

FRIDERICIANVM



Kassel, October 7, 2021

PRESSKIT

*TOBA KHEDOORI*

October 9, 2021 – February 20, 2022

1. Press release
2. CV of Toba Khedoori
3. Booklet
4. Press images available for download

documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH

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PRESS RELEASE

*Toba Khedoori*

October 9, 2021 – February 20, 2022

Opening: Friday, October 8, 5 – 10 pm

For over twenty-five years, Toba Khedoori, born in Sydney in 1964, now living in Los Angeles, has been developing a body of work that can be described as an outstanding and unusual contribution to contemporary art. Her works—always the outcome of a lengthy, highly concentrated production process—oscillate line between painting and drawing, yet they also have a distinctly haptic quality. As a rule, the starting point for her art are sheets of paper treated with wax that she combines to form monumental picture carriers. Khedoori then does immensely detailed drawings in graphite and oil paints, which are extraordinarily precise in their execution. Her motifs range from buildings, windows, cinema seats, and fireplaces to branches, grasses, clouds, horizon lines, and more. Human beings are only ever present in the traces they leave; they are never the prime focus of a composition. In many works, the motifs are detached from their original context and occupy an expansive, empty pictorial space. Time and place appear not to apply in these realms. This, in turn, creates a situation where certain works develop moments of abstraction, which open up yet another dimension in Khedoori's art.

Since 2008, Khedoori has also done paintings on canvas that are considerably smaller than the aforementioned works on paper. These smaller pieces continue to engage with themes arising from the tension between human beings and the natural world, albeit with a greater emphasis on the interplay of representationalism and abstraction. Many of these compositions avoid easy legibility, with the result that the interaction of lines, structures, and colors comes to the fore. Regardless of their level

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of abstraction these paintings exude an unusual strength—quiet yet remarkable—which in fact characterizes all of Khedoori’s art. This innate strength raises questions about the fundamental parameters of life and, in so doing, establishes the philosophical meta-level of her work.

Due to the special quality of her oeuvre the artist’s works already formed part of the international discourse early on, giving her a strong presence within the institutional context. For instance, her work was featured, among others, in 1997 and 1998 in solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis as well as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C. These presentations were followed in 2001 by extensive acknowledgements of her practice at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel and the Whitechapel Gallery in London. In addition, her drawings and paintings have been showcased as part of group exhibitions such as the Bienal Internacional de Arte de São Paulo in 2004, the Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art in 2006, and the Venice Biennale in 2009. Further highlights in her exhibition history came in 2016 with retrospectives at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Pérez Art Museum Miami. Further highlights in her exhibition history came in 2016 with retrospectives at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Pérez Art Museum Miami. Most recently, Khedoori’s work was featured in group exhibitions at the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen/Basel in 2019 and the Hayward Gallery in London in 2020.

The Fridericianum presents Khedoori’s first solo exhibition in a German art institution, an ambitious project which is also the artist’s first major show in Europe in over twenty years. Through a selection of works created between 1994 and 2021, this survey show illustrates the diversity and development of Khedoori’s graphic and painterly oeuvre.

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The presentation in Kassel is generously supported by Hessische Kulturstiftung: “With the first solo exhibition of the artist Toba Khedoori in Germany, the Fridericianum in Kassel once again impressively proves that it is one of the leading exhibition venues in the Federal Republic. The Australian artist with Iraqi roots develops a philosophy of the everyday in her impressive works painted with old-masterly precision. With her art, Toba Khedoori questions the philosophical foundations and individual and aesthetic preconditions of our perception and, above all, how we locate ourselves in this world.” Eva Claudia Scholtz, Executive Director of the Hessische Kulturstiftung

[Download press images here](#)

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TOBA KHEDOORI

\*1964 in Sydney

Lives and works in Los Angeles

EDUCATION

1994

M.F.A., University of California, Los Angeles

1990

Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan

1988

B.F.A., San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021

*Toba Khedoori*, Fridericianum, Kassel

2016

*Toba Khedoori*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles

*Toba Khedoori*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami

*Toba Khedoori*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

2012

*Toba Khedoori*, David Zwirner, New York

2007

*Toba Khedoori*, David Zwirner, New York

2006

*Toba Khedoori*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

2003

*Currents 89: Toba Khedoori*, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis

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2002

*Toba Khedoori*, David Zwirner, New York

*Toba Khedoori*, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin

2001

*Toba Khedoori*, Whitechapel Gallery, London

*Toba Khedoori – Gezeichnete Bilder*, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel

