

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

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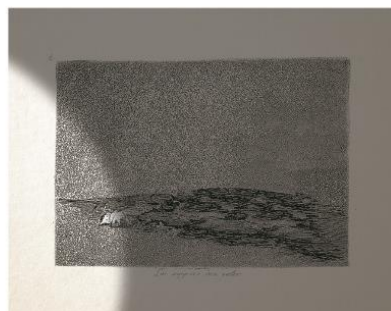
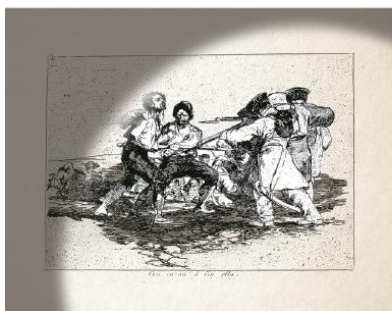
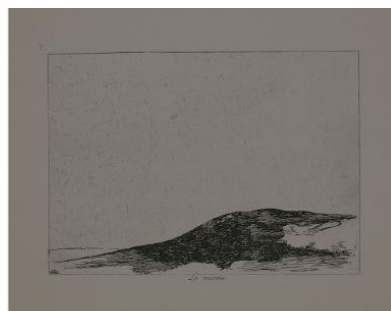
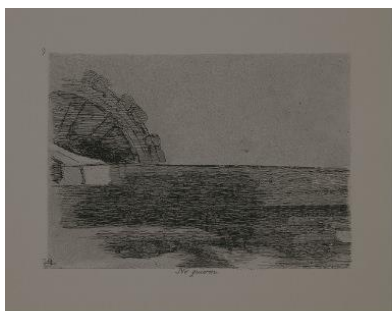
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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request

THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE SHOWCASES MULTIMEDIA MASTERPIECE OF FAMED IRANIAN ARTIST IN *FARIDEH LASHAI: ONLY A SHADOW*

WELLESLEY, Mass. – On September 16, the Davis Museum at Wellesley College presents *Farideh Lashai: Only a Shadow*, an exhibition that centers around Farideh Lashai's renowned 2012-13 multi-media installation, *When I Count, There Are Only You...But When I Look, There Is Only a Shadow*. For this series, Lashai meticulously recreated 80 of the 82 etchings from Francisco Goya's famous *Los Desastres de la Guerra* (*The Disasters of War*) series (1810-20, published posthumously), which articulates the cruelties of warfare as both historically specific and timelessly universal. Five first edition imprints from among the 82 prints in Goya's original series were recently acquired by the Davis, and will be on view in conjunction with Lashai's work. Curated by Dr. Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum, *Only a Shadow* will be on view through December 13.



In Lashai's interpretation of *Los Desastres de la Guerra*, the traces of Goya's central characters and figures have been removed, leaving ghostly empty scenes. A video projection onto the framed prints takes the shape of a roving spotlight: alighting on each etching, it briefly animates Goya's figures back into their original context. Figures make fleeting appearances across the frames and the static quality of Goya's originals is transformed. The project's art historical reference

Farideh Lashai, *When I Count, There Are Only You...But When I Look, There Is Only a Shadow*, 2012-2013 suite of 80 photo-intaglio prints with projection of animated images 11 3/4 x 9 inches (each) | 75 1/2 x 122 inches (overall size)
Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery, New York/Dubai and The Estate of Farideh Lashai

suggests the enduring relevance of Goya's seminal works as a visual commentary on

the violence and devastation wrought by war.

“It is fascinating to observe Lashai’s innovative use of new media in her sensitive and moving appropriation of one of Goya’s best known and most challenging masterpieces,” said Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ‘37 Director of the Davis, and curator of the exhibition. “With this exhibition we hope to bring attention to an artist critically lauded in Iran and less well-known in the U.S., and in doing so we are able to also highlight the important connection her work makes to the Davis collections, given our recent acquisition of the Goya prints.”

A celebrated Iranian painter, translator and novelist, Farideh Lashai (1944-2013) was one of the most active Iranian female visual artists known. Although she is distinguished for her abstract contemporary paintings, animations took her in a new direction later in life. Her art was featured in 25 solo exhibitions and more than 80 group exhibitions including the 2012 Sydney Biennial and the 2014 Moscow Biennial.

The exhibition will be on view in an adjacent gallery to a concurrent exhibition at the Davis Museum, *The Krieg Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I*, a study of Käthe Kollwitz’s groundbreaking print series, *Krieg (War)* that includes seven woodcuts from the series displayed alongside supporting lithographs, sculpture, and rare preparatory drawings and trial proofs. During an initial meeting with the artist’s daughter, Maneli Keykavoussi, head of the Farideh Lashai Foundation which represents the artist’s estate, Fischman learned that Käthe Kollwitz was one of Lashai’s favorite artists—and a lifelong influence on her practice—creating another extraordinary resonance across time and geographical distance through art.

The exhibition is made possible with generous support from The Maryam and Edward Eisler/Goldman Sachs Gives Fund on Art and Visual Culture in the Near, Middle, and Far East at the Davis Museum. Established in 2014 by Maryam Homayoun Eisler '89 and Edward Eisler, the Eisler Fund creates a unique cross-disciplinary platform for research, exhibitions, and scholarship on art and visual culture in the Near, Middle, and Far East and supports ambitious programming that draws heavily on the collections-based, curatorial, scholarly, and pedagogical resources of the Davis Museum and Wellesley College Art Department.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Fall Opening Celebration

Wednesday, September 16 | 5–7 p.m. | Davis Lobby and Galleries

The Davis Museum and Wellesley College community will host a reception to celebrate the opening of the fall 2015 exhibitions, and showcase the many new offerings of the Museum. This event is free and open to the public.

Curatorial Gallery Talk

Tuesday, November 10 | 3 p.m.

Maneli Keykavoussi, the artist's daughter and Trustee of the Farideh Lashai Foundation, and exhibition curator Lisa Fischman will convene for a conversation regarding Lashai's life and practice.

DAVIS MUSEUM GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, Mass.

Museum Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays, holidays, and Wellesley College recesses.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Telephone: 781-283-2051

Website: www.theDavis.org

Parking: Free and available in the lot behind the museum. Additional parking in Davis Parking Facility.

Tours: Led by student tour guides. Free. Call 781-283-3045.

Accessible: The Davis, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. For accommodations, please contact Jim Wice, director of disability services at 781-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2300 undergraduates from every state and 75 countries.

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