



باوان Bavan

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SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 01, 2023

BOOTH T8-43

KASIMPAŞA, TERSANE İSTANBUL, HALIÇ CAMII KEBİR MAHALLESİ TAŞKIZAK, TERSANE CD.
NO:5, 34440 BEYOĞLU/İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

TEXT BY **ASHKAN ZAHRAEI**

COORDINATORS AT BAVAN GALLERY: **SADEGH AMANI, KOROUGH ARIABOD, SHAMIM BAKHSHIZADEH, BASHIR BALOUCH, MERCEDEH GHORBANIAN AND ZAHRA ZAREPOOR**

SPECIAL THANKS TO: **SINAN HATIPOGLU, MONA MORTAZAVI AND HADIS SAFAEI**

At the 18th edition of Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair, Tehran-based Bavan Gallery presents a selection of works by 18 Iranian artists. The works on view explore the human body through a multitude of perspectives, metaphors and symbolic representations. Using a diverse set of expressions, approaches and techniques, the artists have sought to amplify the presence of the human body within different contexts.

The booth features a piece by **Kamran Diba**, one of the pioneering figures in Iranian architecture and visual arts, from his celebrated "Global News Narratives" series. In "On-The-Line", the artist shrewdly intertwines lines that appear like text columns with the lines in a tennis match, as well as the seemingly-irrelevant lines of news.

In **Mehrdad Afsari's** photography from his "Past Continuous" series, the body takes multiple shapes and morphs into a plethora of organic forms. In the work presented at the booth, a rose bud is both personified and becomes a relic from a past time and place, flowing into the present.

Samaneh Abri's paintings portray a mythological time and space. Often depicting natural environments, her compositions combine landscapes with fiction and fantasy. Her ethereal imagery hints at a pre-human time and a less-devastated earth.

Maryam Amirvaghefi's diverse artistic practice combines a wide variety of materials, expressions, styles and techniques to create paintings and collages as chronicles of her reactions, recalls, thoughts and their evolution. Both through her creative processes and final compositions, she studies and explores such subjects as gender, how it is perceived, and how it affects socio-political issues.

Leila Ghandchi's paintings often present the viewer with a fragile situation amidst evolution and breaking. By using a plethora of materials and techniques, she stands within a blurry line between familiarization and defamiliarization. Her compositions study such moments to express how we perceive crises, life and death, loss and hope.

In **Zahra Ghyasi's** paintings, the world is depicted as a fragmented yet stretched-out image. The transformations and illusions she creates are rooted in her studies of human pleasure, sexuality identity, and perception of self within history.

Ahoo Hamedi takes a spontaneous approach to painting, reacting to her inner and outer inputs through fragile yet determined watercolor and ink paintings. Her work is often autobiographical and directly inspired by her personal experiences.

Mehrdad Jafari's diary-like collages and paintings create pieces that chronicle his life, experiences and encounters. Over the years, his work has evolved into a unique style and expression, taking in whatever he appropriates as part of his practice, themes and subject matter.

Shabnam Jahanshahi's work combines drawing, Persian Miniature, medieval European imagery, modern photography, contemporary media representation and classical portraiture. Her pieces can be seen as multi-faceted commentaries on issues related to gender and identity within her society.

Laleh Memarardestani has been focused on drawing and printmaking for many years, creating pieces that appear like organic forms and depictions that are inspired by plant life as well as every experience. Taking a meditative approach, she seeks to use minimalistic expressions to emphasize a deep contemplative effect.

Adena Mirzakhani's paintings induce motion, stillness and suspense to portray a rendition of time, sequence and memory. By using repetition and creating patterns that vary only slightly, her work generates rhythm and depth, taking the viewer to look at her subject through different angles.

In the work of **Roghayeh Najdi**, the human body is often depicted like photo negatives within a void, taking away some of its spatiotemporal qualities, identity and sense of belonging, filling up the context with her signature flowers that breathe life and hope.

Pooneh Oshidari creates landscapes that resemble to her an image of 'home' as a safe yet ephemeral place or concept. By using a diversity of techniques with a special focus on mono printing, she distances herself from the final image, as if hinting at the unattainability of her landscapes.

In her three-dimensional work, **Mahshid Roshan Tabar** has sought to focus on the very essence of her materials, creating a spiritual connection to the base soil and clay as well as simple forms that come together as complicated webs as they multiply.

