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Hildebrands' London move now includes gallery

June 25, 2013 by [Ellen Wallace](#)



Kashya Hildebrand, opening a new gallery in London

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND – [Kashya Hildebrand](#) opens a new art gallery in London Wednesday 26 June, featuring an exhibition by Iranian artist [Reza Derakshani](#).

Her Zurich gallery will be closed in the near future, she told Bilanz and [Bloomberg](#) in late May, saying that she is looking forward to “the global, cosmopolitan, ethnic diversity of the London art market”.

Hildebran briefly became a Swiss household name in early 2012 when her husband

Philipp [Hildebrand](#) was forced to step down as chairman of the Swiss National Bank after his family's personal financial transactions were questioned. His name and his wife's were cleared by an investigation but Hildebrand, who resigned as a matter of honour, moved to London where he is now [working for BlackRock Inc.](#) in London.

Kashya Hildebrand made a public apology for her part in the financial operations in question. She was a successful hedge fund trader who worked for 14 years for Moore Capital Management LLC in New York, when she and her husband, a rising star in the European financial world, met.



But she was already well known in the art world in 2012, having opened her first gallery in 2001 in Geneva. From the start she has woven together her interest in art and her background as a global citizen, born an American mother and Pakistani father, married to a Swiss

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Reza Derakshani, "Just like a Buddha!", mixed media on canvas, 195x180cm, 2013, at Kashya Hildebrand Gallery in London

man.

She later had galleries in New York and more

recently Zurich. She is known for her support for Iranian, Middle Eastern and Asian artists who "challenge pre-conceived notions of nationality and cultural identity". Her Zurich gallery focuses on

"creating an environment in which established norms become blurred and characterizations from seemingly contrasting cultures occupy the same visual space. This juxtaposition leads to a simultaneous renunciation and acceptance of the traditional and the contemporary, creating an environment that is in constant flux. Religion, politics, nationality and culture are treated as the foundation of identity, depicted and disseminated to varying degrees. Through painting, collage, sculpture, photography and installation work the artists convey the contestations of the contemporary political landscape."

The new gallery is in Westminster, at 22 Eastcastle Street, London. Hildebrand on the new gallery's initial exhibit and artist:

"For its inaugural exhibition, the gallery will present world-renowned Iranian artist Reza Derakshani in his second solo exhibition in London and, serendipitously, his second solo exhibition with the gallery. Derakshani is known for his driving passion to create timeless art that simultaneously addresses the deep social and cultural issues affecting contemporary Iran. He has gained worldwide recognition for his beautiful and nuanced studies – sometimes figurative, sometimes abstract, but always improvisational and spontaneous – that are political without being didactic. Best known for his large-scale and experimental use of materials, including glitter, soil, sand, tar, gold and silver leaf, he merges an unbending tradition with a wild contemporary spirit. For him, the creation of beauty is itself a revolutionary act with political consequences, especially in modern Iran. Hildebrand admires not only how Derakshani's "blending of Persian iconography with a contemporary approach allows for a sensory exploration of colour and abstraction" but also how his work always "reflects the tumultuous and changing times that we live in." What makes his work so relevant and compelling is the artist's ability to seamlessly juxtapose classical Persian motifs with contemporary influences to evoke an underlying melancholic tone, a complex emotional hue inspired by Iran's historical moment.

"Vibrant glossy colours and a combination of figurative and abstract textures dominate the works in this exhibition – a stark contrast to Iran's current political situation and a significant departure from the form and tone of his work in the last year, including his recent exhibition at the Salsali Private Museum in Dubai. This new embrace of colour comes from his deep-rooted love of classical Persian

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Miniatures. After a period of darkness, he has made a nostalgic return to colour, finding something essential in the light that suffuses his art and the traditional art of Iran. As he explains, "the focus of this series is the unending inspiration I have from the Persian Miniatures... they are full of life and colour and stories which are essential to us all."

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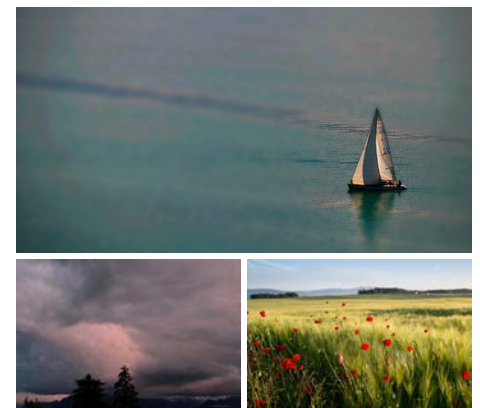
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