

# Paris Asian Art Fair Asia Now at Monnaie de Paris

**Roya Khadjavi Projects** brings together works by six Iranian artists Dana Nehdaran, Atieh Sohrabi, Farsad Labbauf, Negin Mahzoun and The Safarani Sisters (Bahareh and Farzaneh). Working in a multitude of mediums, these figurative artists, address social and political issues which have challenged their generation from the past to the contemporary moment. Their subjects are sophisticated, and their visual vocabulary laced with metaphor and satire. Through their works, they explore the sense of self and identity, investigate social and cultural trauma, address historical and western influences that have derailed the political and economic direction of their country, causing fear and anxiety and an intense feeling of claustrophobia. All artists have migrated to the US to escape the oppressive and damaging environment they grew up in.

October 20-22, 2023 preview on October 19 at Monnaie de Paris, 11 quai de Conti



# ROYA KHADJAVI

**Roya Khadjavi** is an independent curator and cultural producer based in New York. She has largely focused on the work of young Iranian artists working both in Iran and beyond its borders, seeking not only to support their artistic endeavors but to also facilitate awareness and cultural dialogue between artistic communities.

Since 2008, she has actively led exhibition committee efforts around the art of the Middle East for institutions including the Guggenheim Museum and the Asia Society, where she sat on the steering committee of the critically acclaimed exhibit Iran Modern (2013). Khadjavi co-founded the Institute of International Education's Iran Opportunities Fund and served as president of the board of New York based non-profit Art in General. For her pioneering efforts to advance, support, and promote international education, she has been honored with the Women's Global Leadership Award by the Institute of International Education and an Order of Academic Palms (Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques) by the French Minister of Education.



**Farsad Labbauf** is a multidisciplinary Iranian artist living and working in the New York area. Best known for his linear figurative paintings, Labbauf immigrated to the United States at the age of thirteen. After enrolling in Rhode Island School of Design in 1982, he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts, followed by a second degree in Industrial Design. The origins of Labbauf's work lie in Figurative Expressionism, a style he practiced for more than two decades leading to the creation of his linear figurative painting style. Subject matters in his work have ranged from explorations of personal and cultural history through portraiture, battlefields, narratives of Iranian oil industry and its history of exploitation in addition to the role of western animation and iconography in altering paths of existing psychosocial systems. His works have been featured in more than sixty group shows across the globe, including the Saatchi Gallery in London, Leslie Lohman Museum in New York, Ex Aurum Museum in Pescara, Italy, as well as The Jersey City Museum in New Jersey. Additionally, he has held solo exhibitions in New York, Boston, Amsterdam and Tehran. Labbauf's work can be found in numerous public and private collections including The Salsali Museum, The Afkhami Collection, The Saatchi Gallery and The Newark Museum of Art as well as Carsten de Boer and Lie Sang Bong art collections. His work is currently represented by Roya Khadjavi Projects in New York and Etemad Gallery in Iran.

### Education

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI Bachelor of Industrial Design1987Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Bachelor of Fine Arts1982-86

### Solo Exhibitions

| 2021 | Revisiting Fragments & Entities, Roya Khadjavi Projects, High Line Nine gallery, New York, NY |
|------|---|
| 2018 | From my East to your West, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY                                  |
| 2012 | Beyond the Veil, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY  |
| 2011 | Still Waters, Amstel Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands                                      |
| 2010 | Manifestation of Unity, Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran   |
| 2007 | 12 Esfahanis, Niavaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2005 | 12 Esfahanis, Museum of Contemporary Art, Esfahan, Iran                                       |

- 2005 12 Esfahanis (Drawings & Photos), Art Center Gallery, Esfahan, Iran
- 1993 Beyond Flesh, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA
- 1991 Vocabulary of Faith, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA

## Group Exhibitions

- 2020 Self-Reflection, Roya Khadjavi Projects, High Line Nine gallery, New York, NY
  2020 Works on Paper, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2018 Group Show, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2017 Self-Reimagined, Harold Lemmerman Gallery, NJ City University, NJ

- 2016 Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 Blue Gold, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2015 A Postcard from Persia, Galerie Huit, Hong Kong
- 2015 Perception, Summer Hall, Edinburgh, UK
- 2014 Portraits & Reflections by Iranian Artists, Rogue Space, New York, NY
- 2014 Black Gold, Shirin Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 In the Name of the Rose, Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 Summer group show, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 Heroes & Villains, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 In Portrait, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 My Superhero, Morono Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 My Superhero, Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 IRAN DiVERSO: Black or White?" EX AURUM Museum, Pescara, Italy
- 2010 IRAN DiVERSO" Black or White?" Verso Artcontemporanea Gallery, Turin, Italy
- 2010 In & Out, Project B Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2009 Unveiled, Saatchi Gallery, London, England
- 2009 Group Show, Lital Mehr Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 Leslie Lohman Museum, New York, NY
- 2006 The Zip Tie Project, Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ
- 2004 Jersey (New), Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ
- 2003 Group Show, Gallery @ 49, New York, NY
- 2002 Group Show, Monique Goldstrom Gallery, New York, NY
- 2001 Body Language, Leslie Lohman Museum, New York, NY

## Collections

Newark Museum, Newark, NJ Museum of Contemporary Art, Esfahan, Iran Saatchi Gallery, London, England Salsali Museum, Dubai, UAE The Afkhami Collection of Contemporary Iranian Art, Dubai, UAE Walt Disney Corporation, Orlando, FL Lie Sang Bong Collection, Seoul, South Korea Carstens de Boer Art Collection, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Proskauer Rose, Newark, NJ Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Lowey, New York, NY LAAL Collection - Tehran, Iran College Health Care Corporation, Zwolle, The Netherlands

