

SHIRAZEH HOUSHIARY

String Quintet

6 SEPTEMBER - 6 OCTOBER 2012

Reception for the Artist: **Thursday, 6 September, 6-8 PM**

Valet parking available

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Los Angeles for the Iranian-born, London-based artist Shirazeh Houshiary.

A new sculpture by Houshiary titled *String Quintet* will be exhibited in L.A. Louver's open air Skyroom. Standing 16 1/2 feet (5 meters) high, the sculpture is comprised of five slim, entwined, stainless steel forms that emerge from the ground, and reach towards the sky with twisted rhythmic force. The five tapered tendrils seem to embrace each other, then pull apart, elegantly soaring into space.

Three paintings are presented in the intimate environment of L.A. Louver's south gallery. Houshiary first maps each painting through a series of small studies. Then, working on the floor, she uses aquacryl (a water based acrylic paint) and pencil on canvas, applying numerous fine layers of medium, moving back and forth between transparency and opaqueness. The paintings evoke delicate atmospheric color fields that encourage prolonged attention. They conjure emotional states, yet remain both elusive and intangible. Beauty is their surface, and the sublime is their substance.

Named after her birthplace of Shiraz, Iran, Houshiary studied at the Chelsea School of Art in London, England, and Cardiff College of Art, Wales. Houshiary has exhibited extensively in Europe and North America, including solo exhibitions at Centre d'Art Contemporain, Musée Rath, Geneva, Switzerland (traveled to the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England), 1988-89; Camden Art Center, London, England, 1993; University of Massachusetts, Amherst Fine Art Center, MA, U.S. (traveled to York University Art Gallery, Ontario, Canada, and University of Florida, Samuel P. Harn Museum, Gainesville, FL, U.S.), 1993-1994; Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble, France (traveled to Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany; Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Netherlands and Hochschule für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria), 1995-1996; British Museum, London, England, 1997; Site Santa Fe, NM, U.S., 2002; and Tate Liverpool, England, 2003.

Houshiary has accomplished a number of distinguished commissions that include Tate Britain, London, 1993; Battery Park, New York, NY, 2004, and the East Window and Altar for St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London (in 2008 and 2011 respectively). Public collections include the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim, New York, NY, U.S.; the Tate and the British Council Collection, London, England; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Prato, Italy, and MACBA, Barcelona, Spain.

In 1994, Houshiary was nominated for the Turner Prize; and in 1997, became a Professor at the London Institute.

Also on view at L.A. Louver, 6 September – 6 October, 2012:

Tony Bevan: Recent Paintings

For more information and visuals, please contact Elizabeth East, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA, USA

www.lalouver.com; tel: 310-822-4955; fax: 310-821-7529; e-mail: Elizabeth@lalouver.com

Gallery Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 - 6 PM; Validated parking available

