



PARASTOU FOROUHAR

PERSIAN FOR BEGINNERS

ROSE ISSA PROJECTS

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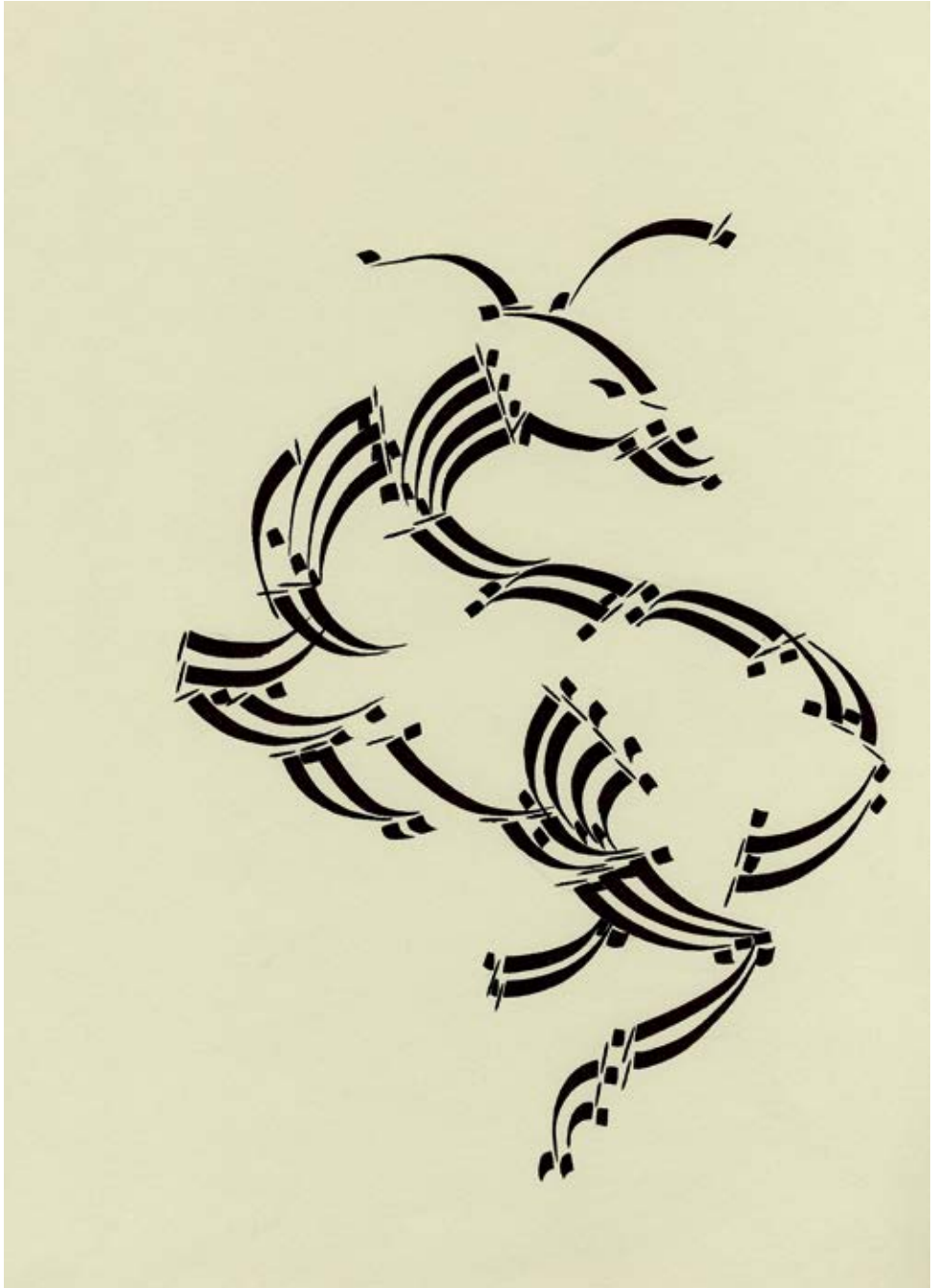
PERSIAN FOR BEGINNERS

