



# Peace from the bottom of my art

OPERA GALLERY

Parviz TANAVOLI  
Nasrollah AFJEI  
Sadegh TABRIZI  
Wafaa BILAL  
Parastou FOROUHAR  
Amir Hossein HESHMATI  
Ghodratollah AGHELI  
Mojtaba RAMZI  
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Koorosh SHISHEGARAN  
Maryam AMINI  
Behnam KAMRANI  
Maryam SALOUR  
Hamid SARDAR-AFKHAMI  
Azadeh GHOTBI  
Iman SAFAEI  
Safaeddin EMAMI  
Shadi MAHSA  
Modjtaba TAJIK  
Majid Abbasi FARAHANI  
Mojtaba AMINI  
Amirhossein RADAIE  
Alireza JODEY  
BAHMAN  
Ladan BROUJERDI  
Mehdi ASHOORI  
Koorosh ANGALI  
Naameeh KAZEMI  
Afarin SAJEDI  
Maryam GHANBARIAN  
Ahmad MORSHEDLOO

# Peace from the bottom of my art

## FOREWORD

Mankind came into existence with a desire to pursue the gift of inner peace and tranquility. The word 'Peace' has a strong meaning, in its broad reference to hope and the subtle range of possibilities the very word connotes: everyone can render their own vision of Peace.

The universal subject of Peace has always been a source of inspiration for artists. The history of art is full of memorable artworks on this theme, such as Picasso's dove of peace created for the occasion of the Peace Movement, or Chagall's stained-glass window *La Paix ou l'Arbre de vie* in Sarrebourg's Chapelle des Cordeliers (France).

For us, real peace has to come from within and then spread outwards to one's surroundings, which is why we have decided to do an exposition on the theme of peace. This exhibition is a forum for different Iranian artists to express their inner feelings about the world, its structure and their vision of the environment where they live.

Beyond the artworks presented, the exhibition 'Peace from the bottom of my art' is an expression of everyone's dream of peace. Opera Gallery is proud to host this inspiring collection of all that Iran has to offer, and to guide you in the exploration of those 58 visions of peace.

**Gilles Dyan**  
Founder and Chairman  
Opera Gallery Group

**Jean-David Malat**  
Director  
Opera Gallery London

**Leila Varasteh & Vida Zaim**  
Curators



**Love the birds, 2013**  
Signed, dated and numbered (lower left)  
Digital print on paper, edition of 80  
89 x 76 cm - 35 x 29.9 in.

## Parviz TANAVOLI

"I replaced the hand for the whole of mankind, from within to without, for love and for peace."

Born in 1937 in Tehran, Iran.  
Upon graduating from the Brera Academy of Milan in 1959, Parviz Tanavoli taught sculpture at the Tehran College of Decorative Arts and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He then became the head of the Sculpture Department at the University of Tehran, a position he held for 18 years until retirement.  
In 2003, Tanavoli's work was exhibited in a retrospective at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and prior to that he held acclaimed exhibitions in Austria, Italy, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and numerous other countries.  
His work has been displayed at the British Museum, New York University, Isfahan City Centre, New York Metropolitan Museum, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Seoul Olympic Park, Qatar National Museum, Royal Museum of Jordan, Royal Scottish Museum...and other prestigious venues around the world.



**Hand on hand II, 2002**  
Signed (on the left hand side of the base)  
Bronze, edition of 6  
22 x 17 x 26 cm - 8.7 x 6.7 x 10.2 in.

# Nasrollah AFJEI

“The way of thy eye, battle’s deceit hat,  
(This), we knew not, and peace, we sowed.”  
HAFEZ



Born in 1933 in Tehran, Iran. For over 27 years, Nasrollah Afjei has focused on the art of calligraphy, mastering abundant techniques and experimenting a wide variety of materials. For his expertise and innovative works, he was awarded a First Degree Art Certificate by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Afjei’s work was showed in several solo exhibitions since 1973, and numerous group exhibitions. His work was also featured in several international exhibitions and festivals.

**Peace, 2013**  
Signed and dated 'Afjei 2013' and signed in Farsi (centre left)  
Acrylic on canvas  
120 x 70 cm - 47.2 x 27.6 in.