The intricate drawings of **Payam Qelichy** explore human pain and suffering within a chaotic realm. In his detailed works, he aims to expose paradoxes and under-layers of hopelessness in human understanding and perception, and contrast these with how we are under the illusion to create an ideal world.

The paintings of **Sanam Sayehafkan** depict dream states, illusions and visions. They appear to give hints about an event, a narrative or a plot, yet fluidly escape the grasp of the onlooker. By using contrasty, sharp hues and acute lines in her compositions, her imagery seems to defy the boundaries of natural forces and border into fantasy and imagination.

Mahsa Tehrani's panoramic paintings simultaneously present a grand narrative and delve into its deeper micro-narratives. By laying expansive grounds, her compositions host multiple scenarios, situations, times and sequences, bordering along remembrance and forgetfulness, knowledge and loss, life and death, presence and absence, desire and aversion.

By exploring the relationships of objects within the kitchen, their configurations, uses and contextualizing within a painterly world, **Minoo Yalshorabi** obsessively yet playfully studies motion, cause and effect, bodies, human intervention, historically-assigned gender roles and identities, as well as light and shadow.

SAMANEH ABRI

(born 1992, Tehran, Iran) graduated from Art & Architecture University of Tehran central branch. She states: "I look at nature and I see an invisible correlation which connect all human being together." Abri's artistic talent flourished in both painting and sculpture. The main factors of Samaneh's paintings are earth, mountains and plants. In a nutshell, nature elements. Its language is somehow traditional but she has the ability to give this language a brand new and updated accent. Her paintings are neither a simple image of the world that we see, nor an image of an ideal world. What she demonstrates are momentary visions of unique perspectives which can be just achieved by the power of imagination. In the "Earth before mankind" collection, she is looking for a flowing and mysterious image of nature which signs of its continuous demolition and internal power of the earth can be felt. The power that reminds us the mortality and instability of humankind. Abri lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Germination", 2023
Oil on canvas
40 x 50 cm

MEHRDAD AFSARI

(born 1977, Khoy, Iran) is a photographer, video artist, Filmmaker, professor and Publisher who lives and works in Tehran. He has received his BFA in Photography in 2000 and his MFA in Photography from Tehran University of Art in 2006. He has been teaching at Tehran University of Art for 20 years. He is an honorary member of the Iranian Visual Arts Society since 2002. Afsari has held 16 exhibitions and auctions and taken part in more than 100 shows such as Venice Biennial in Italy, Paris Photo in France, and exhibited his work in Queens Museum of Art in the USA, The Reina Sofia Museum in Spain, Georgia Museum of Art, and University of Westminster in London. Afsari won the first prize at the 10th photography Biennial in Tehran Museum of contemporary Art. He was the grant winner at "1 sq. Mile Project", Visiting Art, art institution in London, UK and "Art Bridge" Program International arts & artists in New York, USA. Afsari has been also the jury member, lecturer and curator of numerous national and international festivals and exhibitions. His works have been published in numerous domestic . Afsari lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"A rose bud photographed inside a house located at 16 Azar St., Enghelab St., Tehran on the night of September 19th, 2022." from the "Past Continuous" series, 2023
Inkjet print on Epson photo paper
210 x 210 cm

MARYAM AMIRVAGHEFI

(born 1989, Tehran, Iran). Amiravghafi's works are the mixed media medium of painting, video art, and sculpture pieces. She graduated from University of Arkansas School of Art with an MFA. She completed her BFA at the Sooreh Art University, Tehran, Iran in 2013.

She is currently working at the University of Arkansas School of Art as an Assistant Director of Exhibitions and Instructor. She has had group shows in Iran, South Korea, United Kingdom and USA. Her works have been published in n+1 Magazine, Dovtain Magazine, Al-Tiba Magazine, New Media Art 2019, CICA Museum, WOTISART Art Magazine, Studio Visit magazine, and Average Art Magazine. Amirvaghefi lives and works in Arkansas, USA.



