

Press Release

Natascha Sadr Haghigian

Carroll / Fletcher

20 July - 14 September 2012



In a radical departure from her usual practice of site-specific projects, Natascha Sadr Haghigian's first solo exhibition in London is a selection of works from the last fifteen years. She describes her work as a continual process of interrogation and unhinging of sociopolitical hierarchies and conventions; of seeking to defrock and de-stabilise systems of representation and authority. By placing the works alongside each other for the first time, Sadr Haghigian draws out new perspectives and connects the various debates and questions raised by them over the years.

In her exhibition for Carroll / Fletcher, Sadr Haghigian's richly detailed, collaborative investigations, utilise a wide variety of media, such as video, slide projection, sound, websites, photography, and actions, to explore issues as diverse as the control and manipulation of the world's scarce resources; consumerism and corporatism; identity, power and class; and the structures and rituals of the professional art world.

de Paso (2011-12) – originally a site-specific commission for MACBA in Barcelona – has been re-contextualised to investigate the impact of the European Union's deregulation of the aviation industry in 1992 and the connections to the history of London's water supplies.

For *unternehmen:Bermuda* (2000), Sadr Haghigian relocated the jury meeting for the Ars Viva Award – granted by the Cultural Circle of the Federation of German Industries - to a bus stop in Berlin Mitte situated in the middle of a triangle demarcated by three important institutions of art and science. The meeting became a collective performance around the rituals of knowledge and image-transfer, during which the artist gave a lecture, applied a drawing to the information panel at the bus stop, and handed out slide

viewers from a metal suitcase. The entire situation was filmed and photographed by an 'under-cover agent' from across the street.

In *The Microscope* (2006) the eyepiece of a microscope from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is replaced by a speaker emitting a synthesized vocoder version of *Every Breath You Take*. Adjacent to the microscope, a booklet details a conversation between Sadr Haghghian and Evelyn Fox-Keller, professor of History and Philosophy of Science at MIT and author of *The Biological Gaze* (in which Fox-Keller examines how concepts of looking generate what the scientist actually sees under the microscope). The conversation discusses the construction of reality based on what one sees with the mind's rather than the body's eye.

The show also includes the research for *Trail* (2012), Sadr Haghghian's participation in dOCUMENTA (13), supported by Carroll / Fletcher. For this project, she constructed a footpath on a slope made of debris from World War II, parallel to the Ehrenmal, a monumental staircase that connects the park to the city centre and commemorates the German soldiers who died in both world wars. As the visitor descends the trail, onomatopoeic animal sounds in different languages emanate from nearby trees and bushes. The sounds were recorded with residents of Kassel. www.d13trail.de is a web-based trail that accompanies the physical one

For further information, interviews or images please contact Janette Scott, Communications Manager, on press@carrollfletcher.com, or +44(0)20 7323 6111.

Notes to Editors

1. In place of her biographical note, Natascha Sadr Haghghian wishes to draw the readers' attention to bioswop.net. On www.bioswop.net artists and other cultural practitioners can borrow, exchange, and compile CVs for various purposes. The site went on line in October 2004 and is a work in progress.
2. *Trail* is commissioned and produced by dOCUMENTA (13) with the support of Carroll / Fletcher. dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, Germany runs until 16 September 2012. www.d13.documenta.de
3. Carroll / Fletcher's next exhibition is with Michael Joaquin Grey (28 September - 2 November) The first survey of his work in the UK since 1992, presents new and recent projects along side seminal works from earlier in his career. Combining sculpture, installation and digital works, the exhibition dynamically reveals Grey's expansive and all-encompassing investigation into biological, geological and cultural phenomena.
4. Co-founded by Jonathon Carroll and Steve Fletcher, Carroll / Fletcher is a contemporary art gallery located on Eastcastle Street in central London. The gallery supports existing and new forms of artistic production, and works with exceptional emerging and established artists, whose practices use a diverse range of media to explore contemporary socio-political, cultural, scientific and technological themes. Artists represented include Michael Joaquin Grey, Eva and Franco Mattes aka 0100101110101101.ORG, Manfred Mohr, Natascha Sadr Haghghian, Thomson & Craighead, UBERMORGEN.COM, Eulalia Valldosera, Richard T. Walker and John Wood and Paul Harrison. www.carrollfletcher.com