# Sadegh TABRIZI

“Making love is the most peaceful act in humans!”



Born in 1939 in Tehran, Iran. Where he still lives and works. Sadegh Tabrizi graduated from the Tehran Academy of Decorative Arts. Tabrizi worked in Iran’s Ministry of Culture till 1971, taking part at the same time in numerous exhibitions in France. In 1972 he had his first solo exhibition in France and Stockholm and since then has taken part in numerous exhibitions in Singapore, Sydney, Bologna and Switzerland. In 1997 the Hanan Museum in China acquired one of his paintings.

**Make love, 2010**  
Signed 'S. Tabrizi' (lower right corner)  
Mixed media on canvas  
240 x 70 cm - 94.5 x 27.6 in.

# Wafaa BILAL

“Embracing diversity, having respect for other cultures and having respect for human beings are three ideas at the heart of peace. World peace has to come from the acceptance of the idea of social justice, on both a macro level and a global level. If there is no social justice for individuals on the macro level, it reflects on a larger scale, on the global level, or vice versa.”

Born in 1966 in Iraq, Wafaa Bilal is an Iraqi American artist, currently an assistant professor at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He is best known for his work 'Domestic Tension', a performance piece in which he lived in a gallery for a month and was hit by paintballs remotely shot by Internet users watching from a webcam. Internationally recognised, Bilal has exhibited in over than 20 solo shows and twice as many group shows across the world. His works can be found in the public collections of The Arab Museum of Modern Art of Doha (Mathaf), Qatar; The Museum of Contemporary Photography of Chicago, USA; and The Milwaukee Art Museum, USA.



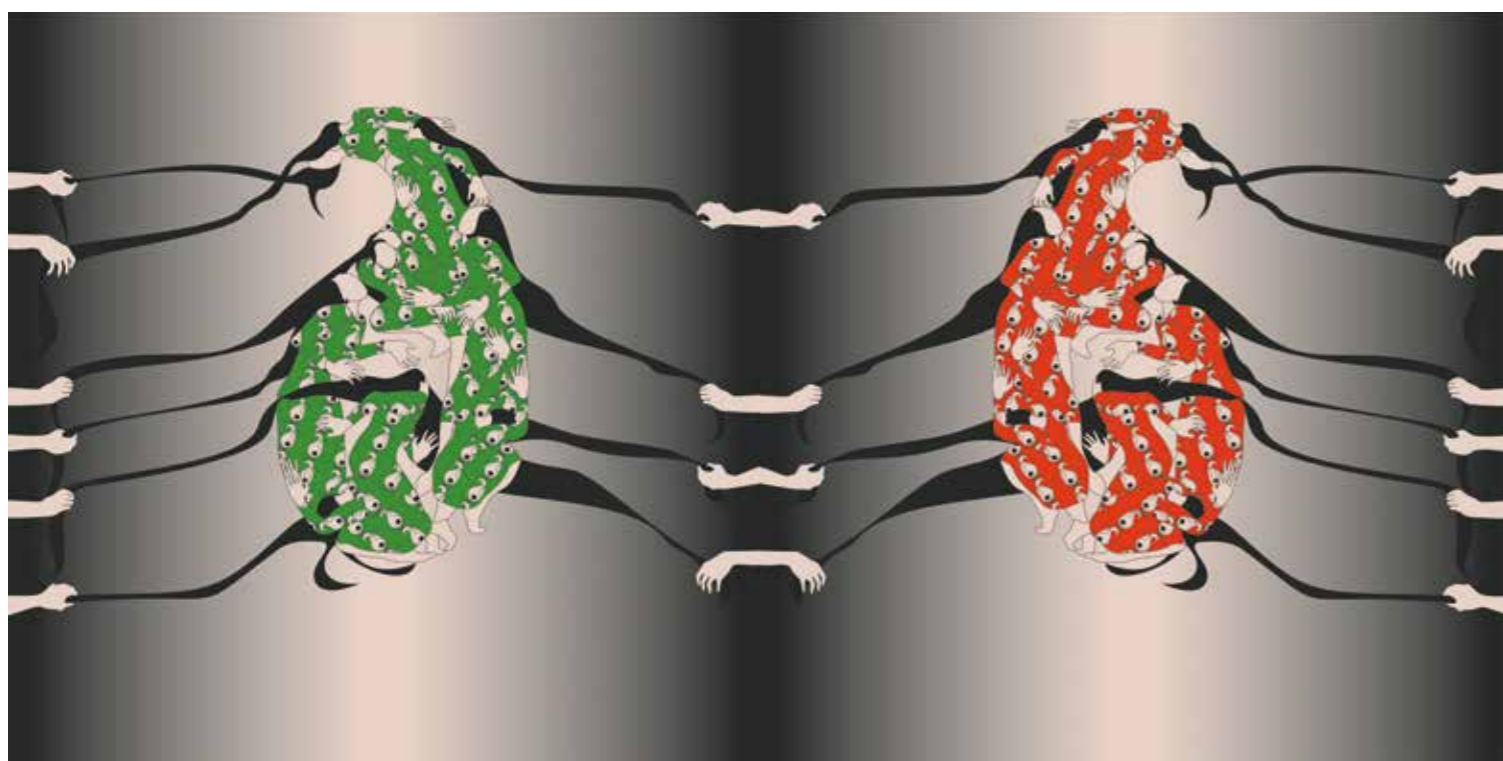
**A Call, 2012**  
Video based on performance, edition of 5  
19 minutes