PERSIAN FOR BEGINNERS IS A SERIES OF CALLIGRAPHIC DRAWINGS THAT I MADE IN 1997, WHEN I WAS A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN-BASED ARTIST COLLECTIVE, FAHRRAD HALLE. DURING THE FIVE YEARS THAT I WORKED WITH MY GERMAN COLLEAGUES IN THIS GROUP I BEGAN TO DELINEATE MY ARTISTIC TERRITORY AND INCREASINGLY BECAME THE "IRANIAN" AMONG THEM. FOR ME, THIS ENFORCED ETHNICAL IDENTIFICATION WAS A CHALLENGE, ACCOMPANIED BY FEELINGS OF AFFILIATION AND STRANGENESS. I HAVE TRIED TO DISTILL THIS AMBIGUITY IN MY WORK, TURNING IT INTO A SOURCE OF CREATIVITY. LOOKING BACK, I WOULD SAY THAT *PERSIAN FOR BEGINNERS* INSTANTLY HIGHLIGHTED MY DESIRE FOR CORDIAL UNDERSTANDING.

FOROUHAR HAS WRITTEN TWO AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL BOOKS, ONE IN PERSIAN, *IN THE NAME OF IRAN; DARIUSH AND PARVANEH FOROUHAR* (2012); AND THE OTHER IN GERMAN, *DAS LAND: IN DEM MEINE ELTERN UMGEBRACHT WURDEN: LIEBESERKLÄRUNG AN DEN IRAN* (A DECLARATION OF LOVE FOR MY COUNTRY; HERDER VERLAG, 2011).

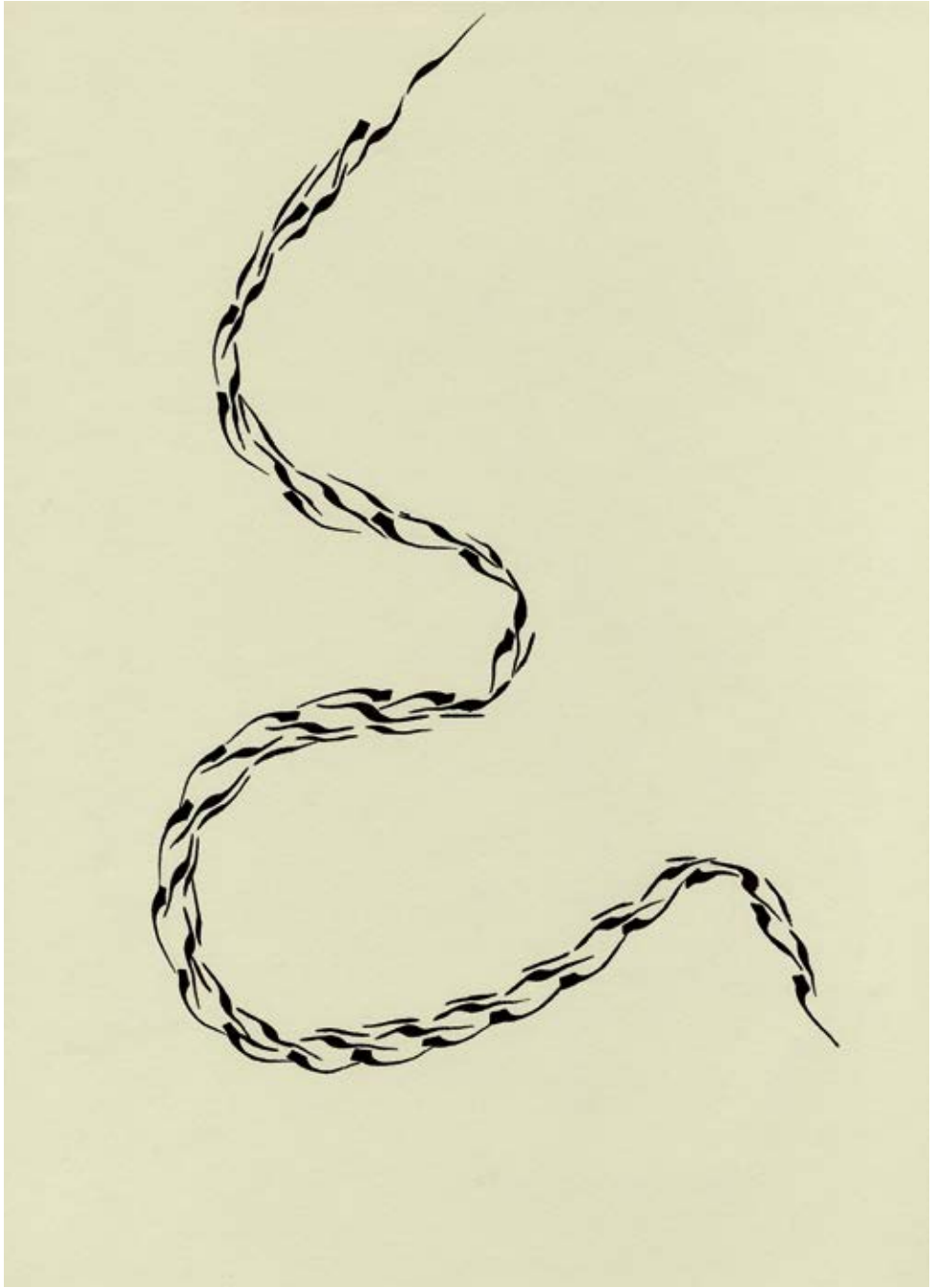
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CONTEMPORARY ART FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND IRAN

