



TIME EQUITIES INC.



Armita Raafat
Untitled

Opening March 27
6-8pm

55 5th Avenue Lobby
Between 12th and 13th streets
New York, NY 10003
TEIArtinBuildings.com

Image courtesy the artist

Time Equities Inc. Art-in-Buildings is pleased to announce the next exhibition in the lobby of 55 5th Avenue, Armita Raafat: *Untitled*. Her largest wall-based sculpture to date, Raafat's *Untitled* hugs the unusual curvature of the wall, taking advantage of the play of light and the movement of the viewer through space.

Untitled is an extension of Raafat's ongoing inquiry into Muqarnas, an Islamic architectonic motif that originated in the mid-10th century and traditionally forms the undulating underside of domed ceilings, vaults, and mosque entrances. Raafat, who was raised in Tehran and traveled extensively across Iran as a young adult, dislocates the Muqarnas and shifts their relationship to the viewer - rotating, fragmenting, and multiplying the iconic elements. The resulting forms are the building blocks of Raafat's sculptural practice, which she combines with vivid cobalt blues, hand-cut mirrors, tiles and iridescent fabrics. The density of these elements and materials produce a layered sculpture that presents a palimpsestic representation of identity to the viewer. As sacred architecture, Muqarnas link the realm of the spiritual with the terrestrial. Looking up into a domed ceiling, the viewer would be gazing towards heaven and experience the beauty of the Muqarnas as a manifestation of the divine. Raafat's Muqarnas, however, evoke the awe of new formulations and the urgency of ad hoc construction. *Untitled*, like all of Raafat's work, embraces history but delights in rejecting traditional practices in favor of encouraging new ways of seeing elemental forms.

Armita Raafat is a New York-based sculptor and installation artist working with themes of architectural transfiguration and hybridity. She has been exhibited nationally and internationally including at the MCA - Chicago, The Bronx Museum of the Arts - New York, The Noyes Museum of Art - New Jersey, Pavel

Zoubok Gallery - New York, HORSEANDPONY Fine Arts - Berlin, and Al-Zahra University in Tehran. Raafat received the Peter S. Reed Foundation grant for sculpture and a NYFA fellowship for Sculpture/Crafts and has been in residence at the LMCC swing space an AIM at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. She just completed a winter workspace residency at Wave Hill, Bronx. Raafat earned her BFA from Al-Zahra University in Tehran and MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2008.

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Armita Raafat: Untitled is curated by Jennie Lamensdorf and sponsored by the Time Equities Inc. (TEI) Art-in-Buildings. TEI is committed to enriching the experience of our properties through the Art-in-Buildings Program, an innovative approach that brings contemporary art by emerging and mid-career artists to non-traditional exhibition spaces in the interest of promoting artists, expanding the audience for art, and creating a more interesting environment for our building occupants, residents, and their guests.

Founded in 1966, Time Equities, Inc. (TEI) has been in the real estate investment, development and asset & property management business for more than 50 years. TEI currently holds in its own portfolio approximately 31.1 million square feet of residential, industrial, office and retail property – including over 4,000 multi-family apartment units. In addition, TEI is in various stages of development and pre-development of constructing approximately 1.4 million square feet of various property types which includes at least 1,447 residential units. With properties in 30 states, five Canadian provinces, Germany, the Netherlands, and Anguilla, the TEI portfolio benefits from a diversity of property types, sizes and markets. There are concentrations in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest and West Coast, and new markets are always being evaluated.