1999

*Toba Khedoori: Paintings*, David Zwirner, New York

1997

*Directions: Toba Khedoori*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington

*Toba Khedoori*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

*Toba Khedoori*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

1996

*Toba Khedoori*, Johnston County Community College, Overland Park

*Toba Khedoori: Paintings*, David Zwirner, New York

1995

*Toba Khedoori*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

1994

*Rachel Khedoori and Toba Khedoori*, David Zwirner, New York

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2021

*Scratching the Surface*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin

2020

*Among the Trees*, Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London

2019

*Heimat – Selected Works from the Alex Hank Collection*, Tarmak 22, Gstaad Airport, Gstaad

*Resonating Spaces*, Fondation Beyeler, Basel

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2017

*Gray Matters*, Wexner Centre for the Arts, Columbus

2016

*Don't Look Back: The 1990s at MOCA*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

2015

*The Afghan Carpet Project*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

*Drawing Now*, Albertina, Vienna

*Future Present: Emanuel Hoffman Foundation. Contemporary Art from Classic Modernism to the Present Day*, Schaulager, Basel

*Random Sampling – Painting from Sammlung Goetz*, Haus der Kunst, München

2012

*Fresh Widow: The Window in Art since Matisse and Duchamp*, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf

*In Search of Time*, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2011

*Wander, Labyrinthine Variations*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz

2010

*The Artist's Museum*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

2009

*53rd Venice Biennale: Making Worlds/Fare Mondi*, Venice

*elles@centrepompidou: Women Artists in the Collections of the National Modern Art Museum*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

*Holbein to Tillmans*, Schaulager, Basel

2008

*Passageworks: Contemporary Art from the Collection*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

2007

*Size Matters: XXL – Recent Large-Scale Paintings*, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill

*The Third Mind*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

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2006

*2nd Seville Biennial: The Unhomely – Phantom Scenes in Global Society*, Seville  
*The Grand Promenade*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens  
*Liverpool Biennial: International 2006*, Liverpool

2005

*Drawing from The Modern, 1975-2005*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
*Fast Nichts: Minimal Artworks from the Friedrich Christian Flick Collection in Hamburger Bahnhof*, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin  
*Goetz Meets Falckenberg: Works from the Goetz Collection and the Falckenberg Collection*, Sammlung Falckenberg – Deichtorhallen, Hamburg

2004

*26th São Paulo Biennial: Território Livre/Free Territory*, São Paulo, Brazil  
*Reinstallation of the Collection*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

2003

*For the Record: Drawing Contemporary Life*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver  
*Inaugural Exhibition*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

2002

*Drawing Now: Eight Propositions*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
*Exile on Main Street*, NICC – New International Cultural Center, Antwerp

2001

*Form Follows Fiction*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin  
*The Mystery of Painting*, Sammlung Goetz, Munich  
*Public Offerings*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

2000

*Open Ends*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

1999

*The American Century: Art & Culture, 1950-2000*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
*Examining Pictures: Exhibiting Paintings*, Whitechapel Gallery, London  
*Examining Pictures: Exhibiting Paintings*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago  
*Examining Pictures: Exhibiting Paintings*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles



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1997

*A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Drawing*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

*Projects 59: Architecture as Metaphor*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

1996

*Everything That's Interesting Is New: The Dakis Joannou Collection*, The Deste Foundation, Athens

*Everything That's Interesting Is New: The Dakis Joannou Collection*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

*Everything That's Interesting Is New: The Dakis Joannou Collection*, Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen

*Just Past: The Contemporary in the Permanent Collection, 1975-96*, The Geffen Contemporary at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

*Some Recent Acquisitions*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

1995

*Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1993

*Invitational 93*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

ÖFFENTLICHE SAMMLUNGEN

Albertina, Vienna

The Broad, Los Angeles

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles

Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, Amherst

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Basel

Sammlung Goetz, Munich

Ursula Hauser Collection, Switzerland

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

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LIST OF PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

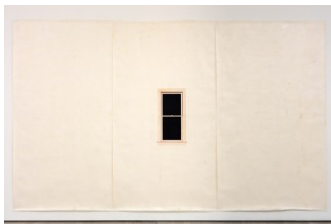
1.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled*, 2018  
Öl auf gewachstem Papier / Oil on waxed paper  
243,8 x 335 cm  
Sammlung von / Collection of Alex Hank

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

2.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (window)*, 1999  
Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper  
365,8 x 609,6 cm  
Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Depositum in der Öffentlichen Kunstsammlung Basel

© Toba Khedoori, Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Depositum in der Öffentlichen Kunstsammlung Basel, photo: Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

3.