### Media Appearance

- 2016 'Artist Documentary' LeFilm TV February 2016
- 2014 Sahar TV Interview May 2014
- 2011 Voice of America TV March 2011
- 2010 Seda va Simayah Iran Radio March 2010
- 2008 99.5 FM Radio Tahrir July 2008

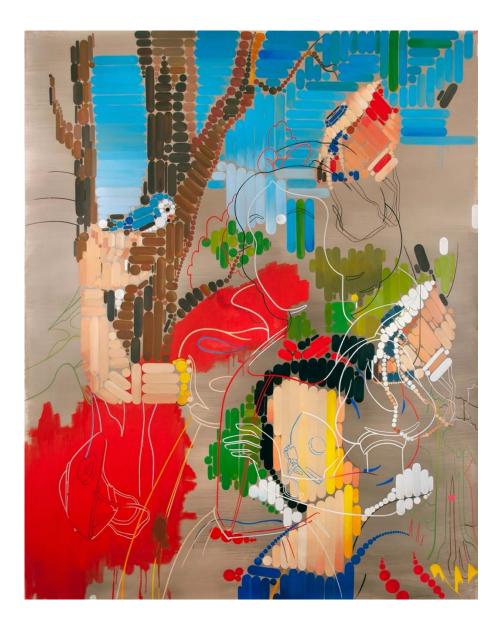
### Residencies + Artist Talks

| 2023 | Artist in residence, Siena Art Institute, Siena, Italy             |
|------|--|
| 2022 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Asia Society, New York, NY             |
| 2021 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Roya Khadjavi Projects, High Line Nine |
|      | Gallery, New York, NY  |
| 2016 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ    |
| 2014 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Rogue Space, New York, NY              |
| 2012 | Linear Portraits, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ              |
| 2012 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran            |
| 2012 | Artist Talk & Presentation, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY      |

Reviews + Selected Bibliography

| 2021 | Revisiting Fragments & Entities Monograph, Essay by Jim Elkins, New |
|------|---|
|      | York, NY  |
| 2021 | Revisiting Fragments & Entities Monograph, Essay by Rebecca Ann     |
|      | Proctor, New York, NY   |

| 2017 | 'Honar, The Afkhami Collection of Contemp. Iranian Art, Phaidon Press,  |
|------|---|
|      | London, England   |
| 2017 | Moments (Book Cover), Lie Sang Bong, Seoul, Korea                       |
| 2016 | Studio, Architecture and Urbanism Magazine (issue #10), Milan, Italy    |
| 2012 | Insights Textbook / National Geographic Publication by Cengage          |
|      | Learning  |
| 2010 | Tandis Magazine, Tehran, Iran (March/Esfand Edition)                    |
| 2009 | Look Again - Essay by Lisa Farjam, Unveiled Exhibition Catalog, London, |
|      | England   |
| 2009 | The Archive Journal, Leslie Lohman Gallery, New York, NY (Summer        |
|      | Edition)  |
| 2008 | Ettelaat Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (January 1st, 2008)                    |
| 2007 | Ettelaat Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 24th, 2007)                  |
| 2007 | Kaenat Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 22nd, 2007)                    |
| 2007 | Mardom-Sawlauri Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 22nd, 2007)           |
| 2007 | Iran Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 22nd, 2007)                      |
| 2007 | Aftab Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 22nd, 2007)                     |
| 2007 | Ebtekar Newspaper, Tehran, Iran (November 22nd, 2007)                   |
| 2005 | Visual Arts Magazine, Tehran, Iran (August Edition)                     |
| 2005 | Esfahan Newspaper, Esfahan, Iran - (August 30th)                        |
|      |   |



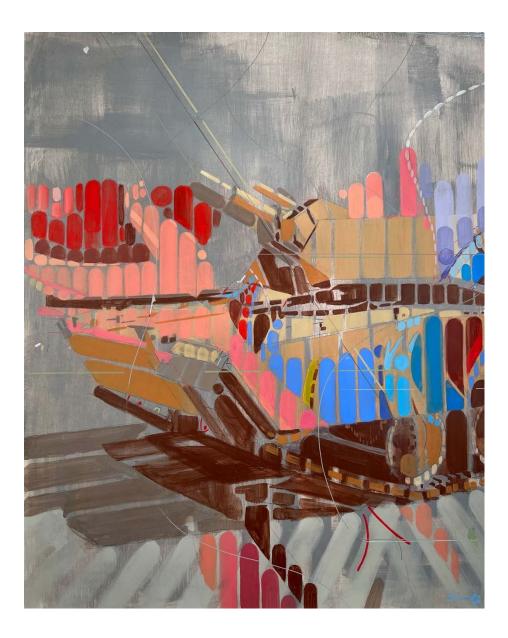
Silent song rumination Acrylic on paper, 2023 24 x 19 inches



The end of the time Acrylic on paper, 2023 24 x 19 inches



The Price of Everything Acrylic on paper, 2023 24 x 19 inches



The sum of everything minus some Acrylic on paper, 2023 24 x 19 inches



**Negin Mahzoun** is an artist based in New York. Her practice focuses on observation, memory, and gender. She explores these issues through her personal experiences and cultural identity. Negin looks at the woman's body as an object and subject with the perspective of self-portrait and layers of history and literature. She uses images in miniature paintings as a reference for self-portraits. In addition, she expresses her work through sculptures, installations, paintings, prints, photography, and textile. In her current practice, she uses sewing, which connects her to her family's professional heritage. Textile has been historically used as a surreptitious tool to depict trauma and transmit intimate emotional and psychological visual narratives. Investigating the consequences of social-cultural trauma and its injurious impact on the body and psyche has been a central core of Negin's practice. Stitching and sewing for Negin are the essential elements to bond her sentiments and materials to convey remembrance through the hands, craft, and textiles. She starts with a self-portrait on the fabric and proceeds to stitch repeatedly until the image fades. The repetitive act of damaging the self-portrait with a needle and simultaneously covering it is a metaphor for selfdestruction often associated with those suffering from trauma.

