



HYPERALLERGIC

Sensitive to Art & its Discontents

Close Readings from a Cozy Art Fair

by Kemy Lin on May 15, 2015



*Installation view of Farideh Sakhaeifar's 8 postcards "ISIS/NASA" (2014),
Archival inkjet on metallic pearlescent paper mounted on sintra (courtesy Cathouse FUNeral)*

Farideh Sakhaeifar who had a solo show at Cathouse FUNeral earlier this year had two series on display in the gallery. In "ISIS/NASA" she culls images from ISIS bombings and NASA spaceship launches, using Photoshop to conflate the two, and thus explores the dual themes of spectatorship and nationalism (and of course the similar formal appearance) present in the two types of images. The postcard-sized images are seemingly arrayed as tourist souvenirs.

In her other series, "Workers are taking photographs," Sakhaeifar had 200 Iranian, male, working class laborers take their own photos. She stood directly behind them, holding up white backgrounds that framed their heads and upper bodies. The white background decontextualizes their bodies, catapulting them into the space of the sterile, white gallery.