



*House Above the Bridge* (model), 1974, mixed media, 10.3h x 18w x 4.8d in (26.2h x 45.7w x 12.2d cm)

## Siah Armajani

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to announce the representation of Siah Armajani (b.1939), whose first exhibition at the Gallery will be in Fall 2013. Armajani was born in Iran and moved to the United States in 1960 to attend Macalester College in Minnesota, where he continues to live and work. His sculptures and public works, informed by his democratic and populist ideals, exist between the boundaries of art and architecture. With nearly one hundred projects realized internationally since the 1960s, Armajani is recognized as a leading figure in conceptualizing the role and function of public art.

American vernacular architecture has been a consistent visual motif in Armajani's practice, and is embodied in his public works, including bridges, gardens, and outdoor rooms. In Armajani's words: "I am interested in the nobility of usefulness. My intention is to build open, available, useful, common, public gathering places—gathering places that are neighborly." These concerns take form in his ongoing series of *Reading Rooms* and *Reading Gardens*, public spaces, pavilions, and shelters for social exchanges or solitary meditation. Armajani's Tombs, his most recent sculptures series, are uninhabitable glass and wood structures that reference both American modernist and vernacular architecture, playing tribute to figures including Martin Heidegger, Walt Whitman, John Berryman, Nicola Sacco, and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, among others.

Armajani's most celebrated public art works are bridges, walkways, and gardens, including the *Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge*, Minneapolis, MN; the World Financial Center's promenade (in collaboration with Scott Burton and Cesar Pelli), Battery Park City, New York; *Gazebo for Two Anarchists* at Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, NY; *Floating Poetry Room*, Ijburg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; *Bridge for Iowa City*, University of Iowa; and numerous gardens at Villa Arson Museum, Nice, France. Armajani was commissioned to design the Cauldron for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Celebration in Atlanta, GA.

Armajani has been the subject of over fifty solo exhibitions since 1978; including surveys and retrospectives at Parasol unit, London (2013); Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO (2008); Musee d'art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland (2007, tour); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (1999, tour); Villa Arson, Nice, France (1994); Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles, CA (1992); Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (1987); Westfälisches Landesmuseum, Münster, Germany (1987, tour); and ICA Philadelphia, PA (1985).

The artist's work has been included in group exhibitions, including Iran Modern, Asia Society, New York (2013); Word Into Art: Artists of the *Modern Middle East*, British Museum, London (2006); *Far Near Distance: Contemporary Positions of Iranian Artists*, House of World Cultures, Berlin (2004); Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, PA (1988); Sculptur Projekte Muster '87, Germany (1987); *International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (1984); Biennial of American Art; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1981); 39th Venice Biennale, American Pavilion, Italy (1980); *Information*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (1970); and Documenta 5 (1972), 7 (1982) and 8 (1987), Kassel, Germany.

Armajani's work is in numerous public collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; British Museum, London; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN; Musee d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany; National Gallery, Washington, DC; Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery in New York. The Gallery presents exhibitions focused on artists who emerged in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Influential in political, social and cultural spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines. Alexander Gray Associates is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America. Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM.