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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Private preview: Monday October 24 from 7.30 PM
Exhibition dates: October 25 – December 01, 2011

Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde is proud to present '*Obscure Stream of Life, But I'm Still Having My Afternoon Cuppa*' by Bita Fayyazi from October 25 to December 01, an exhibition of new works continuing the Dubai gallery's long-running association with the Iranian sculptor and installation artist.

For her new show, Fayyazi continues to deal with fundamental ideas and concepts that have underpinned her previous two, critically-acclaimed shows *Performance 1388/2010* and *Grind*, in which society at large is assessed and evaluated through an intensely personal prism of Fayyazi's own emotions and feelings. The chaos and disorder of everyday life, the frailty and futility of thwarted human ambition and greed, set within a framework referencing structures of birth, life and decay, all refracted through Bita Fayyazi's practice, here becomes a powerful set of artworks.

The nine mannequin pieces in the show, ('oddities and hybrids', according to the artist) continue Fayyazi's formal investigations into seemingly disparate materials and found items, woven together with ostentatious care and prominent knots, ties and bindings. Balls of yarn, hair and wire mesh are wrapped to chimney hood vents, funnels, fiberglass, armatures and plaster, creating grotesque figures that ooze (literally, in some cases) with angst-ridden turmoil. In these figures, Fayyazi presses deformities, desecrations and physical exaggerations into service of her analogies of a 'crippled, dysfunctional society'. The anger is resigned and philosophical, the mannequins are comically absurd in their twisted impotence and thwarted physicality.

There has always been an appealingly dark underside to Fayyazi's work, since she burst into international prominence during the 1990s with her outsized ceramic cockroaches and various series in which man and beast co-exist suspiciously in an unforgiving global machine. In *'Obscure Stream of Life, But I'm Still Having my Afternoon Cuppa'*, Bitā Fayyazi again presents work that takes an uncompromising stance against social, political and emotional tyranny with wit, black humour and Fayyazi's highly personalized love of craft, mythology and representation.

About Bitā Fayyazi

Bitā Fayyazi was born in Tehran in 1962. She lived in England for seven years, returning to Iran in 1980, where she lives, works and teaches. Her background is in ceramics and sculpture. Part of the vanguard of post-revolutionary Iranian artists to exhibit in the West, she rose quickly to prominence and has since shown in galleries in Europe, India, Africa and Middle East. Her work has been acquired by collections worldwide, including La Fabrica (Benetton Group Communication Centre) in Italy and the Simon de Pury Collection in Geneva.

About GALLERY ISABELLE VAN DEN EYNDE

One of the leading pioneers on the Middle Eastern contemporary art scene, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde (previously B21) has established a reputation for sourcing and promoting the most progressive and exciting talent from across Iran and the Middle East. Based in expanded, new premises in Dubai's Al Quoz district, Gallery IVDE continues to flourish, with a roster of globally-acclaimed names including Rokni and Ramin Haerizadeh, Khosrow Hassanzadeh, Bitā Fayyazi, Jeffar Khaldi, Ahmad Amin Nazar, Leila Pazooki, Nargess Hashemi, Shadi Ghadirian, Lara Baladi, Fereydoun Ave and Farideh Lashai.

Constantly seeking to challenge and inspire audiences and collectors, IVDE's strong track record in both breaking new talent and showing established names, has driven the gallery to global acclaim and renown. Yet at the heart of the business lies a firm commitment to the artist and the promise of a professional, yet personal supportive environment in which talent and expression thrives.

For more information, artist bio, interview and/or hi-res images, please contact Tessa de Caters at tessa@ivde.net or + 97 1 (0) 4 323 50 52