

Cattelan, Maurizio and Marta Papini, "Interview with Shahryar Nashat," *Purple*, Issue 30, Autumn/Winter 2018, pp. 306-309

PURPLE

los angeles
art

interview
with
shahryar nashat

SHAHRYAR NASHAT STUDIO
W 6TH ST
LOS ANGELES CA 90057



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.

INTERVIEW BY MAURIZIO CATTELAN AND MARTA PAPINI
PORTRAIT BY DANIEL TRESE



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.

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.

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.

END

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SHAHRYAR NASHAT, *IMAGE IS AN ORPHAN*, 2018, INSTALLATION VIEW
COURTESY OF DAVID KORDANSKY GALLERY, LOS ANGELES
PHOTO JEFF MCLANE

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