

Raha Raissnia: Alluvius
December 1, 2017–February 4, 2018

The Lab
Opening Reception, November 30, 2017

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
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November 1, 2017



Fountain, 2017. Charcoal on paper, 36 x 60 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.

New York –*Raha Raissnia: Alluvius*, the first solo museum exhibition of work by the Iranian-American artist Raha Raissnia, will contextualize the artist’s drawings as part of her broader consideration of photographic and filmic representation. Raissnia grew up in Tehran during the 1978–79 revolution, and she often accompanied her father, an amateur photographer, on trips to the city center to document mass protests against the Shah. Mirroring this early experience in her current work, Raissnia surreptitiously continues to take portraits and photographs of everyday life as a course of habit. For The Drawing Center, Raissnia created the two series of densely-composed charcoal drawings on view—entitled *Alluvius* (2016) and *Canto* (2017)—by referencing images sourced from her personal archive of both original and found photographs and film, ranging from photographic slides of mosque architecture to iPhone films taken on walks through Manhattan and snapshots of friends, family, and strangers. Rather than create direct copies, Raissnia intuitively abstracts her sources, laboriously rephotographing and drawing each image, transferring it between paper and celluloid, until it becomes unrecognizable and its meaning unsettled. *Raha Raissnia: Alluvius* engages drawing as a way to revisit, question, and change the images we use to construct personal, cultural, and national identity. Organized by Amber Harper, Assistant Curator.

Raha Raissnia: Alluvius will be accompanied by a series of live film-performances. For each program, the artist will interpolate multiple projections, including hand-painted slides and film, to create a flickering hybrid sequence.

ABOUT RAHA RAISSNIA

Raha Raissnia was born in Tehran in 1968. Solo exhibitions of her work have been presented by Miguel Abreu Gallery in New York; Ab/Anbar Gallery, Tehran; Galeria Marta Cervera, Madrid; and Galerie Xippas, Paris. She has also presented films and film-performances in New York at the Whitney Museum of America Art; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; The Museum of Modern Art; MoMA PS1, Queens; and ISSUE Project Room, Brooklyn. Her work was included in Bial de Cuenca, Ecuador (2016) and the 56th Venice Biennale, *All the World’s Futures* (2015) as well as recent group exhibitions at Dirimart Gallery, Istanbul; Heaven Gallery, Chicago; Mana Contemporary, Jersey City; Art Centre Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland; König Galerie, Berlin; Petzel

Gallery, New York; and Microscope Gallery, Brooklyn, among many others. Raissnia was a finalist for the Abraaj Group Art Prize in 2017.

PUBLICATION

To accompany *Raha Raissnia: Alluvius*, The Drawing Center will produce a broadsheet publication with an essay by Assistant Curator Amber Harper and images of the drawings created by Raissnia for the exhibition.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Friday, January 19, 6:30pm

Join the artist for a live film-performance of Raha Raissnia, *Nadir 2* (2016), presented with the artist and musician Panagiotis Mavridis.

Friday, February 2, 6:30pm

Join the artist for a live film-performance of Raha Raissnia, *Freeway 2* (2005–2008), presented with the musician Charles Curtis.

CREDITS

Raha Raissnia: Alluvius is made possible by r/e projects; Jill and Peter Kraus; Catherine Lagrange; MZR Gedenkstiftung (Karen and Robert Rom), Switzerland; The Kadre Family Collection; and Rhombus Press.

Special thanks to Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, and Ab/Anbar Gallery, Tehran.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the *Drawing Papers* publication series; and education and public programs.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | info@drawingcenter.org | drawingcenter.org

FACEBOOK: [/TheDrawingCenter](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrawingCenter)

TWITTER: [@drawingcenter](https://twitter.com/drawingcenter)

INSTAGRAM: [@drawingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/drawingcenter)

AT THE DRAWING CENTER

Judith Bernstein: Cabinet of Horrors
Eddie Martinez: Studio Wall

Through February 4, 2018
Through February 4, 2018

<i>What the Body Can Do: Open Sessions 11</i>	Through November 19, 2017
<i>Raha Raissnia: Alluvius</i>	December 1, 2017–February 4, 2018
<i>Winter Term: Torkwase Dyson and the Wynters-Well</i>	February 24–March 9, 2018
<i>Drawing School for Enviornmental Justice</i>	
<i>Terry Winters: Facts and Fictions</i>	April 6–July 29, 2018
<i>Hipkiss: Bulwark</i>	April 6–July 29, 2018
<i>Eduardo Navarro: Into our cells</i>	April 6–22, 2018

INSTALLATIONS

<i>Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels</i>	Through February 4, 2018
<i>Susan York: Foundation in the Lab Corridor</i>	Through October 2018
<i>Inka Essenhigh in the Stairwell</i>	February 2018

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Images Available for Reproduction

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Fountain, 2017. Charcoal on paper, 36 x 60 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.



Vestige, 2017. Charcoal on paper, 36 x 60 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.



Canto 7, 2017. Graphite and acrylic medium on paper, 9 x 12 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.



Canto 10, 2017. Graphite and acrylic medium on paper, 9 x 12 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.



Alluvius 2, 2016. Mixed media on paper, 12 x 19 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.



Alluvius 12, 2016. Mixed media on paper, 12 x 19 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.