



Vision QUEST

Young talent Hedieh Javanshir Ilchi sets DC's art scene ablaze with fiery abstractions.

By Holly Mazar-Fox // Photography by Greg Powers

Art phenomenon **Hedieh Javanshir Ilchi** is taking the nation's capital by storm. Her energetic abstract creations are simply gems to behold, and complement and contradict in equal measure. Brought together through the power of paint, her oeuvre draws huge applause for its beauty, but also for its fusion of distinctive art rituals. The artist's exhibition this month at **Hemphill Fine Arts**, *Everything Became Nearness and All the Nearness Turned to Stone*, solidifies her place as DC's hottest young talent and one to watch.

Seeking inspiration from the rich traditions of both Eastern and Western art practices, Javanshir Ilchi's alluring work speaks to her soul as an artist and her

creative genius at weaving complex concepts together with visual fluidity. "I draw from American abstract expressionism tendencies, which celebrate the individual psyche and spontaneity, merge with Persian painting conventions and revolve around controlled techniques," she says. One look at the artist's intricately crafted ornamentation and dazzling motifs—paired with large swatches of bold colors—reveal the pull of her work. "Having witnessed the evolution of her work over the past decade, I'm confident she'll continue to surprise us with her colorful twists and turns," says Shahdeh Ammadi, a passionate New York City collector and dedicated supporter of Javanshir Ilchi's career.

Javanshir Ilchi is also fearless in her exploration of materials and their application. Incorporating a mixture of acrylic and watercolor paints on a variety of surfaces—Mylar, panel and canvas—has also boosted the affection collectors have for her. "I play with the flexibility of acrylic paint to move from opaque to transparent or heavy impasto-like to fluid passages," she says—proving that nothing is off-limits for this artist in her quest for a unique vision. *Nov. 11-Dec. 23, 1515 14th St. NW, 202.234.5601, hemphillfinearts.com*