Negin uses textile as a medium of communicating trauma, with a fresh approach, to visualize the story of oppression and share the trauma as a novel treatment.

#### Education

| 2020 | MFA in Studio Art, The City College of New York, CUNY, New York, USA   |
|------|--|
| 2011 | BA in Visual Communication, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, |
|      | Iran.  |

### Exhibitions

| 0000 | NALA (NATIons Income Ant Esta) Devis IZIonalisti Dustante NATionalisti Italia |  |
|------|---|--|
| 2023 | MIA (Milan Image Art Fair) Roya Khadjavi Projects, Milan, Italy.              |  |
| 2020 |   |  |
|      |   |  |

- 2022 I Shouted My Laughter to The Stars, Aicon Gallery, New York, NY
- 2022 Here and Now, Bladr Art Platform, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 X Exhibition Room, Maltfabriken, Ebeltpft, Denmark
- 2020 My Very Favorite Things, The Lodge Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2020 A Thousand Canaries, Fall Silent in My Throat, Goethals Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019 Presence, Absence, Compton Goethals Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019 Haft Paykar, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 Episode 01, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2015 Little Romance, Meem Cafe Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 6th Tehran International Biennale of Illustration, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 Art for Peace, Vista Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 Aria Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 Noghte Art Gallery, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Noghte Art Gallery, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran

#### Honors and Awards

- 2021 City Artist Corps Grant, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York, USA
  2020 Connor Award Scholarship, The City College of New York, New York,
- 2020 Connor Award Scholarship, The City College of New York, New York, USA

- 2019 Connor Award Scholarship Second Place, The City College of New York, New York, USA
- 2019 Therese McCabe Ralston Connor Merit Award, The City College of New York, New York, USA
- 2019 Connor Award Scholarship, The City College of New York, New York, USA
- 2018 Connor Award Scholarship, The City College of New York, New York, USA
- 2011 Selected in 46th GOLDEN PEN festival, Belgrade, Serbia

## Artist Residencies

| 2022 | Maltair Residency in Ebeltoft in collaboration with Danish Art Workshop in |
|------|--|
|      | Copenhagen and Kunsthal Aarhus in Aarhus, Denmark.                         |
| 2021 | Beach 64 Retreat Residency, New York, USA                                  |
| 2017 | Beach 64 Retreat Residency, New York, USA                                  |

2013 Organhus, Chongqing, China

## Professional Experience

| 2020          | Teaching Assistant, 3D wood design, The City College of New York,<br>CUNY, New York, USA            |
|---------------|---|
| 2016-<br>2020 | Design Consultant, Kooshk Artist Residency, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2016          | Program Coordinator, 2nd Rybon International Workshop, Tehran, Iran                                 |
| 2016          | Project Manager, Deegar Platform, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2015          | Program Coordinator, Screening of Art21's Documentary Film Series by Rybon Art Center, Tehran, Iran |
| 2014-<br>2016 | Program Coordinator, Kooshk Artist Residency, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2012          | Program Coordinator, 1st Rybon International Workshop, Tehran, Iran                                 |

2011- Program Coordinator, Rybon Art Center, Tehran, Iran 2017

#### Presentation and Talks

- 2022 Talk, The Immigrant Artist Biennial's Patron Circle Event, Aicon Gallery, New York, NY, July 9
  2022 Talk, Maltfabriken, Ebeltoft, Denmark, April 29
  2019 Talk MFA Program the City College of New York, CUNY, New York, USA
- 2015 Talk, Rybon Art Center, Tehran, Iran, January 20
- 2013 Talk, Organhaus Art Space, Chongqing, China, May 16



Destruction Photography and textile, Canvas, Transparent paper Unique, 2023 5 × 5 inches



Destruction Photography and textile, Canvas, Black thread, Matte film Unique, 2023 5 x 5 inches



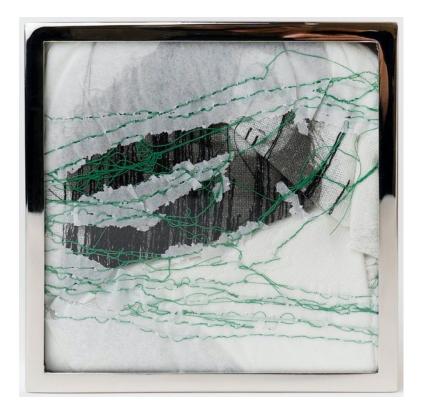
Destruction Photography and textile. Canvas, Cotton cloth Unique, 2023 5 x 5 inches



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Destruction}\\ \text{Photography and textile, Linen fabric, Black thread, Black tulle}\\ \text{Unique, 2023}\\ 10\times8 \text{ inches} \end{array}$ 



Destruction Photography and textile, Linen fabric, red thread Unique, 2023 7 × 5 inches



Destruction Photography and Textile, Linen Fabric, Black and White, Black Tule Unique, 2023 5.1/4 x 5.1/4 inches



Destruction Photography and Textile, Linen Fabric, Black and White, Black Tule Unique, 2023 5.1/4 x 5.1/4 inches



Destruction Photography and Textile, Linen Fabric, Black and White, Black Tule Unique, 2023 5.1/4 x 5.1/4 inches



Destruction Photography and textile, Linen fabric, green thread Unique, 2023  $10 \times 8$  inches



