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## **Where We Are Standing: Contemporary Women Artists from Iran** February 20 – April 24, 2016 at the Edward Hopper House Art Center, Nyack, New York

The Edward Hopper House Art Center is pleased to present *Where we are Standing: Contemporary Women Artists from Iran*, an exhibition featuring the work of Golnar Adili, Roya Farassat, and Shabnam K. Ghazi. These three artists all grew up in Iran and later moved to North America (two to the U.S. and one to Canada).

The title of this exhibition is taken from a poem by the 14<sup>th</sup> century Persian poet, Hafez, which reads in part:

“Art is, at last, the knowledge of  
Where we are standing –  
Where we are standing  
In this Wonderland  
When we rip off all our clothes  
And this blind man's patch, veil,  
That got tied across our brow...”

Adili, Farassat, and Ghazi are all driven by different creative impulses and the results vary widely, but what they share are cultural identities rooted in two worlds and through their art, they show how they stand in both.

**Golnar Adili's** (b. 1976, Falls Church, VA) work is a personal digest of her memories of growing up between two places imbued with diasporic longing. She moved to Tehran with her family in 1979, when she was four years old. Not long after, her father was forced to return to the United States for political reasons. Often referencing airplanes, family letters, Persian poetry, or her own body, Adili's themes embrace a sense of yearning coupled with attempts at examining her identity. Adili returned to the United States to attend college and earned a BFA in painting from the University of Virginia in 1998 and an MA in Architecture from University of Michigan College of Architecture + Urban Planning in 2004. She currently lives and works in New York. ([www.golnaradili.com](http://www.golnaradili.com))

For her series, *A Mirror Has Two Faces*, **Roya Farassat** (b. 1964, Tehran) paints ghostly “portraits” of women, often veiled and confined in an oval shape suggestive of a hanging wall mirror. As a girl growing up in Tehran, Farassat felt that women were always under the scrutiny of an unwelcome gaze. In these portraits, there is a boldness and defiance as the subjects seek to free their suppressed identities. The prevalence of the chador (or veil) in the paintings signifies, for the artist, a “barricade,” separating society from personal identity. Farassat moved to New York from Tehran in 1978 and received a BFA from Parson's School of Design in 1986. She lives and works in New York. ([www.royafarassat.com](http://www.royafarassat.com))

**Shabnam K. Ghazi's** (b. 1971, Tehran) video and still photographs from *The Astonishing Story of Us in a Scarcity of Time* are an investigation of the patterns that our mundane daily chores fall into and the inherent disassociation experienced as a result of the continuous repetition of our actions. In the video, human figures blur with ants as they rapidly scurry across the screen and out of sight. This project is the result of over four hours of footage and 800 still shots taken in various places, such as south of Tehran, the financial district in Toronto, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Ghazi moved to Toronto from Tehran in 2001 and graduated with a BFA from York University in 2009. She currently lives and works in Toronto. ([www.shabnamkghazi.com](http://www.shabnamkghazi.com))

The exhibition is curated by Carole Perry and is made possible with support from Manhattan Cardiology and Medical Offices of Manhattan

#### RELATED PROGRAM

**Clare Davies in conversation with Golnar Adili, Roya Farassat and Shabnam K. Ghazi  
Saturday, April 9, 3:30 pm at the Nyack Library**

In conjunction with the exhibition *Where We Are Standing: Contemporary Women Artists from Iran*, the Nyack Library and the Edward Hopper House will host a panel discussion with the artists in the exhibition, Golnar Adili, Roya Farassat, and Shabnam K. Ghazi. They will discuss their work and engage in a thought-provoking discussion moderated Clare Davies, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Doors open at 3:00 PM. Free for Edward Hopper House members and those with tickets from the exhibition, \$7 all others.

Nyack Library  
59 South Broadway  
Nyack, NY 10960  
(845) 358-3370

#### ABOUT THE EDWARD HOPPER HOUSE

**Edward Hopper House** is the birthplace of artist Edward Hopper (1882-1967) and was his primary residence until 1910. Since 1971 it has been a non-profit art center with a mission to preserve Hopper's birthplace and to encourage community engagement with the arts.

**GALLERY HOURS:** Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 PM or by appointment; docents are available on weekends to give tours; call Hopper House to arrange tours for groups at other times (for additional fee). **Admission:** Free for members and 16 & under; \$2 students 17 & above; \$5 seniors; \$7 adults. Free for all visitors on the first Friday of each month. Discount packages available at Metro North: [www.mta.info/mnr/html/getaways/outbound\\_edward\\_hopper.htm](http://www.mta.info/mnr/html/getaways/outbound_edward_hopper.htm).

**Contact/social - general inquiries:** [info@hopperhouse.org](mailto:info@hopperhouse.org). [www.edwardhopperhouse.org](http://www.edwardhopperhouse.org);  
Twitter: [@hopperhouse](https://twitter.com/hopperhouse); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/edwardhopperhouse](http://www.facebook.com/edwardhopperhouse).

**For press images, to schedule a press visit, and for additional information, contact** Carole Perry, [cperry@hopperhouse.org](mailto:cperry@hopperhouse.org), 845-358-0774. #####