"Hot Hyacinths & Cool Candles", 2021
Oil pastel on paper
25.5 x 19 cm



"In the Last Day of March". 2021
Oil pastel on paper
25.5 x 19 cm

KAMRAN DIBA

A prominent Iranian artist, and architect, was born in Tehran in 1937. He studied architecture at Harvard University in Washington, D.C. from 1995 to 1998 and then completed a graduate course in sociology. After returning to Iran in 1345, in a period of a little more than a decade, he created valuable architectural works which are among the greatest works of modern Iranian architecture. Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, Niavaran Cultural Center, Shafaq Park, and Parviz Tanavoli's residential house are just some of Diba's lasting achievements in architecture. Diba's architecture is based on unique cultural insight and visual sensibility with a focus on improving the social and biological context. The "New Shushtar Town" project, which won the Agha Khan Architecture Award in 1986, is a globally admired work of architecture and urban planning.

Kamran Diba's visual art practice began in the 1960s when he started painting and at the same time was one of the pioneers of multimedia art in Iran. "Prodigal Waterman" (1967) in Seihon Gallery, Tehran, was an installation composed of various media including painting, writing, and sound, which is considered among the first examples of multimedia art and exhibitions in Iran. Some of his paintings from the period are kept in the collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts. After the exile, Diba led a cosmopolitan life and made the cities of London, Cairo, Paris, Washington, and finally Malaga (Spain) his home, while he continuously painted alongside his professional work as an architect. Later, Diba's works were gradually exhibited in Tehran, including in Av Gallery (2007), Mah Gallery (2010), and Aran Gallery (2014). This is just a small part of his visual works during these years.

A number of aesthetic strategies might be observed in Kamran Diba's artistic periods. He has interacted with various artistic movements such as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Nouveau Réalisme, and Conceptual Art. The synthetic, multimedia, and collage-based approach that was present in his early works still constitutes his fundamental artistic strategy. Social and political measures appear implicitly in his work, while his knowledge of the history of art and the evolution of the Modern form plays the main role in his visual structures.

Herald Monde PAIS 星島日報



"On-the-line" from the "Global News - Narratives" series, 2011
Acrylic on canvas
142 × 132 cm

LEILA GHANDCHI

(born 1982, Tehran, Iran) is a PhD candidate in Teaching German as a Foreign Language at Azad University in Tehran, Iran. Ghandchi studied painting under the tutelage of Manouchehr Motabar, a well-known Iranian painter, in addition to serving as his teaching assistant from 2000 to 2004. Her paintings cover a wide variety of themes. In her early works, social subjects played an important role. From there, she began to concentrate on the complex relation between human crisis and the mind. Having embarked on her professional career in 2011, she held her first solo exhibition in 2014 with Aaran Art Gallery and her second solo exhibition in Etemad Art Gallery in 2020. During these years, she has also taken part in numerous group exhibitions. Ghandchi utilizes different materials and various symbols, from rhythmic gymnasts to ancient fossils, in order to express her curious thoughts and depict them. These materials and symbols grant her works the possibility to demonstrate fragility and elegance. In the last few years, she has primarily focused on representing the intriguing function of perception and the way it deals with crises, especially those happening in the Middle East, and other human subjects such as life and death, all in her own unique and personal way. Ghandchi lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Untitled", 2023
Acrylic and thread on paper
78 x 106 cm

ZAHRA GHYASI

(born 1981, Urmia, Iran) has a BSc in Computer Hardware Engineering as well as an MBA degree. She started her career as a visual artist in 2010. Zahra depicts the world around her in terms of the gaps that exist in reality. She reflects human concepts such as pleasure, history, sexual identity by depicting the forms of nature that are sometimes deformed and transformed. She has held 5 solo shows in Iran and China and her works have been included in several group shows. Besides her field of specialty, i.e., painting, she has curated several exhibitions. She has also translated and published articles and books on philosophy and art. Zahra Ghyasi lives and works in Tehran.



"Blind love" from the "Venus; Where the sun rises in west and sets in east" series, 2022
Oil on canvas
150 x 100 cm

AHOO HAMEDI

(born 1981, Tehran, Iran) received her BA in painting in 2005. Her first solo exhibition was held in 2007, and since then her works were shown in 10 Solo Exhibitions in Iran, UAEi, Switzerland and Canada. The most recent of which was "Red Dude" in Homa Art Gallery. She has participated in more than 30 group exhibitions domestically and internationally.