Dana Nehdaran is an Iranian American artist who studied painting at the Soureh Art University in Shiraz. Prior to his BA in painting, Dana spent 2 years studying rug design in Isfahan, arguably the rug capital of the world. His family, home, and culture have provided continual fodder for his work. While living in Tehran, his series of Esther's Children, a show of figurative oils capturing images of Iranian Jews from the late nineteenth century was shown to wide acclaim, with the series now being in both private and public collections. In addition to his figurative work, he has developed several abstract series, including Fe26, focusing on the materials of iron, copper, silver, and gold while manipulating their oxidation for art. Of the more than ten series Dana has created all focus on two primary themes: (1) tension between past and present; and (2) concealment and revelation. Both of these themes are present in every moment and culture as the tension between each is the genesis of the conversation of understanding. He has had 6 solo exhibitions and more than 50 group exhibitions worldwide, including Roya Khadjavi projects in New York and by galleries in Tehran, Dubai, Los Angeles, and New Orleans. He has also been a member of the Iranian Painter Association since 2007 and currently lives and works in New York.

## Education

| 2007 | BA Painting, Soureh University, Shiraz, Iran   |
|------|--|
| 2002 | Associate degree, Carpet design, Isfahan, Iran |

#### Solo Exhibitions

| 2022           | A Preservation of Light, Spillman Blackwell Gallery, New Orleans, LA, USA          |
|----------------|--|
| 2016 –<br>2017 | Agitations of Pleasure, Shirin Gallery, Tehran, Iran                               |
| 2013           | Esther's children, Rira Gallery, Dubai, UAE  |
| 2011           | Esther's children, Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran                                |
| 2010           | My Mona Lisa, Nar Gallery, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2008           | The Inside Layers, Morteza Momayez Gallery, Iran Art Organization,<br>Tehran, Iran |

## Group Exhibitions

| 2023         | Persian Art, Ezra Gallery, Hampton, NY, USA  |
|--------------|--|
| 2023         | Summertime, Spillman Blackwell Fine Art, New Orleans, LA, USA  |
| 2023         | BRAZIL X IRAN, High Line Nine Gallery, New York, NY, USA   |
| 2020         | Self-reflection, High Line nine Gallery, New York, New York, USA   |
| 2019<br>2018 | Material Culture, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, New York, USA<br>Art Brief IV, SOMArts Culture Center, San Francisco, California, USA |
| 2018         | A Tale of Two Cities, Bonhams, Auction House, Los Angeles, California, USA   |
| 2010         | A Tala of Two Citias Kamil Art Callery Monto Carlo Monago  |

2018 A Tale of Two Cities, Kamil Art Gallery, Monte Carlo, Monaco

- 2018 The World is My Home, Advorcartsy gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2017 Art Show for a Cause, Mim Gallery, Los Angeles, Ca, USA
- 2017 Art Brief III, The (UN)DRAPED WOMAN, Arena 1, LA, Ca, USA
- 2017 The First Bayaan Art Gallery, Isfahan, Iran
- 2017 Red, Negar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2017 Perception, Fereshteh Book City Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 States of Being Abstract, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, USA
- 2016 Art Brief II: Iranian Contemporary North America, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 2016 Untitled, Smash Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2016 On Figures, Vista Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 The Young Artist, Sareban Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2014 Eraser, Shirin art center, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 History Game, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 WONDERLAND, Shokouh Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 Opening RIRA gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Jinn (painting), Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 Haft Negah (painting), Farhangsara Niavaran, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 Magic of Persia, Art Exhibition & Auction Gala, Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Iranian Contemporary Artist (painting), Middle East Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 1st Modern & Contemporary Visual Art Auction, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 Cutting Edge Artists (painting), Mellat Cinema Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 Iranian Painter Association (painting), Contemporary Arts Museum, Isfahan, Iran
- 2011 The first Tehran painting market: Barg Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 little dancer (painting), Henna Art gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Young Avant-garde (painting), Mellat Cinema Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Encyclopedia Iranica (Charity Art Exhibition), New York, USA
- 2010 Auto-portraits II, Silk Road gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Untitled (painting), Art Center, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Untitled (painting), Neel Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2009 1001 Colors (painting), Canvas Gallery, New York, USA

- 2009 Colors for the Green (painting), Mellat Cinema Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2008 Global Generation Freiburg Group Exhibition, Freiburg, Germany
- 2008 Untitled (painting), Nar Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 Photography Expo, Esteqlal hotel, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 Eternal Papers (photography), Contemporary Arts Museum, Isfahan, Iran

### Professional Experiences

| 2010 - | Graphic design for Ofogh-E-Bina Journal (Tehran Jewish Committee)    |
|--------|--|
| 2013   |  |
| 2008   | Painter for stage/set for feature film, 'The Remember', Iran         |
| 2007   | Painter for stage/set for TV series, The Forbidden Fruit, IRIB, Iran |

#### Membership

| 2007-   | Member of the Iranian Painter Association |
|---------|---|
| Present |   |

#### Competitions

| 2012 | Selected for 9th Image of the year Festival, Short Film Category for 'Last |
|------|--|
|      | Supper' Iran Art Organization, Tehran, Iran                                |
| 2011 | Selected for short list of MOP CAP, Traffic gallery, Dubai, UAE            |
| 2008 | Selected for Damoonfar Festival, Tehran, Iran                              |
| 2006 | Selected for Damoonfar Festival, Tehran, Iran                              |
|      |  |

#### Art Fairs

| 2018 | If so, what? San Francisco, CA, USA  |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2016 | Art Miami Basel, Miami, Florida, USA |

#### Biennale

2017 Venezuela, Caracas

## Museum

Salsali Private Museum, Two Pieces from Esther's Children series, Dubai, UAE

DD Art & Cultural Center, Six pieces from The Inside Layers series, My Mona Lisa series, Esther's Children series and Agitation of Pleasure series, Mazandaran, IRAN

