

NEWS RELEASE***The Lovers of Apadana******A New Collection of Work by Bitá Ghezelayagh******Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 8LZ******Private view Friday 5 October, 6.30pm******Artist Talks, 12 & 23 November, 6.30pm***

Leighton House Museum presents *The Lovers of Apadana*, a new collection of work by international acclaimed artist, Bitá Ghezelayagh. Bitá uses traditional textiles to explore universal themes of love and war whilst also paying attention to the small dissonances that colour our everyday lives. The show will be open to the general public from Saturday 6 October until Wednesday 5 December 2018 at Leighton House Museum, the studio-house of Victorian painter Frederic, Lord Leighton and one of the greatest exponent of Victorian orientalism.

Ghezelayagh's work is influenced by traditional Iranian arts. In this latest body of work, she deploys her trademark textiles of velvet, silk, felt and carpet fragments, in masterful and inventive ways; transforming them into abstract shapes and courting lovers.

The ingredients of Ghezelayagh's work may be Middle Eastern, but the flavours are universal and understandable to all. Ghezelayagh's international appeal is demonstrated by the breadth of institutions that hold her work in their permanent collections, including the British Museum, the Jameel Foundation in Saudi Arabia, the Farjam Foundation in Dubai, the Devi Art Foundation in Delhi and the Lajeverdi Foundation in Tehran.

NOTES TO EDITOR

For further information and images please contact

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About Leighton House Museum

Leighton House Museum is the former home and studio of the Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896), leading light of the Victorian era and President of the Royal Academy, 1878-1896. It is the only purpose-built studio-house open, in its entirety, to the public in the UK; a rare example of a Victorian *house-beautiful* and a unique fusion of Western and Islamic artistic influences. Over Leighton's lifetime the House grew to become a 'private palace of art'.

Today, Leighton House Museum seeks to raise awareness of the life and work of Lord Leighton through a varied programme of exhibitions and events. The permanent collection comprises important works by the artist and his contemporaries. In July 2018 Leighton House Museum received a £1,629,000 Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund grant. It will increase access, open up the House to a more diverse audience and enable the Museum to better tell Leighton's story.

About Bitá Ghezelayagh

Bitá Ghezelayagh, born in Italy and raised in Iran, trained as an architect at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. She worked on building restoration projects in Tehran and was art director of three notable Iranian films, including the "The Pear Tree" ("Derakhte Golabi") by Dariush Mehrjui.

In 2003 Ghezelayagh studied the Historic Craft of Felt Making and later Creative Printmaking at the Kensington and Chelsea College of Art. Her work has featured in solo and collective exhibitions around the world. In 2011 she was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize and her work exhibited at the Victoria & Albert Museum; touring also to Institut du Monde Arab, Paris; Casa Arabe, Madrid; Cantor Arts Center, Stanford, CA; San Antonio Museum of Art, CA.

Listings information

TITLE: The Lovers of Apadana

ARTIST: Bitá Ghezelayagh

DATES: Saturday 6 October - Wednesday 5 December 2018

VENUE/ADDRESS: Leighton House Museum 12 Holland Park Road, London W14

OPEN HOURS: Daily - Except Tuesdays - From 10.00am To 5.30pm