Her style is characterized by a striking method that includes watercolor and plexiglass, resulting in her one-of-a-kind artworks. With all the ascendings and descendings on the life path, she is depicting what she is experiencing around her. Hamedy lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Untitled" from the "Woman" series, 2023
Ink on fabric
90 x 75 cm

MEHRDAD JAFARI

(born 1984, Mazandaran, Iran) graduated from Shiraz University with a BA in Handicrafts in 2008. Jafari translates the loss of reflection in humans into his mostly morbid illustrations. In his work, anthropomorphic creatures consume themselves and others in eerie yet sensual compositions. One can see these collections of drawings and objects as his diaries; everything that Jafari encounters is translated into an illustrative style wherein anthropomorphic figures play the main characters, at times it even is the artist himself portrayed.

In order to break free from the bitterness and failure of everyday life, Jafari invents an imaginative world in which he experiences the freedom to create without ever compromising the truth. Jafari is intrigued by the fast consumption of society and the wastefulness that characterizes this. He sees possibilities and poetry in discarded objects and the memories those objects hold. Through art, Jafari reimagines concepts, conventions, and existence, finding a new definition through analysis and internalization. Jafari lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Untitled", 2022
Ink, watercolor, acrylic on paper
56 x 36 cm

SHABNAM JAHANSHAH

(born 1984, Tehran, Iran) holds a bachelor's degree in painting from Al-Zahra University and a master's degree in painting from the Art University of Isfahan. Jahanshahi often works with the medium of drawing and embroidery, and she pays special attention to portraiture. In her series of artworks, Jahanshahi generally deals with the issues concerning gender and identity. Jahanshahi lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Untitled" from the "Where is the sun?" series, 2023
Oil on canvas
70 x 50 cm

LALEH MEMARARDESTANI

(born 1972, Tehran, Iran) received a diploma in graphic design from a vocational school and continued this artistic field in college, completing a BA in Graphics (Visual Communication) at Azad University.

Her experience and understanding of life were different from her peers from an early age. Her intrinsic drive to explore nature, smell plants, and touch the surroundings trained her to be more sensitive and innovative. Her main concern has always been relations between humans from the viewpoint of family and society.

Memarardestani views contemporary art as visual and communication media and mainly focuses on drawing and printmaking with ideas - not principles - as the main axis. She has always sought to understand the meaning of life and because of a personal interest in plants and studying commonalities between plants and humans, she has discovered aspects that are beyond what casual eyes can spot. Using her painting instinct, she makes drawings meaningful before the eyes of the audience as an independent media.

Memarardestani has a special interest in daily life not as a sort of repetitive action but as an endless trend of the passage of time and its effects on the individuality of people. She seeks to preserve her individuality and achieve a personal language with this viewpoint. Eliminating excessive visual features, she has gained a simplicity that she uses in the daily challenges of life. Memarardestani lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Untitled", 2023
Mixed media on coated paper
70 x 50 cm

ADENA MIRZAKHANIAN

(born 1987, Tehran, Iran) holds a bachelor's and master's degree in painting from Tehran University of Art. She has had several group shows and has worked in painting, printing, and collage mediums. In her collages, Mirzakhonian depicts crowded and suspenseful spaces. Using mass-produced materials, the artist asks the audience to explore and search within the different layers of the work. By adding and removing these disposable materials in a long process, she creates a new medium out of the found objects. In her paintings, she mostly plays with the concept of "time" and shapes her works by cutting and putting images together again in a new context. Mirzakhonian lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Summer Dreams", 2023
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm

ROGHAYEH NAJDI

(born 1982, Tabriz, Iran) has studied as a contemporary painter both in Istanbul, Turkey, and Tehran, Iran. Najdi had begun her career as an artist in 2004. Her works have been shown in numerous exhibitions in different places like Iran, Turkey, Australia, Netherlands, and Belgium.

Najdi uses color and composition to portray layers of time and relativity. Flowers are some of the most prominent elements in her paintings alluding to hope, feminism, and ephemerality of human life, which are the main focuses of her artworks. One of her signature techniques is converting her subjects into negative not only to strip them of identity but also to break all bounds with any specific time and location. She aspires to convey the depth of human emotions and their relenting fortitude and steadfastness by addressing current social issues regarding her home country of Iran. Najdi lives and works in Tabriz, Iran.



