

Mehdi Farhadian

b. 1980 Tehran

Summary -

Mehdi Farhadian's paintings effectively integrate abstract and figurative features to create dreamlike, visually stunning landscapes and city views, inhabited by people and animals commonly engaged in enigmatic acts. His personal style fuses realistic, expressive and fictional narratives, providing a potent vehicle for his highly personal subject matters, which typically demonstrate his deep concern for Iranian contemporary history. This historical approach addresses political highlights and the everyday life experienced collectively. His characteristic iconography originates from sources such as the overflowing vegetation of the Khazar bank in Northern Iran, famous Iranian buildings, and recent historical figures. It is this orchestrated variety that makes up Farhadian's entirely subjective original imagery.

His style of painting combines a great respect for details with a powerful handling of contrasting visual effects achieved by pouring and dripping paint. By combining abstract and expressive techniques, his meticulous skill and particular subject matter have saved him a distinctive place in Iranian contemporary painting.

Mehdi Farhadian lives in an old, historically charged neighborhood in Tehran where he was born in 1980. He received his MA in painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran. Since 2010, he has taught painting and drawing at Elm o Farhang University, (Science and Culture), Tehran. Select exhibitions include ART CAPITAL (Comparison), Grand Palais, 2016, Paris (France); The Great Game, Iran Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia 2015, Venice (Italy); Magic of Persia, Royal College of Arts, 2011, London (UK); and Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Museum, 2009, New York. In 2017 Farhadian had a residency with the Delfina Foundation in London. His work is in the permanent collection of the British Museum, among other institutions.



Education -

2008

MA, Tehran University, Tehran

2005

BA, Tehran University, Tehran

Solo Exhibitions -



2018

Parade Square, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York

2016

Sanctums of Decision, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York

2014

Fires & Flowers, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran

2013

A Miracle for the Whole World, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai

2011

BAHARESTAN, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran

2009

Untitled, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran

Group Exhibitions -

2016

ART CAPITAL (Comparison), Grand Palais, Paris

2015

Iran Art Now!, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf

The Great Game, Iran pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice

2012

The Sea, XVA Gallery, Dubai



2011

Magic of Persia, Royal College of Arts, London

Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2010

Landscape, Aaran Gallery, Tehran

To Paint Cinema, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran

2009

In the Mood for Paper, F2 Gallery, Beijing

Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Museum, New York

Iran on Paper, The Last 10 Years (from Fereydoon Ave's "LAAL" collection), Aaran Gallery, Tehran

Iran/Painting/Now, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran

Iran Without Border, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris

Movers & Shakers in Contemporary Iranian Art, LTMH Gallery, New York

2007

Radical Drawing 1, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran

Radical Drawing 2, Tehran Gallery, University of Tehran, Tehran

Four Young Artists, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran

Song of Bulbuls (Nightingales) of the Oil Rich Regions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Isfahan, Iran

2005

Selected Contemporary Iranian Realist & Hyperrealist Art, Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran

Bibliography -

2014



KESHMIRSHEKAN, Hamid. Contemporary Iranian Art: New Perspectives. London: Saqi Books, 2014

GRIGOR, Talin. Contemporary Iranian Art: From the Street to the Studio. London: Reaktion Books, 2014

2011

HOMAYOUN EISLER, Maryam. Canvas, Vol. 7: April 2011

2010

KAMRANI, Behnam. "The Territory of Multicolour Fears: A Look At Mehdi Farhadian's Work." Art Tomorrow: Contemporary Art Quarterly, No. 2, Summer 2010

EIGNER, Saeb. Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World and Iran. London: Merrell Publishers, 2010

2009

DOWNEY, Anthony, Hamid Keshmirshekan, and Mark Irving. Different Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art. Ed. Hossein Amirsadeghi. London: Thames & Hudson, 2009

2008

DARABI, Helia. "Beyond Nostalgia." Etemaad Newspaper, No. 1617. 17 February 2008

