

Mohammad Khodashenas



Golesorkhi, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 172x278cm - Courtesy of Opera Gallery.

Born in 1975 in Lahijan, Iranian artist Mohammad Khodashenas was trained in graphic design, culminating in an undergraduate degree from the University of Tehran. He has exhibited in Iran, including at a workshop of the filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, and abroad, in Europe and elsewhere in the Middle East.

In Khodashenas' canvases, bright colors and text are layered with figural imagery like the faces of famous historical figures. The works appear as pastiches of various forms, styles and techniques. The viewer is challenged to find meaning amongst the letters, words and iconic images, all of which conspire to obfuscate a decipherable narrative.

The sense of chaos in Khodashenas' works imbues

the paintings with urgency and tension, which are reflected in their somewhat rough aesthetic. Dripping paint either imitates blood, such as in *Che*, or, in other pieces including those mentioned above, suggests an unfinished work. Thus, via this technique and in light of the political commentary embedded in his work, Khodashenas implies that the work of an artist does not stop when he puts down his paintbrush. Graffiti is not a vast and elegant signature over the walls of the city, it is better to say that it is not an explicit or ironic concept. As the artist indicates "for me graffiti is a collection of all the pictures, small and big written works and mostly the slogans that never erase through the time. Perhaps all those mentioned items will accumulate with the other



Rolling Stone Wall, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 180x260cm- Courtesy of Opera Gallery.

written works and slogans from the next generation to make the modern and new concept. Over all my works you see some scratches that prevent to see the concept, below it. I do not want to represent any specific concepts through all the slogans and written works, I create my new concept among all, myself. Combination of all these concepts next to each other make the new and modern age. I make a new concept and exactly on that moment of creation, I destroy it”.

As he goes to explain his inspiration “almost all the resources inspire me: written works, slogans from the different periods of time, torn pieces of declarations, that all these items in combination with improvisation, in addition to a technique in Persian calligraphy named

Siah-Mashgh make my modern works. I use all the different techniques and materials such as: stencil, posters, paint brush on the walls and canvases. Here, there is no limitation for me to represent my graffiti, paintings and Siah-Mashgh calligraphy”.