



NIETZSCHE WAS A MAN – VIDEO ART BY IRANIAN WOMEN
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 TARA GOUDARZI, SAMIRA HASHEMI, HALEH JAMALI, GELARE KHOSHGOZARAN,
 SHAHRZAD MALEKIAN, NOOSHIN NAFICY, AZADEH NILCHIANI, RAHA RASTIFARD, FARIDEH
 SHAHSAVARANI, ALYSSE STEPANIAN, PARYA VANTANKHAH, RAHELEH (MINOOSH)
 ZOMORODINIA**

Curated by Alysse Stepanian (USA) & Neda Darzi (Iran)

Curator's Talk: Alysse Stepanian, 4th of February 2015 at 6.30 pm, Pori Art Museum

Media Preview: 5th of February 2015 at 11.00 am

Exhibition opening: 6th of February 2015 at 6-8 pm

Nietzsche Was A Man exhibition presents videos by 20 Iranian women that examine universal issues such as gender communication, prejudice and shifting identities, violence and war, and the relationship between humans, non-human animals, nature, and the environment.

This exhibition of contemporary video art presents work by three generations of Iranian women currently living in six countries. Historically Iranian filmmakers have captured the attention of international audiences with their powerful work. With the increasing accessibility of video technology and the use of the internet, many artists have crossed disciplines, encouraged by the potential to disseminate their video art worldwide.

In this curation twenty artists reveal unique perspectives on the questions faced in a volatile world of interrelationships, misapprehensions and hierarchies. The videos are grouped under six thematic headings: "Nature", "Self", "Walls", "Defiance", "Violence", and "Displacement". The voices of these women resonate around the globe with challenging works that examine universal issues such as gender communication, prejudice and shifting identities, violence and war, and the relationship between humans, non-human animals, nature, and the environment.

Much debate has been centered around the seemingly misogynistic views of 19th Century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. **Frances Nesbitt Oppel's** rereading of his aphorisms suggests that his remarks were ironic strategies designed to expose the hierarchical dualisms of Western thought and language, and to "ask us to question the ways in which we think about gender conventions". **Vanessa Lemm** writes, "He [Nietzsche] believes that human life is inseparable from the life of the animal and of the whole organic and inorganic world". In the English language, the word 'man' or 'mankind' is often used to refer to the 'human' species in general. The title of this show points to the prevalent dualistic patriarchal worldview that subordinates and exploits nature and the powerless, separates men from women, and humans from "animals".

Nietzsche Was A Man has been presented at the Museo Ex Teresa Arte Actual in Mexico City (2013), FONLAD Digital Art Festival in Portugal (2013), and Malmö Konsthall in Sweden (2014).

A catalogue will be published in connection with the exhibition at the Pori Art Museum.

In collaboration with: Manipulated Image, Persbook Art

Additional information:

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www.poriartmuseum.fi <http://manipulatedimage.com/nietzsche/project.html>