### Awards

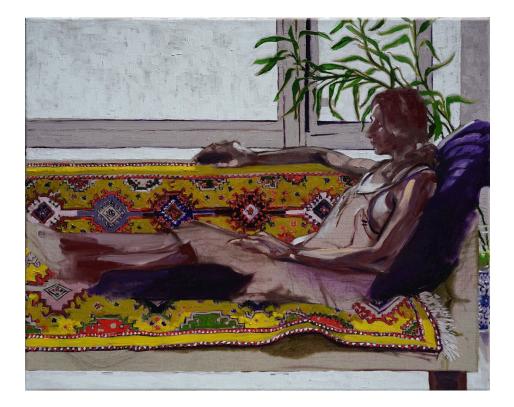
| 2004 | Winner of Special Prize in Persian New Year Photography, Isfahan, Iran   |
|------|--|
| 2003 | Winner of Special Prize in Sketching, Hafezieh Competition, Shiraz, Iran |

### Auction

| 2017 | Artnet, Advorcartsy gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA        |
|------|--|
| 2014 | Third Tehran Auction, Parsian Azadi Hotel, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2013 | Second Tehran auction, Parsian Azadi Hotel, Tehran, Iran |
| 2012 | First Tehran auction, Parsian Azadi Hotel, Tehran, Iran  |



Toys Oil on linen, 2023 36 x 60 inches 91.44 x152 Polyptych



Forough Oil on linen, 2022 30 x 24 inches



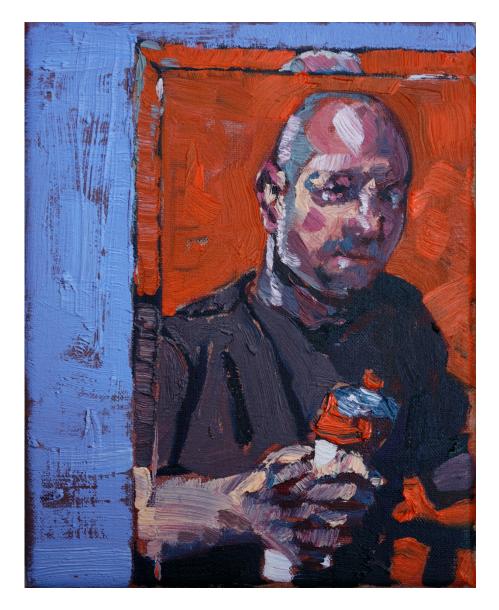
Parmida Oil on linen,2022 30 x 24 inches



Self Portrait I Oil on linen, 2023 10 x 8 inches



Self Portrait II Oil on linen, 2023 10 x 8 inches



Self Portrait III Oil on linen, 2023 10 x 8 inches



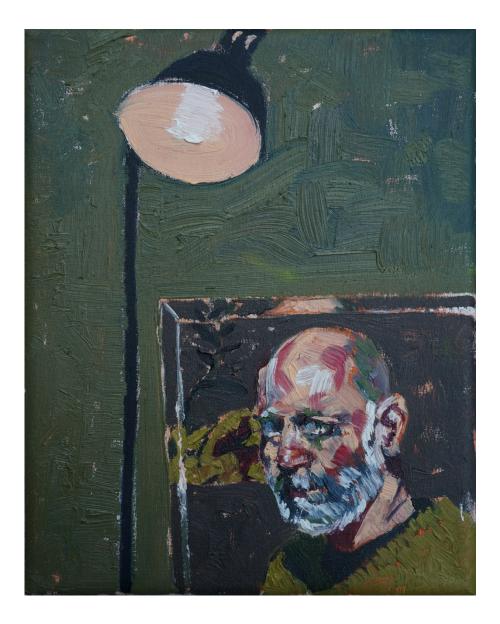
Self Portrait IIII Oil on linen, 2023 10x 8 inches

# DANA NEHDARAN



Self Portrait V Oil on linen, 2023 10 x 8 inches

# DANA NEHDARAN



Self Portrait IV Oil on linen, 2023 10 x 8 inches

# DANA NEHDARAN



Newsha 1 Oil on linen, 2023 8 x 48 inches each 18 x 24 inches diptych



# SAFARANI SISTERS

Twin sisters Farzaneh and Bahareh Safarani (born in Tehran, Iran; 1990) work together in collaboration to create their striking paintings and videos. The two sisters make dramatic compositions of themselves as the subjects to explore to sense of self in relation to the other. The Safarani sisters choose to incorporate themes and symbols in their work. A major theme that the sisters address is one of identity-as twins, as individuals, and as Iranian women. Furthermore, the sisters usually depict interior scenes that serve as a haven for the women, with the walls and empty spaces acting as a barrier between themselves and the outside world. Common features found in these rooms are mirrors and windows with curtains. The mirrors symbolize how the subjects self-reflect and envision themselves in other worlds or realities, while the half- drawn curtains represent how the women hesitate to make full contact with the outside world. However, any breeze or light that comes through the windows represent the hope that the real world is free, peaceful, and safe, like their walls. With their combination of videos and paintings, and themes of identity and beauty, the Safarani sisters explain that through their art, "we are creating a beautiful moment which remains in the mind of the viewer...this moment is temporary-it comes and goes, just as our lives in this world."

