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MILLS

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART

PRESS RELEASE

Mills College Art Museum

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San Jose Museum of Art

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Nolli's Orders, Diana Al-Hadid, 2012, steel, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, wood, foam, plaster, aluminum foil, pigment
Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York (c) Diana Al-Hadid. Photo credit: Dennis To be seen at SJMA.

Hi-res image available upon request.

DIANA AL-HADID FEATURED BY TWO BAY AREA MUSEUMS

Mills College Art Museum: *Diana Al-Hadid*, Jan 18–March 12, 2017

Opening Reception: January 18, 2017, 6-8pm

San Jose Museum of Art: *Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City*, Feb 24, 2017–Sept 24, 2017

Oakland, CA—October 26, 2016. The sculptures and paintings of Syrian-born and Ohio-raised Diana Al-Hadid (1981-) appear to be trapped in an eternal moment of precariousness and decay. Inspired by historical forms from art and architecture, Al-Hadid's highly material works are charged with drips, textures, patterns, and ornaments. Two exhibitions at the Mills College

Art Museum (Jan 18–Mar 13, 2017) and San Jose Museum of Art (*Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City*, Feb 24–Sept 24, 2017) will showcase Al-Hadid’s monumental artworks with an emphasis on her artistic process and references to Italian cultural history.

Passport Admission: Visitors to *Diana Al-Hadid* at Mills College Art Museum who receive an MCAM stamp will enjoy discounted admission of \$6 (regularly \$10) to see *Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City* at the San Jose Museum of Art. (The \$6 student discounted rate still applies to current students with ID.)

DIANA AL-HADID, MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM | JAN 18–MAR 13, 2017

MCAM will feature Diana Al-Hadid’s recent large-scale sculptures, wall constructions, and drawings which use materials that recall Arabic calligraphy and Islamic textile patterns. The works have been described as metaphorical “bridges” between the past and the present, as well as cultural bridges between the Middle Eastern world of Al-Hadid’s early childhood and the Western world she now inhabits.

Works in the exhibition draw from Duccio di Buoninsegna’s *The Temptation of Christ on the Mountain* (1308-11) and Jacopo Pontormo’s *The Deposition from the Cross* (1528), as well as folkloric and mythological stories. Her use of industrial materials (rebar, plaster, polymer gypsum, polystyrene, and fiberglass) in addition to textiles, cardboard, paint, and pigments, yields works that are firmly grounded in contemporary idioms.

By re-imagining the monuments of great civilizations as fading images or apparitions, Al-Hadid not only challenges the viewer to question established notions of both Western and Eastern cultures, she also renders those symbols mysteriously inscrutable and full of new possibilities.

This exhibition will be presented simultaneously with an exhibition of photographic portraits by Elena Dorfman entitled Elena Dorfman: Syria’s Lost Generation. mcam.mills.edu/exhibitions/upcoming

Related public programs and events to be announced.

<https://mcam.mills.edu/events/>

About MCAM

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. mcam.mills.edu

Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am-7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted. *Visitors to Diana Al-Hadid at MCAM will enjoy discounted admissions (\$6 student-rate) to see Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City at SJMA.*

DIANA AL-HADID: LIQUID CITY, SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART | FEB 24–SEPT 24, 2017

Diana Al-Hadid’s monumental sculpture *Nolli’s Orders* (2012) will anchor SJMA’s central skylight gallery like a baroque fountain enlivening a public piazza in Rome. Referring to Giambattista Nolli’s 1748 map of Rome in the sculpture, Al-Hadid brings together themes from architecture, the history of art, and urban planning. Al-Hadid is fascinated by boundaries—where something begins and ends and how we define or belong to a place (be it architectural, sculptural, or experiential). She explores the spaces between two-dimensional mark-making and three-dimensional sculpture, the real and imagined, interior and exterior, belonging and alienation, the ruin and the yet-to-be-completed. *Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City* spotlights the artist’s personal emphasis on creative process. It will include wall works that pertain to architectural themes, including sculptural pieces of polymer gypsum and drawings on mylar from the artist’s personal collection. Primary source materials by Italian masters to whom Al-Hadid refers will also be included.

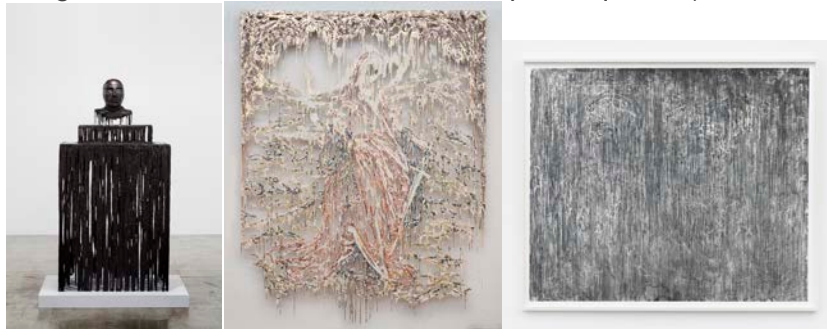
Liquid City is one of a trio of projects in which SJMA explores issues related to water. With California in the sixth year of drought, these issues are at the forefront of political, social, legal,

and artistic activism. San Jose Museum of Art will present exhibitions and programs that encourage visitors to reflect on the precious yet public nature of this natural resource. The series also includes *Fragile Waters: Photographs by Ansel Adams, Ernest H. Brooks II, and Dorothy Kerper Monnelly* (March 17, 2017 – August 6, 2017) and *The Darkened Mirror: Global Perspectives on Water* (April 7, 2017 – August 27, 2017).

About SJMA

The San Jose Museum of Art celebrates new ideas, stimulates creativity, and inspires connection with every visit. Welcoming and thought-provoking, the Museum rejects stuffiness and delights visitors with its surprising and playful perspective on the art and artists of our time. SJMA is located at 110 South Market Street in downtown San Jose, California. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM and until 8 PM or later on the third Thursday of each month. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students (visitors to *Diana Al-Hadid* at MCAM will also enjoy discounted admissions at the student-rate), and \$5 for youth ages 7 -18. Members and children. For more information, call 408-271-6840 or visit www.SanJoseMuseumofArt.org.

Images below also available in hi-res upon requests (on view at MCAM):



Left to right:

1. *Blind Bust II*, 2012, Bronze, painted stainless steel. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo credit: Jason Wyche.
2. *Blind Bust II* (detail), 2012, Bronze, painted stainless steel. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo credit: Jason Wyche.
3. *Head in the Clouds*, 2014, Polymer gypsum, fiberglass, steel, foam, wood, plaster, clay, gold leaf, pigment. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo credit: Jason Mandella;
4. *The Seventh Month*, 2015, Polymer gypsum, fiberglass, steel, plaster, gold leaf, pigment. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo credit: Bill Orcutt.
5. Diana Al-Hadid, *Untitled*, 2015, Conte, charcoal, pastel, acrylic on mylar. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo Credit: Matt Booth.

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