"Mirrors and Windows", 2023
Oil on canvas
120 x 90 cm

POONEH OSHIDARI

(born 1984, Tehran, Iran) has received her BFA in Graphic Design in 2006 and her MFA in Illustration in 2010 from the Tehran University of Art. Oshidari is mostly concentrated on painting and drawing. "Time" is the essence of Oshidari's recent works; both in terms of the conceptualization and in the development and presentation. Her professional career began in 2007 by participating in Iran's 7th Painting Biennial and holding her first solo exhibition at Honar Gallery in Tehran. During 12 years her works were exhibited in 10 solo exhibitions in Iran, France, Clermont, USA and Kuwait. She has participated in more than 90 group exhibitions, festivals, art residencies and art fairs around the world. Viewpoint on her paintings was influenced by her background in graphic design. The content of her present works has roots in 2011 when she started researches on Persian myths, and later, references to the nature became more prominent in her works. The first project that influenced her works was a distant collaboration with Art Deco in Paris to illustrate topics related to culture as well as stories that took place in Tehran and Paris. Other important contribution was participation in Rybon International Artists' residency 2012. Oshidari lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Far from home" from the "Motherland" series, 2023
Monotype (oil and ink) on paper
100 x 72 cm

PAYAM QELICHY

(born 1993, Arak, Iran) has Diploma in Graphic Design As well as BFA in Painting that he has received from the Tehran University of Art. Qelichy works generally revolves around human concerns. He puts human exposure to pains and suffering of life in the centrality of his artworks. He believes that the human with the illusion of his mind tries to deny the reality of pain in a life time. Qelichy try to shows false sense of spirituality by creating chaotic and dramatic atmosphere in his artworks. His paintings make a surreal combination between the influences of art history and the world we live in. Qelichy lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"Jack of the hearts and the mass of cowards", 2023
Pencil on paper
70 x 50 cm

MAHSHID ROSHAN TABAR

(born 1984, Tehran Iran) received her BA in Visual Arts. She is a member of the Pottery Artists Association. Roshan Tabar is a sculptor who creates multipliable forms from the soil, and gives special attention to the spiritual aspect of things and tries to materialize things that are not visible. She creates her works by multiplying a simple form infinitely and placing them in stable and unstable states. While confronted with Roshan Tabar's works, which can be touched, the viewer is faced with a playful and active atmosphere. Roshan Tabar lives and works in Karaj, Iran.



"Pretense", 2023
Ceramic, paper mache and fabric
17.5 x 17.5 x 16 cm

SANAM SAYEHAFKAN

(born 1989, Rasht, Iran) Sayehafkan creates an atmosphere full of illusions and dreams. It seems that the elements are placed next to each other to convey a concept, element complements the other in an incredibly way but the more accurate you become, you will not come to any definite meaning. It seems the painter with amazing sharp colors and lines wants the audience to travel deep into her artwork and let them decide the end of this journey. Sayehafkan lives and works in Tehran, Iran.



"The End of Summer", 2023
Oil on canvas
150 x 200 cm

MAHSA TEHRANI

(born 1983, Tehran, Iran) is a narrative artist, However, she doesn't follow a straight path of storytelling and avoid applying particular or familiar forms and symbols that may give away the meaning and story within her paintings very easily. Tehrani creates her very own framework of imaginary world with no particular border and geography. Her paintings make a surreal combination between the influences of art history and the world we live in. Tehrani deliberately fails to meet the standard expectations of form and content in order to get an emotional response from the audience, a reaction that can be a mixture of dislike and desire. A precarious and ambiguous situation on the border of life and death, both familiar and unfamiliar, both absent and present. Like the mysterious subconscious. She has been looking to romanticism during creating these works, consciously and away from retrogression, in order to take Advantage of its features, with all of her knowledge about modernism, post modernism and conceptual art. Tehrani lives and works in Tehran.



"The bird and flowers", 2023

Oil on canvas
170 x 200 cm

MINOO YALSOHRABI

(born 1992, Tabriz, Iran) is a graduate of Tehran University of Art (MA, Painting) and Tabriz Azad University (BA, Graphic Design). Her work explores the configurations and relationships between food and objects within the context of meal preparation and the kitchen, obsessively yet playfully studying motion, cause and effect, bodies, human intervention and light. She lives and works in Tabriz, Iran.



"A Way to Garnish", 2022
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 x 50 cm