# Parastou FOROUHAR

Born in 1962 in Tehran, Iran.

Parastou Forouhar has a BA in Art from the University of Tehran, Iran; and an MA from the College of Art of Offenbach, Germany. In 2007, she was in residency at Berlin's cultural Senate in Istanbul.

Her works have been exhibited, both in group and solo exhibitions, in Iran, Norway, Germany, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Turkey, Austria, among other countries.



**It hurts me, it hurts me not, 2012**

Signed (on the reverse)

Digital print on photo rag, edition of 7

Diptych: 50 x 100 cm - 19.7 x 39.4 in.

*"For a day, just for one day,  
Talk about that which disturbs no one  
And bring some peace into your  
Beautiful eyes."*

## Hafez, Persian poet, 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD

The words *solh o safa* in Farsi mean peace and goodwill in their literal translation, so it is only fit that we speak of peace, prosperity and goodwill to all men on the occasion of this intriguing and important art exhibition.

'Peace from the bottom of my art' is intended as a compilation of artworks which in their own ways represent facets of peace in Iran and the Middle East region in general. Neither of these areas have experienced much peace or prosperity in the past few decades, but there is always hope that goodwill engendered through art and culture can in some mitigating way open doors - and hearts - for people to view each other differently, to see the best in each other rather than focusing on the worst, and accentuating those sentiments.

More than 2500 years ago, Cyrus the Great, the conqueror of the known world and founder of the Achaemenid Empire, wrote: 'I have enabled all the lands to live in peace'. Upon conquering Babylon, he set about freeing subjugated peoples including the Jews, allowing the latter to return to Jerusalem and thus save Judaism. Yet today, the regional strife between Jews and Arabs, Muslims and Christians is the only act that touches daily headlines around the world.

Isn't it time we found another way, to look back at history and see the dismal failure, time and again, of religious or ideological conflicts that have come to naught?

Perhaps today, with small events, such as 'Peace from the bottom of my art', we can hope to sow the seeds of peaceful (*solh*) exchanges of ideas, and the soulful (*safa*) search for better ways of transnational communications to the betterment of all mankind.

Maryam Homayoun Eisler

# Amir Hossein HESHMATI

"If we are to create peace in our world,  
we must begin with our children."  
Mahatma GANDHI



**Children for Peace, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Matt photo paper, unique piece  
45 x 30 cm - 17.7 x 11.8 in.

Born in 1961 in Iran.  
Originally an electrical engineer  
and farmer for 25 years,  
Amir Hossein Heshmati says that he  
turned to photography because of his  
'love of nature'.  
Since 2008, he has exhibited in 6 solo  
exhibitions and 6 group exhibitions,  
including the First Modern and  
Contemporary Iranian Art Auction  
(tehranauction.com) in Tehran  
in June 2012.