#### Education

| Northeastern University & School of the Museum of Fine Arts                       | 2014–2016 |
|---|-----------|
| Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art   |           |
| College of Art, Media, & Design   |           |
| University of Tehran  | 2009–2013 |
| Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting   |           |
| Department of Painting and Sculpture, School of Visual Arts, College of Fine Arts |           |

#### Exhibitions

| 2023         | Mural (Video -Painting) at Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio   |
|--------------|--|
| 2023         | Asia Now, Art Fair, Art exhibition and performance art, Paris, France  |
| 2022         | Asia Now, Art Fair, Paris France   |
| 2021         | Solo Painting Exhibition, Morris Museum, NJ  |
| 2021<br>2020 | Solo Painting Exhibition, High Line Nine Galleries, New York, NY<br>Solo Painting Exhibition, Adelson Cavalier Gallery, Palm Beach, FL |
| 2019         | "Puppet Dance" Installation of Video-Painting, Illuminus Boston, Boston,<br>MA   |
| 2019         | "Metamorphic Cinema" Installation of a Large-Scale, Painting, Short-Film,<br>Burning man, Black Rock City, Nevada.                     |
| 2019         | Group Painting Exhibition, Adelson Cavalier Gallery, Palm Beach, FL  |
| 2018         | "Reincarnation", Solo Exhibition, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, NY  |
| 2018         | "Robotic Womb" Installation, Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV  |
| 2018         | "Sanctuary" Solo Exhibition, Amalgam, Boston, MA   |
| 2017         | Summer Action, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA   |
| 2017         | "The Salon" a Group Exhibition of Contemporary Women Artists, Peabody<br>Essex Museum, Salam, MA                                       |
| 2017         | "Parallax Art Fair", London, UK  |
| 2017         | "Work by Pairs" a Group Exhibition, Distillery Gallery, Boston, MA   |

- 2016 Solo Painting and Video Exhibition, Gallery 360 Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- 2016 Solo Painting Exhibition, Adelson Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2016 Boston Biennial 4, Prize winner, Atlantic Works Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2016 "Dualism" a Group Exhibition, Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2016 "Neither Here nor There" Group exhibition, Yuan Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2016 Panelist in Paramount, Main Stage, New England Graduate Media Symposium, Boston, MA
- 2015 Artcetera Auction, Boston, MA.
- 2015 Group Painting Exhibition, Erbaluce, Mostra II, Boston, MA
- 2015 Group Art exhibition, Piano Craft Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2014 Group Painting Exhibition, The Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA
- 2013 Solo Painting Exhibition, Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2013 Group Painting Exhibition, Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 Solo Painting Exhibition and Performance, Art and Culture Center of the German Embassy in Iran, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Solo Painting Exhibition and Installations, Mehrin Gallery, Tehran, Iran

#### Video Screening and Performance

| 2023<br>2022 | Interactive Installation Piece, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH<br>Video-Performance, Morris Museum, Morris Town, NJ.  |
|--------------|--|
| 2022<br>2019 | Interactive Installation Piece, Boston Calling Festival, Boston, MA<br>"Seeking" Live Performance, Iranian American Women Foundation<br>Conference, Harvard Club of Boston, Boston, MA |
| 2018         | "The Mannequin" Live Performance, Iranian American Women<br>Foundation Conference, New York University, New York, NY   |
| 2018         | "Coded Birth" Live Performance, Institute of Contemporary of Arts,<br>Boston, MA   |
| 2018<br>2018 | Nowruz Festival Live Performance, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA<br>Live Performance, Zero Community, Brooklyn, New York, NY  |
|              |  |

| 2017 | Live Performance Art, Boston Calling Music Festival   |
|------|---|
| 2017 | "The Extent" Video Performance, MMAC Theatre, Manhattan, New York, NY   |
| 2017 | "The Journey" Performance-Contemporary Opera, Distillery Gallery,<br>Boston, MA                                 |
| 2016 | "Yearning" Live Performance, Yve Yang Gallery, Boston, MA   |
| 2016 | Collaborators on "The Lost Empire", Performance by Arevik Tserunyan,<br>Museum of America, Watertown, MA        |
| 2015 | Performers in "Hello Folly", Performance by Pat Oleszko, The Floes and Cons of Arctic Drilling, ICA, Boston, MA |
| 2015 | "Cocoon" Video-Performance, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA  |
| 2012 | "Naser Palangi" Performance, Middle East Gallery, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2012 | "Hamlet" Performance, The Cinema Theater College, Tehran, Iran  |
| 2010 | "Orpheus" Performance, The University of Tehran College of Cinema-<br>Theater, Tehran, Iran                     |

#### Selected Media and News

| 2021 | AVNetwork (Review) <u>https://www.avnetwork.com/news/visual-artists-add-action-to-paintings-with-projection</u>  |
|------|--|
| 2020 | Entrepreneur (News) https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/359986  |
| 2020 | Manoto plus TV (Live Interview)  |
| 2020 | Art news (News) <u>https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/volta-2020-new-york-exhibitor-list-1202677371/</u>      |
| 2019 | WVCB (Interview) [ <u>https://www.wcvb.com/article/cityline-sunday-nov-</u><br>17-2019-illuminus-2019/29786929#] |
| 2018 | Voice of America (Interview)<br>[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaH3NeXVB38]                                    |
| 2018 | BBC Persian (Interview)<br>[https://instagram.com/p/BpfJT44BRID/october/28/2018]                                 |

