

NATHALIE KARG

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Non-Representational Art Agonism: Amir Nikravan's 'Rational Design'

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May abstraction in art accurately portray what is normal and abnormal in the current political landscape? That's exactly what Los Angeles-based artist, Amir Nikravan, explores in his solo exhibition "Rational Design," on view at the Nathalie Karg Gallery in New York. Nikravan's fusion of painting, photography, and sculpture results in optical mirages, employing modernist architecture to investigate politics of form.

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A text by New York based artist Alan Ruiz titled “Non-Representational Things” accompanies the exhibition: “When looking at the work of Amir Nikravan displayed here, we are confronted by a group of hybrids. Irregular glyphs hang but also project off of the wall, curvilinear forms pose on translucent plexiglass pedestals—their textured monochrome surfaces adding to their particularity. Manufacturing difference within standardization, singularity is exploded giving way to a series of unstable forms that trouble the ideal of Modernist purity. In this way, the works are not quite paintings, not quite sculptures, not quite furniture, not quite specific (bad) objects, but things. Nikravan asks us to consider the formal operations in his work as reappropriated from a field of white, male-dominated painting practices. The artist’s practice encourages a consideration of how non-representational art might be a viable form of representational politics itself.”

Amir Nikravan holds an MFA from University of California Irvine. His paintings draw the viewers in by daring them to uncover their logic and method of execution, often understanding nothing more than what appears on the surface. His solo exhibitions include “Masks” at Arndt Gallery, Singapore (2015); “Aggregate” at Jonathan Viner Gallery, London (2015); “Merge Visible” Various Small Fires, Los Angeles (2014); and “Thresholds” at Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica (2010), among others.

The exhibition is on view through October 15, 2017 at Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, 291 Grand St, New York, NY 10002, USA.