

3-8-2010

The Observer Effect

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Recommended Citation

Tajpour, Azadeh, "The Observer Effect" (2010). *CGU MFA Theses*. Paper 27.
http://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_mfatheses/27

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Artist Statement

Azadeh Tajpour

My work explores the gray area and the shifting border between “us” and “other.” It investigates the helplessness and the submissiveness on both sides of this spectrum and one’s passivity that makes the “pain of others” inevitable. Moreover, it examines the individual and collective experiences of guilt and complicity in relation to world events. I am interested in the selective and repressed memories of individuals and nations, the reluctance to look and the ability to forget.

Most of my works are based on images derived from the web. The Internet is the medium through which we access most of our global news. Yet, the overwhelming abundance of the information and its already highly limited focus, selectiveness and manipulation can be numbing and at times a form of entertainment.

The series, “Post Election Protest, June 14th, Intersection of Vali-Asr Ave. and Shojai St., Tehran,” reflects a sense of connection and presence as well as detachment and inaccessibility. In these paintings, the barriers are not only between time and place, but also between *us* and *them*, or *here* and *there*, in a more global sense. My paintings are an extremely enlarged version of fleeting moments seen on small monitors, which had only lasted a fraction of a second. They explore the ways in which an experience endures through several transformations and layers of mediation. They make time and space for doubt about where the borders between us and them can be drawn.