

THE
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA



ZAHRA NAZARI

2015 International Artist-
in-Residence
Maison des Artistes
from Hamadan, Islamic
Republic of Iran



Zahra Nazari was born in Iran in 1985. She received her BFA from the School of Art & Architecture in Tabriz, Iran and in 2015 her MFA in Painting/Drawing at the State University of New York, New Paltz, NY.

Growing up in Iran, Nazari was highly influenced by visits to the ruins of ancient sites. Her subsequent move to America brought about a series of paintings that merge ancient and modern architectural forms with floating, collapsing and shifting environments.

“My interest is in spatial ambiguity and transformation and I use architectural forms as metaphors for the complicated feelings brought about by the abrupt cultural changes that have influenced my life.”

During her Residency in New London, CT, Nazari often found inspiration in the long walks she took along the City streets and the waterfront of the Thames River. This inspiration was translated into strong, sweeping brushstrokes, alternating with a subtle and sometimes soft complexity of color and detail. Nazari worked on paper, canvas and for the first time - aluminum flashing that she shaped and molded to achieve a more intensified three dimensional effect.

Creating a vibrant and bold body of work while she explored the complication of viewing three dimensional buildings on a two dimensional surface, Nazari was able to capture reflected surfaces representing both the interior and exterior of buildings and her own emotions.