutual context and issues through concurrent solo exhibitions. Instead of presenting two concurrent solo exhibitions, as of this year, the exhibitions will overlap.

The next exhibition in this series will assemble works from Florian Zeyfang and open on March 16, 2012.

SCHEDULE:

Opening: Friday, February 10, 2012, 7pm

Künstlerhaus 4th floor

LINIE WEST No. 6: Friday, February 17, 2012, 6-9pm

tour through the galleries Hauff, Friese, and Parrotta as well as Künstlerhaus Stuttgart
www.liniewest.de

Curatorial Tour: Thursday, February 23, 2012, 6pm

Guided tour through the exhibition with Adnan Yildiz, Artistic Director Künstlerhaus Stuttgart

LANGE NACHT DER MUSEEN: Saturday, March 17, 2012, 7pm-2am

Screening Program „State of Fluidity“ and discussion: Friday, March 30, 2012, 7pm

As part of the solo project „Dreamland“, Cairo based curator and participant of dOCUMENTA 13 Sarah Rifky will present a screening program, "State of Fluidity", co-curated with Maha Maamoun. The audience will then be invited to question how the reading and reception of film changes from standing alone as a work in an exhibition to becoming part of a screening program.

press:

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exhibition hours: Wed-Sun 3-7pm

office hours: Tue-Fri 10am-6pm