

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLAVS AND TATARS

FRIENDSHIP OF NATIONS: POLISH SHI'ITE SHOWBIZ
APRIL 12 – MAY 26, 2013

CURATED BY BABAK GOLKAR

Presentation House Gallery is pleased to announce *Friendship of Nations: Polish Shi'ite Showbiz*, the first exhibition in Canada of the artist collective Slavs and Tatars.

Friendship of Nations: Polish Shi'ite Showbiz traces a shared genealogy between Iran and Poland. Beginning as an investigation into the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and the Solidarność movement of 1980 – two key moments that bookend the stories of twenty-first century Islamic modernity and twentieth-century communism, respectively – the project draws on research that stretches from the seventeenth-century Sarmatism of the Polish nobility, to the recent Green movement in Iran. Channeling the folklore and artisanal crafts of both cultures, Slavs and Tatars examine the potential for these modes of production to embody, extend and build upon the ideological impulse of 1979 and 1989 respectively.

The form of the works in this exhibition ranges widely, and includes pajaki, banners, sculptural installations, a photomural, a fountain and a mirrored mosaic. *Dear 1979, Meet 1989*, is an installation of traditional vernacular Persian riverbeds with integrated rahle (traditional book-holders) to display samples from Slavs and Tatars' own library focused on the Iranian Revolution and Poland's Solidarność movement. *79.89.09*, a free newsprint multiple originally made in 2011, will be re-published by Presentation House Gallery in collaboration with RedCat, Los Angeles and will be available at the gallery for visitors.

Slavs and Tatars is a collective devoted to an area east of the former Berlin Wall and west of the Great Wall of China known as Eurasia. The collective's work spans several media, disciplines, and a broad spectrum of cultural registers (high and low) focusing on an oft-forgotten sphere of influence between Slavs, Caucasians and Central Asians. The members of the collective are based between Paris, Warsaw, New York and Moscow.

OPENING RECEPTION THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (ARTISTS IN ATTENDANCE, INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE ARTISTS AND *FRIENDSHIP OF NATIONS: POLISH SHI'ITE SHOWBIZ* BOOK LAUNCH)

In conjunction with the exhibition there will be lecture by Payam Sharifi, a member of the collective.

ARTIST LECTURE TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 7:00PM AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY WOODWARDS, DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN WORLD ART CENTRE, GOLDCORP CENTRE FOR THE ARTS.

FOR ADDITIONAL PRESS INFORMATION AND/OR IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT DIANE EVANS 604 986 1351



Friendship of Nations: Polish Shi'ite Showbiz (installation view)



Dear 1979, Meet 1989. wood, carpets, book archive, variable dimensions (2011)



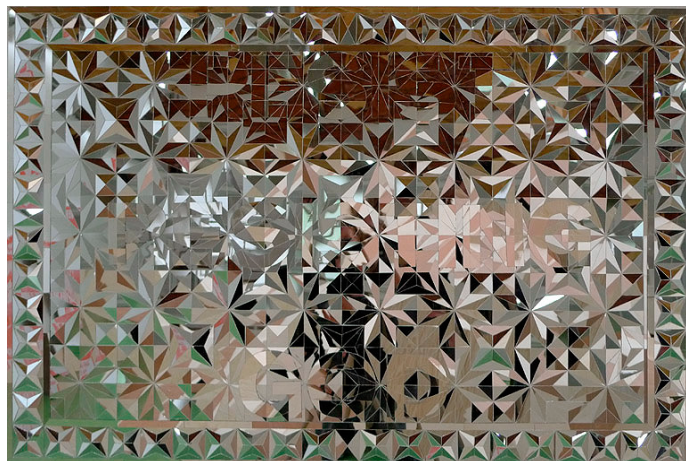
Reverse Joy (installation view), Emroidered fabric, tinted water (2012)



Wheat Molla, wheat, cotton, glue, brick, 45 x 35 x 25 cm (with glass and bronze case), 2011.



Reverse Joy, pigment in public water fountain (2012)



Resist Resisting God, mirror mosaic, 150 x 100 cm (2009)



Pająk, materials variable, dimensions variable (2011)