| 2018 | The Brooklyn Rail (Critic) [ <u>https://brooklynrail.org/2018/11/artseen/The-</u> |
|------|---|
|      | Safarani-Sisters-Reincarnation]   |
| 2018 | C41 Magazine (Critic) [ <u>https://www.c41magazine.com/the-safarani-</u>          |
|      | sistersreincarnation/]  |
| 2018 | Manoto TV Channel (Interview)   |
|      | [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8o-fXSV24Q]                                     |
| 2018 | Global Voices (Interview)   |
|      | [https://it.globalvoices.org/2018/10/per-queste-artiste-gemelle-                  |
|      | iraniane-la-loro-collaborazione-ecome-se-una-persona-lavorasse-col-               |
|      | <u>suo-altro-io/]</u>   |
| 2018 | NPR (Interview) [https://www.wbur.org/artery/2018/01/31/iranian-twin-             |
|      | sister-artists]   |
| 2017 | The Boston Globe (Critic)   |
|      | https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/names/2017/11/30/safarani-                  |
|      | sisters-open-new-art-exhibitionnewbury-   |
|      | street/UqyEUqEaCnJj064gkIDLUO/story.html]   |
| 2016 | Artscope Magazine (Critic)  |
|      | [https://artscopemagazine.com/2016/08/safarani-sisters-at-adelson/]               |
| 2016 | Improper Bostonians (Critic)  |
|      | [https://www.improper.com/event/projecting-her/]                                  |
| 2016 | 5 Amazing Women Shaping the Boston Art Scene (News)                               |
|      | [https://www.abigailogilvy.com/blog/2016/2/6/5-amazing-women-                     |
|      | shaping-the-boston-art-scene]   |

### Recognitions and Appointments

| Present | Creative Partners at The Experience Alchemist (Creative company based in Boston)  |
|---------|---|
| Present | Adjunct Faculty of Visual Art at Northeastern University, Boston, MA  |
| 2022    | Nomination for best cinematography on 'Sanctuary of Her'' A fictional documentary on Safarani sisters' life, In Cannes Short Film Festival. |
| 2022    | Awarded for the best Artists in a documentary at NYC International Film Festival  |
| 2020    | Artwork Collection, "Dancing around the bed 1", "Dancing around the bed 2", "Dancing around the bed 3", Morris Museum, Morris Town, NJ      |

| 2019    | Visual Arts and Dramatic Arts Teacher, Baghche (a non-profit Iranian organization for children), Brookline, MA                  |
|---------|---|
| 2018    | Artwork Collection, "Twilight Reincarnation", Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA   |
| 2017    | Artwork Collection, "Asleep", a Video Painting (featured in numerous presses), The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA              |
| 2016    | Outstanding Artist Member, The Copley Society of Arts (America's oldest non-profit art association founded in 1879), Boston, MA |
| 2015    | Outstanding Intellectual Contribution to the Graduate Community, Northeastern University, Boston, MA                            |
| 2015-16 | Workshop Leader, College of Art Media and Design, Northeastern<br>University  |

# **SAFARANI SISTERS**



Untangled 1 Oil color on canvas and video projection, 2023 30 x 40 inches

# **SAFARANI SISTERS**



Untangled 2 Oil color on canvas and video projection, 2023 30 x 40 inches



Atieh Sohrabi was born (1976) and raised in Tehran, and currently living in New York City, freelance Illustrator and Artist, Atieh Sohrabi, started her carrier in 2001 by choosing Industrial Design as her major in Azad Art University. As she became more familiar with the art world, she decided to switch to a new path in illustrations. She moved from Tehran to New York in 2015.

Atieh's books have been selected by different exhibitions and museums around the world; for instance, Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava, Biennale of Illustration Golden Pen Belgrade, 24<sup>th</sup> BIB Exhibition in Hiratsuka Art Museum, Kawara Museum of Takahama City Chiba City Museum of Art, Ashikaga Museum of Art, Urawa Art Museum in Japan, The Tehran International Biennale Illustration, and LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum). In 2020, her paintings were curated by Roya khadjavi in two group shows which were held in Highline gallery, New York, and five pieces of the show were selected by Communication Arts Magazine, and she achieved the 2022 Award of Excellence. She was selected by Meta Platforms, Inc (IG&FB) as a Persian artist to create stickers for celebrating Nowruz (Persian new year) in 2022. One of her pieces is included in the "Women Defining Women in Contemporary Art of the Middle East and Beyond" Group show, curated by Linda Komaroff in LACMA museum in 2023.

#### Education

Bachelor of Fine Art – Industrial Design, Azad University of Art and Architecture, Tehran, Iran 2000

#### Professional experiences

Graphic Designer and Illustrator- Pardis for children, Inc., New York, NY-2016-Present

Illustrator Graphic Designer Developed Web design and advertise for websites. Installation Design for events

Freelance Illustrator 2002-Present

Illustrated for children's book, magazines such as The Medium Magazine, NPR Podcasts Codeswitch and Zocalo public square.

#### Exhibitions

| 2023 | Women Defining Women, Linda Kamaroff, LACMA Museum, LA  |
|------|---|
| 2022 | Asia Now fair, Roya Khadjavi Project, Paris.  |
| 2022 | Volta Art fair, Roya khadjavi Projects, NY  |
| 2020 | Painting Group show "Memories, Tales and the Folk songs" curated by Roya Khadjavi Projects on Highline Nine Gallery, NY |