# Ghodratollah AGHELI

"Once the balance between justice and peace is achieved,  
angels can be joined in union and the images of death and  
annihilation shunned."



**From the collection of Venus in the tragic land, 2012**  
Signed (next to the angel's foot and the snake)  
Bronze and glass, unique piece  
44 x 30 x 46 cm - 17.3 x 11.8 x 18.1 in.

Born in 1968 in Jolfa City, West  
Azarbaijan Province, Iran.  
Initially educated at Mirak Art School  
in Tabriz, Ghodratollah Agheli  
enrolled at the Visual Arts Centre of  
Tehran to study sculpture. With 20 solo  
exhibitions and over 55 participations  
in group shows and biennales in Iran,  
Morocco, Britain, Ukraine, Germany,  
France, Qatar, the Emirates, among  
others, Agheli has gained worldwide  
recognition as an artist. He has created  
around 40 monumental sculptures that  
can be viewed in Iran's art museums as  
well as in private collections.  
Agheli is a member of the Iranian  
Sculptor Society Board of directors  
and has created the online platform  
aimed at professional sculptors  
[www.iransculpture.ir](http://www.iransculpture.ir)

## Mojtaba RAMZI

"It is this same right that all my life with eyes gouged was looking for: Peace."

Born in 1988 in Iran.

Mojtaba Ramzi has a Master in Art in Animation as well as a BA in Painting.

His work was shown in 2 solo exhibitions in Iran, in 1992 and 2010; and in over 20 group exhibitions.

Notably, Ramzi participated in the Molavi Sculpture Exhibition at Tehran's Imam Ali Museum in 2007 and in the 1<sup>st</sup> Urban Sculpture Biennale in Tehran in 2008.

Deeply involved in New Art since 2010, he took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Recycled Art of Qazvin, Iran, in 2011 with a series entitled 'The blind owl'.



**Hoo Hoo Hagh, 2013**

Signed (on the left leg)

Bronze, unique piece

75 x 72 x 55 cm - 29.5 x 28.3 x 21.6 in.

## Manouchehr NIAZI

"In this artwork, the artist wants to invite peace to the people with the colour yellow and the flow figures running towards it."

Born in 1937 in Tabriz, Iran.

Manouchehr Niazi is a master artist who has been painting for the last 61 years.

His last collection features demolishing human crowds or figures as an indication of ever-increasing decadence and futility. He is strongly influenced by the phenomenon of 'the Arabian Spring' and the occurring incidents in the region.

The majority of his artworks are sole colour oil painting harmonies on canvas.



**Untitled, 2013**

Signed and dated 'M. Niazi 2013' (lower right corner)

Oil on canvas

150 x 100 cm - 59.1 x 39.4 in



## Peace by Piece in pieces

A bomb, sheathed in condoms, explodes in a childlike paradise. A juxtaposition as old as violence itself is recast in the cold conflicts of the current as it harnesses the metaphor of protection to illuminate the debate on Iranian nuclear intent.

Random lines etch confused, chaotic, yet strangely coherent paths on a fractured cameo of Dr. Mossadegh. Woven into the synthesis of skewed soul - a flower sits softly speechless.

Bodies lie atop burial stones carved with the scribbles of past lives, of torments ended and of happiness faded to dust. A chandelier of bullets rains down; and a baby bottle encases a bullet.

The essence of peace is the essence of simplicity and surely the definition of enlightened self-interest. And yet despite our communal history weeping centuries of brutal suffering, it remains a mirage - an elemental state that somehow eludes us. Despite endless platitudes in its name by warmongers and saints alike, its beatific face slips eternally away.

But this exhibition - indeed art itself - is forged in the crucible of complexity, of relativism - of interlocking shards of contradiction - of shades of grey that all conspire to explore our dysfunctional relationship with peace. The works in this exhibition span symbolism, geo-political metaphor, deeply personal experience, hope, despair, irony, satire and that restless aspiration that always seems to have one more horizon to cross; one more callous compromise to make.