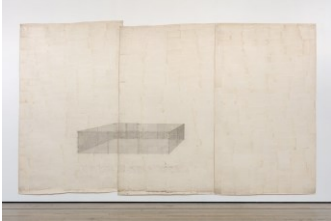
Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (clouds)*, 2005  
Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper  
328,9 x 203,2 cm  
Sammlung von / Collection of Adam Sender

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

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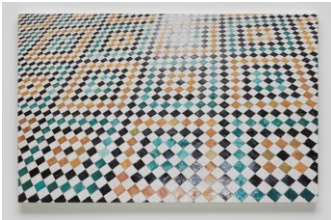
4.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (chain-link fence)*, 1996  
Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper  
335,3 x 586,7 cm  
Privatsammlung / Private Collection

© Toba Khedoori. Courtesy the Artist and David Zwirner

5.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (tile)*, 2014  
Öl auf Leinen / Oil on linen  
60,3 x 95,6 cm  
Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Depositum in der Öffentlichen Kunstsammlung Basel

© Toba Khedoori, Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Depositum in der Öffentlichen Kunstsammlung Basel, photo: Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

6.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (white fireplace)*, 2005  
Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil on waxed paper  
358,1 x 490,2 cm  
Privatsammlung / Private Collection, Courtesy David Zwirner

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

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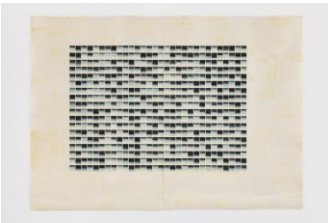
7.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (branches 1)*, 2011–2012  
Öl auf Leinen / Oil on linen  
80,6 x 105,1 cm  
Privatsammlung / Private Collection, Courtesy David  
Zwirner

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Tim Nighswander. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

8.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled*, 2021  
Öl, Graphit und Wachs auf Papier / Oil, graphite, and wax  
on paper  
350,5 x 495,3 cm

© Toba Khedoori. Courtesy the Artist, Regen Projects and David Zwirner

9.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (stick)*, 2005  
Ö und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper,  
360,7 x 203,2 cm  
ALBERTINA, Wien – Dauerleihgabe der Österreichischen  
Ludwig-Stiftung für Kunst und Wissenschaft

© Toba Khedoori, ALBERTINA, Wien – Dauerleihgabe  
der Österreichischen Ludwig-Stiftung für Kunst und Wis-  
senschaft

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10.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (hole)*, 2013

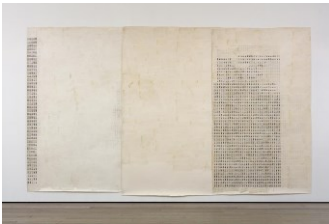
Öl auf Leinen / Oil on linen

112,4 x 121 cm

Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung, Depositum in der Öffentlichen Kunstsammlung Basel

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11.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (buildings/windows)*, 1994

Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper

335,28 cm 609,6 cm

Sammlung von / Collection of Jeffrey Deitch

© Toba Khedoori. Courtesy the Artist and David Zwirner

12.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled*, 2019–2020

Wachs, Graphit und Öl auf Papier / Wax, graphite, and oil on paper

248,9 x 218,4 cm

Privatsammlung, Schweiz / Private Collection, Switzerland

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Evan Bedford. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

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13.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled*, 2020

Öl, Graphit und Wachs auf Papier / Oil, graphite, and wax on paper

243,8 x 350,5 cm

Sammlung / Collection Filip Engelen and Ann Gillis, Belgien / Belgium

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Evan Bedford. Courtesy the Artist, Regen Projects and David Zwirner

14.



Toba Khedoori: *Untitled (overpass)*, 1994

Öl und Wachs auf Papier / Oil and wax on paper

335,2 x 609,7 cm

Privatsammlung / Private Collection

© Toba Khedoori. Courtesy the Artist and David Zwirner

15.



Toba Khedoori in ihrem Studio in Los Angeles, 1995 /  
Toba Khedoori in her Los Angeles studio, 1995

© Toba Khedoori, photo: Rachel Khedoori. Courtesy Regen Projects and David Zwirner

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### SERVICE INFORMATION

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Students and trainees 2 Euro  
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