| 2020 | Painting Group show "Self Portrait" curated by Roya Khadjavi Projects on Highline Nine Gallery, NY   |
|------|--|
| 2019 | Painting Exhibition on White Wall Space gallery, NY  |
| 2016 | Society of Illustrators of NYC, Illustrators 59, Illustrations of "Me and The Big Apple"   |
| 2015 | Exhibition of "New Pictures from Iran" in Denmark 24 <sup>th</sup> BIB<br>Exhibition in Bratislava   |
| 2013 | The 6 <sup>TH</sup> Tehran International Biennale Illustration, Iran   |
| 2014 | 24 <sup>th</sup> BIB Exhibition in Hiratsuka Art Museum, Kawara Museum of<br>Takahama City Chiba City Museum of Art, Ashikaga Museum of Art,<br>Urawa Art Museum in Japan. |
| 2014 | Exhibition of "Anarestan" Children's Book Illustration from Iran in International Youth Library, Munich, Germany   |
| 2012 | Frappant Gallery, Exhibition of Iranian Illustration, Homburg,<br>Germany  |
| 2010 | The $13^{TH}$ Salam Book Festival for Illustration, Iran   |
| 2009 | Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava   |
| 2009 | Biennale of Illustration Golden Pen Belgrade   |
| 2009 | The 12 <sup>™</sup> Salam Book Festival for Illustration, Iran   |
| 2008 | Au Dtorio Muricapal Augusto Ca Brita, Barriero, Italy  |
| 2008 | The 13 <sup>™</sup> Children and Young Adult Festival, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adult, Iran  |
| 2007 | Biennale of Illustration Golden Pen Belgrade   |
| 2007 | The 11 <sup>™</sup> Salam Book Festival for Illustration, Iran   |
| 2007 | The First Police Festival of Illustration, Iran  |
| 2006 | Noma Concours, Japan   |
| 2005 | Biennale of Illustration Golden Pen Belgrade   |
| 2005 | Biennale of Illustration Golden Pen Belgrade The 200 <sup>™</sup> Birthday of Hans Christian Anderson Exhibition, Children's Book Council of Iran                          |
|      |  |

| 2005 | The second Festival of Illustration of Educational Books, Iran       |
|------|--|
| 2003 | Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava                                 |
| 2002 | The 5 <sup>th</sup> Tehran International Biennale Illustration, Iran |

#### Awards

| 2022 | Award of Excellence, Communication Arts, CA, U.S. A                               |
|------|---|
| 2015 | The Diploma of Honor, Children's Book Council of Iran (IBBY), Iran                |
| 2013 | The Diploma of Honor, The 6 <sup>th</sup> Tehran International Biennial           |
|      | Illustration, Iran  |
| 2010 | The Diploma of Honor, The 13th Salam Book Festival, Iran                          |
| 2009 | The Diploma of Honor, The 12th Salam Book Festival, Iran                          |
| 2008 | The Diploma of Honor, The 13th Children and Young Adult Book                      |
|      | Festival, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and              |
|      | Young and Adult, Iran   |
| 2007 | The Diploma of Honor, The 11 <sup>th</sup> Salam Book Festival, Iran              |
| 2007 | The First Prize, The First Police Festival of Illustration, Iran                  |
| 2006 | The Runner-up Prize, Noma Concours, Japan   |
| 2005 | The Diploma of Honor, 200th Birthday of Hans Christian Anderson                   |
|      | Children Book Council of Iran   |
| 2005 | The Diploma of Honor, The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Festival of Illustration of Educational |
|      | Books, Iran   |
| 2002 | The First Prize for the first book, The 5th Tehran International Biennial         |
|      | Illustration, Iran  |

## Professional Development

| 2011 | Illustration workshop for "Marco Polo Calendar", Italian Embassy, Iran |
|------|--|
| 2008 | Illustration workshop with Alessandra Cimatoribus, Italian, Embassy,   |
|      | Iran   |
| 2007 | Illustration workshop with Patrick Benson, Magic Pencil, British       |
|      | Council, Iran  |

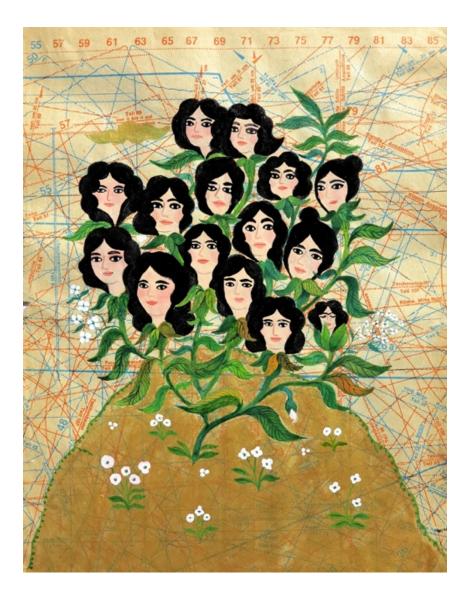
- 2007 2005 Children's Book Illustration Course with Nadia Budd and Juergen Books the Frankfurt Book Fair, Iran
- 2006 Illustration workshop with Shigeo Nishimura, The Exhibition of Noma Concours, Iran



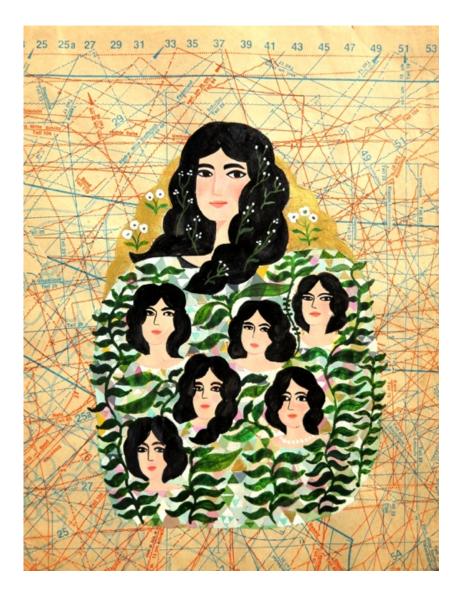
Flowers in mind Acrylic paint on sewing pattern paper,2023 8 x 10.5 inches unframed



l'm like you. Acrylic paint on sewing pattern paper, 2023 8 x10.5 inches unframed



Blooming buds. Acrylic paint on sewing pattern paper, 2023 8 x 10.5 inches unframed



Together Acrylic paint on sewing pattern paper, 2023 8 x 10.5 inches unframed



Acrylic paint on paper, 2023 8.5 x 10 inches



Await Acrylic paint on paper, 2023 8.5 x 10 inches

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