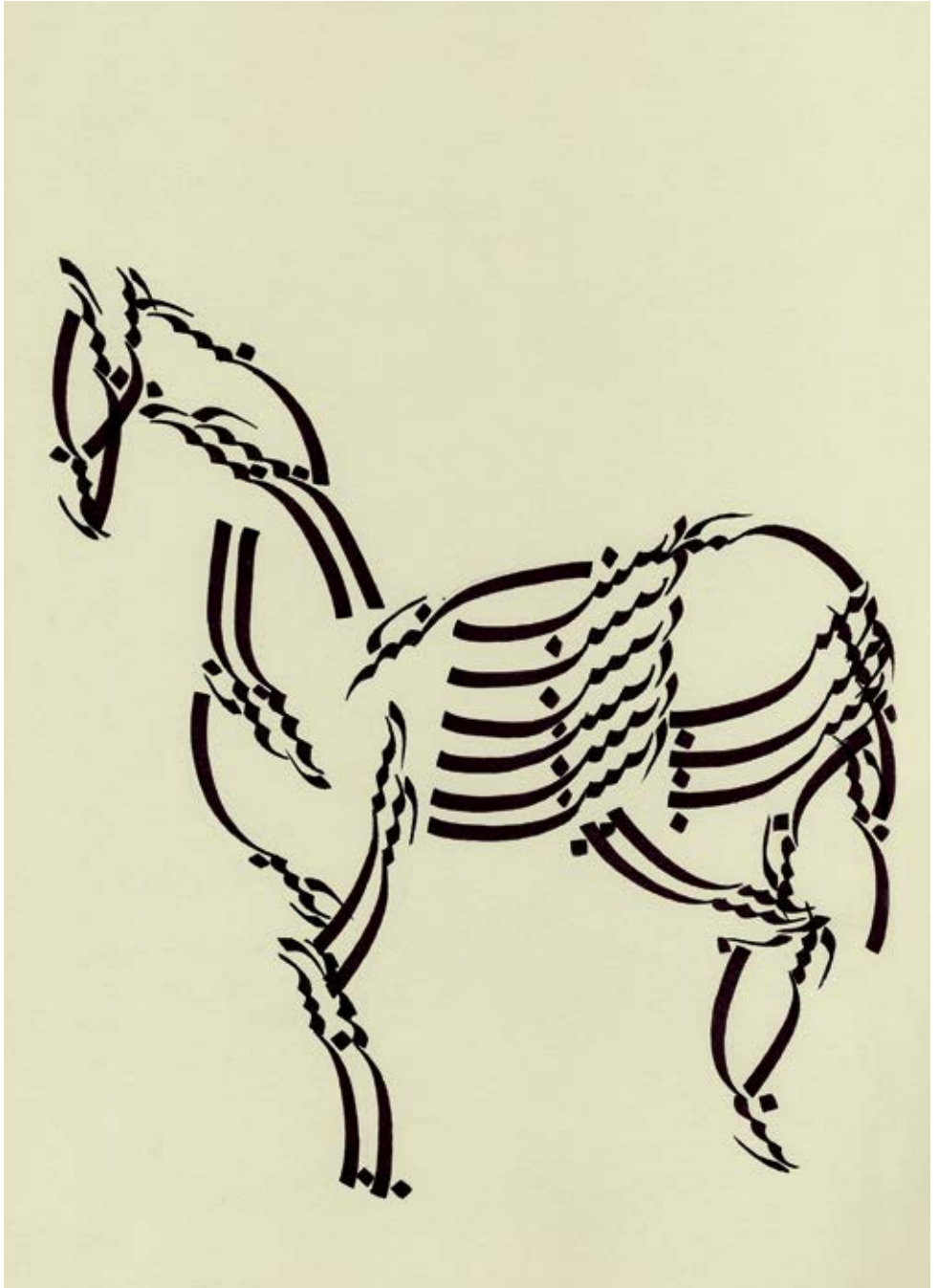


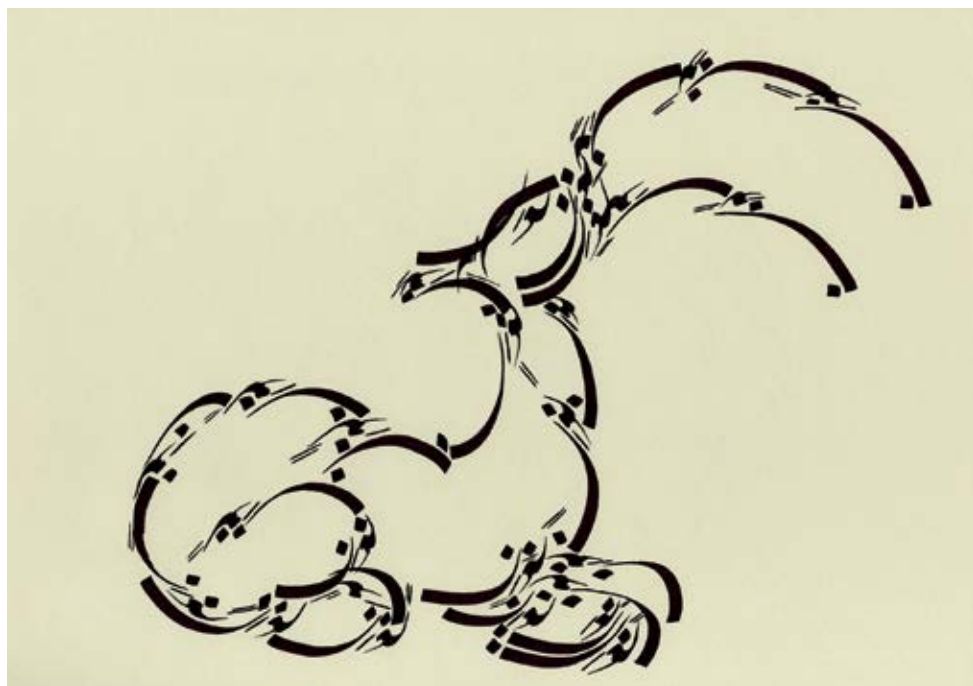






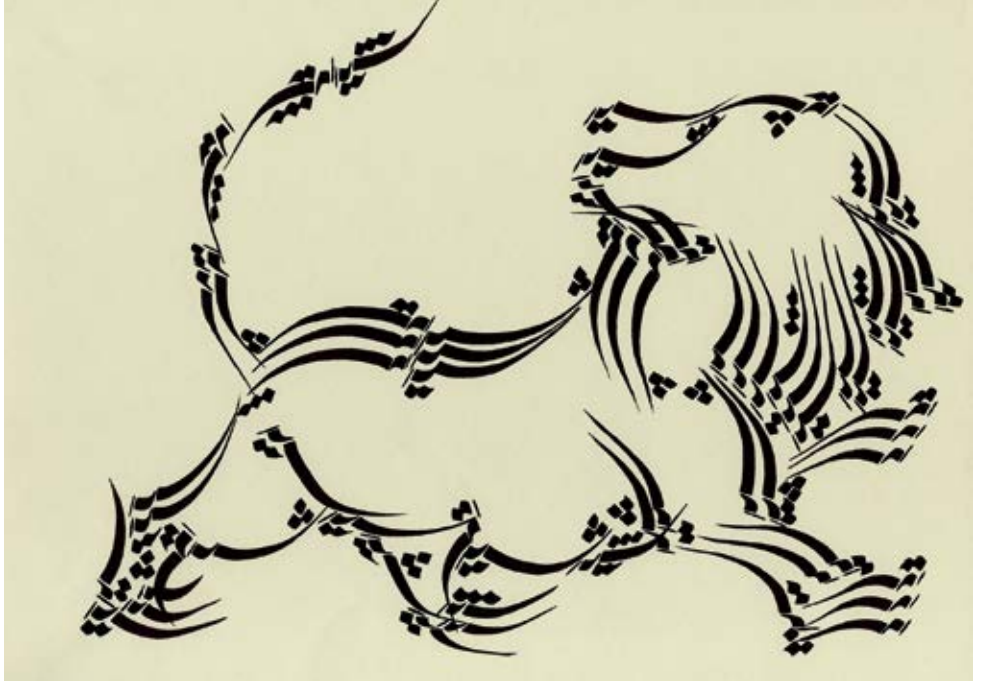
Kerm/Worm











BIOGRAPHY

Photographer, installation- and multi-media artist Parastou Forouhar was born in 1962 in Teheran, received her BA in Art from the University of Tehran (1990), and since 1991 has lived in Germany, where she received an MA from the Hochschule für Gestaltung, Offenbach am Main.

Forouhar's most recent solo shows include "Written Room" at the Fondazione Merz, Turin (2011); "He Kills Me, He Kills Me Not", Karin Sachs Gallery, Munich (2011); "Parastou Forouhar" curated by Rose Issa Projects at Leighton House Museum, London (2010); "Links of Violence", Orgelfabrik, Karlsruhe (2009); "I Surrender", Azad Gallery, Tehran (2009); "Parade", Kunsthalle Vierseithof, Lückenwalde (2008); "Just A