Are justice, tolerance, compassion and harmony bestowed?  
Are they merely awaiting the discovery of a benevolent political formula? Yet another religion perhaps?  
Or must they be wrought out of their cruelest antitheses?  
Alas we are still no closer to universal understanding and it is the role of art to shade those shadows into the experience of the observed and the ambiguity of the obvious.

Perhaps it is the stark realization that there is no such thing as one peace but glimpses of an idyll that despite its darkest moments, prevails both in earthly fragments and as the flame at the very core of the human spirit. One of the flames at least.

Zahra Faridany-Akhavan PhD

## Masiha RASHEDI

“Article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights:  
Everyone has the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Person.”

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran.

Masiha Rashedi has a Diploma in Art & Design, a BA in Philosophy & Art and Cultural Management and an MA in Philosophy of Art Courses in History of Art & Art Theories.

Since 2007, his works have been exhibited in Iran, England, Austria and Dubai, and in 2010 he held a Performance entitled 'Signature for sale' at London's prestigious Tate Britain.



From **Blind Analysis series, 2011**

Signed (on the reverse)

Mixed media, Swarovski crystal on metal sheet, inscription in Braille, unique piece  
70 x 210 cm - 27.6 x 82.7 in.

# Negar VARASTEH

“Saadi, the medieval Persian poet, brought the message of peace, love and unity with his poem. One can still hear the echoes of this poem after many centuries. One becomes totally enchanted with the meaning of this message. An in depth glance into the mirrors carries one through the circle of life and into the other side of existence.”



Born in 1975 in Tehran, Iran. Negar Varasteh has a bachelor degree in Law. Her works have been exhibited around the world, including Art Dubai (2013), Icam Monaco (2013), the Henry Buhl Foundation (2012), the New York Armory Show (2012) and Tarahan Azad in Iran (2011).

**Eternally, of one essence is the human race, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse of the round mirror)  
Acrylic on mirror, unique piece  
185 x 75 x 50 cm - 72.8 x 29.5 x 19.7 in.

# Adel YOUNESI

“When wars and conflicts totally cease,  
In our world, there shall be peace.  
People must learn to get along,  
Not blame others, for being wrong.”

Born in 1985 in Hamedan, Iran. Adel Younesi's paintings have been featured in around 30 solo and group exhibitions in Iran and abroad (including London in 2009). He was awarded First Price at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Art Festival and at the 13<sup>th</sup> Iranian Visual Arts Festival.



**Camel hatred, 2013**  
Signed in Farsi (lower left corner)  
Acrylic on canvas  
Diptych: 190 x 380 cm - 74.8 x 149.6 in.

## Farzaneh HOSSEINI

"In many family, violence has entered like a cheap and available commodity in the society. This has happened gradually and sometimes we even forget that the instruments of violence have been added to every family's shopping basket. Nowadays many children and teenagers spend long hours playing violent computer games in which the goal implies more murder and destruction to win and reach the next level. Violence coming from the children permeates reaction from the governments. Placing batons in a shopping bag with the title 'Invitation to cooperate' shows the viewer that collaboration and cooperation are a better solution to make PEACE happen."



Born in 1984 in Tehran, Iran. Farzaneh Hosseini holds a BA in Painting from Alzahra University. He is an assistant of Parviz Tanavoli as well as a member of the Association of Iranian Sculptors and of the Maekous Sculpture Group. His works have been exhibited in numerous exhibitions in Iran, the United Kingdom, and Dubai since 2001. Notably, he took part in the Medals Drawing Exhibition at London's British Museum in 2007.

**Invitation to cooperate, 2011**  
Signed and dated 'Farzaneh 2011' (lower left)  
Bronze and brass, edition of 2  
65 x 29 x 14 cm - 25.6 x 11.4 x 5.5 in.

## Afshin NAGHOUNI

"Do not think for a second that there is such thing as justified war. Whatever the excuse, to serve God and the Country, or in the name of freedom and democracy, every time you and I, 'we' put on an uniform and pick up a gun, we become responsible for the pain and suffering caused, we become guilty of serving the oppressor. Call me an Idealist, but if you and I, the soldiers 'the trigger men and women', refuse to comply, there will be no war."

