

Rosenfeld Porcini

Press Release

Mehran Elminia
Revealing Harmonies

25 July – 20 Sept 2012

Private View: 24 July
6.30–8.30pm
37 Rathbone Street
London W1T 1NZ



Mehran Elminia, *Summit*, 2011, mixed media on canvas, 200 x 300 cm

The first solo UK exhibition of the Iranian artist's large-scale abstract paintings

Rosenfeld Porcini is pleased to present *Revealing Harmonies* by the emerging Iranian artist Mehran Elminia. This will be the first solo UK exhibition of Elminia's work and will include oil and mixed media works on canvas displayed over both floors of the gallery.

Elminia works on a canvas attached to the wall but his improvisation does not contain any of the violence found in works by artists such as Jackson Pollock. Working no more than 1 metre from the large canvas throughout, he eschews any idea of figuration; figures can appear, but the artist is oblivious until he steps back to look at the finished work. His purely emotional response to his art and the total oneness he achieves between body, brush and canvas has the capacity to create works of great emotional intensity.

Elminia comments: "When I am in front of the canvas, I liberate myself from all feelings of existence. I no longer exist, because that only creates a limit. I try and allow chaos and the actual moment to meet and I become a brush in the hands of chaos."

The artistic search for Elminia is to find the poetic essence within the spontaneous act of painting. The American critic Clement Greenberg famously wrote in the 50s about the need for painting to be in and of itself, thereby avoiding all need for narration. Painting no longer needed to recount anything but instead acquire a new poetry in as much as it was about the act itself.

Music functions with both sound and time and the listener, not contending with either a literal or descriptive line, can react with complete emotional freedom. Kandinsky in a far earlier epoch than Greenberg, believed that if painting was concerned with narrative it would never be able to rival music.

There is a strong connection between Greenberg's "art should be of and for itself" and the German idea of Gesamtkunstwerk and Kandinsky believed art should have this totality of approach but it could only be attained once the shackles of narrative were left behind.

Elminia's paintings are produced by improvisation in the same way that a jazz musician like Keith Jarrett plays his solo concerts, working in a state of total freedom, literally sitting at the piano and playing. Elminia's works can be the product of almost 24 hours continual painting so that his brush becomes a complete extension of his inner soul. His declared aim is to arrive at a state of ecstasy where all knowledge of the past is absent and he can achieve a total symbiosis

with the moment. The visual complexity, richness of brush strokes and vibrant colours draw us in gradually so that it is possible for the viewer to attain an almost trance like state as we, little by little, enter the artist's visual universe. The endless brush strokes create a further effect of staring into a spider's web and losing oneself in a new and rarefied world.

Notes to Editors:

Mehran Elminia was born in Tabiz (Iran) in 1975. He obtained his masters in art from Rome University of Fine Arts and currently lives and works in Iran as both as an artist and a teacher. Elminia has exhibited with several galleries and art fairs in Italy including Rome International Art Fair and Milan International Art Fair along with solo exhibitions in Iran. He has further contributed to group exhibitions in Dubai and Rome and was featured in the 2010 Biennale of Contemporary Religious Art, Stauròs Museum, Italy. This will be his first solo UK exhibition.

Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery

Founded in June 2011 by Ian Rosenfeld and Dario Porcini, directors of Italy's Galleria Napoli Nobilissima, Rosenfeld Porcini occupies a prime location in the heart of the dynamic gallery district of London's Fitzrovia. With 3,000 square feet of gallery space, Rosenfeld Porcini has a strong international outlook committed to showing contemporary artists from around the world with an innovative exhibitions programme. Old Master and Modern shows will occasionally be presented, either monographic or themed, within the context of the contemporary space, exploring a firm curatorial belief in the continuity that underlies the story of art.

Exhibition Schedule

25 July – 20 Sept 2012	Mehran Elminia: <i>Revealing Harmonies</i>
28 Sept – 8 Dec 2012	The Continuation of Romance: <i>Painting – An Interrupted Discourse</i>

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Opening Times:	11am-7pm Tuesday to Saturday

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