Minute", Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome (2007); "Spielmannszüge" ("Marching Bands"), Forum of the Dominican Monastery, Frankfurt (2005); "Parastou Forouhar", Deutscher Dom, Berlin (2005); "Tausendundein Tag" ("1001 Days"), the National Gallery Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, (2003); "Schuhe ausziehen" ("Take Off Your Shoes"), Gallery de Ligt, Frankfurt (2002); and "Blind Spot", Exhibition Hall Schulstrasse 1A, Frankfurt/M and Stavanger Cultural Centre, Norway (2001-2).

In 2012 she took part in the group shows "Killing" ("Toeten"), Kunstpalas, Erlangen; "The Elephant in the Dark", Devi Foundation, Dehli; "Feminist and ...", The Mattress Factory Art Museum, Pittsburgh; and "Fertile Crescent", Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey. Other recent group shows include "Political Patterns", IFA Gallery, Berlin and Stuttgart (2011); "Ornamental Structures", Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken (2011); "The Ornamental Gesture", Kuenstlerhaus, Dortmund (2011); "Zendegi: 12 Contemporary Iranian Artists", Beirut Exhibition Center (2011); and "Die Macht des Ornaments", Belvedere Museum, Vienna (2009).

In 2012 she took part in the 7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery, and she has also participated in the Asian Art Biennial in Taiwan (2011) and the Biennials of Istanbul (2007), Berlin (2001) and Busan, South Korea (2004). Her work is in the permanent collection of the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Belvedere Museum, Vienna; Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe; Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt; and the art collections of Deutsche Bank and the German Parliament.