

Nadine Faraj
The Whole World Has Gone Joyously Mad

June 8 – July 16, 2016

Watercolor, sculpture

Opening :
Wednesday, June 8th, 2016, 4pm to 6pm



Nadine Faraj, *Carré Rouge N.1*, 2016
Aquarelle sur papier

Composed of watercolors and sculptures, *The Whole World Has Gone Joyously Mad* is an installation by Nadine Faraj, inspired by female activists who use their nudity as a means to protest. According to the artist, this is a way for these women to draw attention to the cause they are fighting for. However it also makes them more vulnerable to the possible reactions of the public, often already hostile to their presence and their tactics.

In May 2012, some Montreal students protested, almost completely nude, against rising tuition fees proposed by the government. Protesting nude was, for them, the ideal way to demand in return an equal transparency from political leaders. Faraj's Installation *The Whole World Has Gone Joyously Mad* includes portraits of some of the students present during this activist movement in 2012, and those of female activists from all over the world.

The blurred appearance of Nadine Faraj's artworks is the result of a specific treatment of the pigment, obtained by controlling the moisture content of the paper. It results in a universe composed of slightly distorted and potentially disturbing images, always reflective of our own fragility.

A series of sculptures are presented in parallel with the artist's watercolors: the tree trunks, because of their vertical posture, are reminiscent of the protestors and are symbolic of the phallic organ. According to Faraj, the tree trunks complement the portraits of the female protestors, by creating harmony between the artworks.

Biography

Nadine Faraj completed her Masters of Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts (New York, 2015) and received her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Concordia University (Montreal, 2002). She also completed intensive courses in life drawing and anatomy at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Paris.

Her work was recently shown at Sidney Mishkin Gallery and at the PULSE art fair in New York (2015). In 2014, some of her artworks were presented in New York School of Visual Arts' magazine, *Visual Opinion*. She was selected from amongst hundreds of artists to appear in the *New American Paintings* exhibition-in-print, number 123 (2016). In 2009, her first public art installation *Dessins Ephémères* sparked the ongoing *À LOUER* project administered by UMA, La Maison de l'image et de la photographie.

She has also exhibited her work at the Dubai International Art Symposium, UAE (2008), *Articule Gallery* (2009-10) in Montreal, *The Helen Day Art Center* in Vermont (2010), as well as at *Nuit Blanche Toronto* (2010). In 2013, she had her first solo exhibition *Miel Salé* at the *Joyce Yahouda Gallery* (Montreal), which has represented her since.

Gallery opening hours: Thurs.-Sat. from 12pm to 5pm and by appointment / Office hours: Tues.-Sat. from 10:30am to 6pm