

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Maurizio Cattelan and Marta Papini, "Interview with Shahryar Nashat," *Purple Magazine*, Issue#30, Autumn/Winter 2018

PURPLE

los angeles
art

interview
with
shahryar nashat

SHAHRYAR NASHAT STUDIO
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Swiss artist Shahryar Nashat is part of the recent diaspora of young artists finding an inspiration and a new public in Los Angeles – pushing California’s light and space art toward intimate, cosmetic, and technological abstraction.

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MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *How Long have you been living in LA?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Three years.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Is there a red zone in the city – a place you wouldn't visit unless forced to?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – No. I like to discover.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *What do you think is missing in art?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – People who genuinely care about art.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *What's the most fundamental aspect of an artwork, from your point of view?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – To be critical, humorous, and self-deprecating at the same time.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Do you think art can be a way to overcome fear and face the unknown?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – For the artist, certainly. For the audience, I don't think so.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Are we in a condition of constant fear or constant indifference?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Yes, and it's quite disillusioning.

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MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Do you think that art can play the role of a forerunner?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Always has, always will.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *If the avant-garde is not in museums or galleries, where is it today?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – In the zeroes and the ones.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Is mediocrity a deadly sin for an artist?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Definitely.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Is art about entertainment?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – For mediocre artists, maybe.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *What is the worst compliment you've received for your work?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Someone told me that he was really interested in contemporary artists from the Middle East.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *The best criticism?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Being compared to a legendary dead artist.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Are you still able to waste your time?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – It's the only way to make work.

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MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *What did you learn from the hardest period in your life?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Don't expect anything.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Have you already made your masterpiece?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – I feel another one coming on.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Do you ever think about the audience's reactions when you're planning a new work?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – I'm my toughest audience.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *Can you imagine a world without art?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – Of course.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *How do you think your career will end?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – With death.

MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI – *How would you like your life to end?*

SHAHRYAR NASHAT – I often think about it, and I cannot decide.

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