Born in 1969 in Tehran, Iran. Afshin Naghouni has lived most of his adult life in London, where he works as a visual artist. Considered a child prodigy, he won a number of regional and national painting competitions between the ages of 9 and 12 and has never stopped painting since. He is a postgraduate from the London Metropolitan University, where he studied at the Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design.

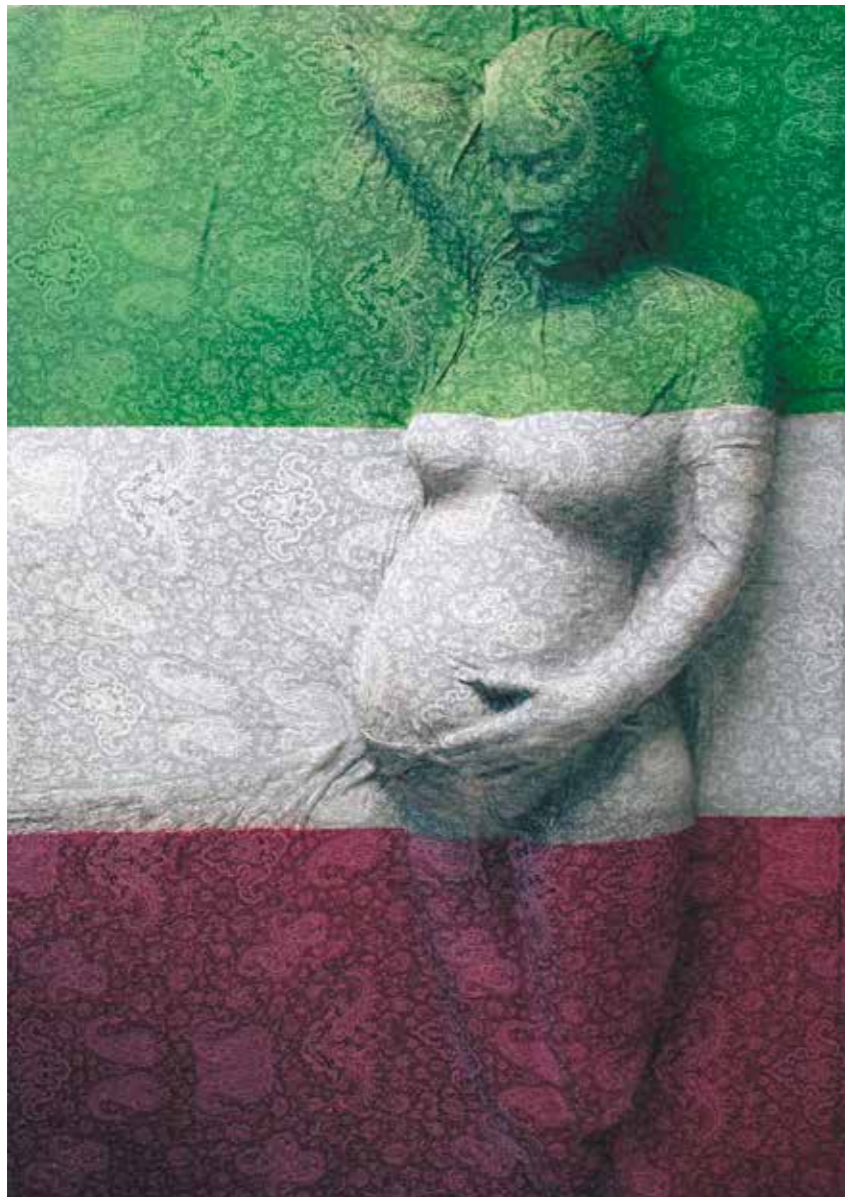


**Universal soldier, 2012**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Mixed media on canvas  
130 x 160 cm - 51.2 x 63 in.

## Atoosa VAHDANI

“‘Peace in Persia’ from the ‘Woman here and hereafter’ collection depicts women around me, covered in ‘terme’. At first glance, each piece exudes strength, a confidence that defies all restrictions and uncertainty of my country’s future in a tumultuous world.

Caught in between historical doubts and unclear future, this woman carrying new life inside her depicts an optimism, a hope that the future may change for the better.”



Born in 1976 in Tehran, Iran. Atoosa Vahdani has a Bachelor degree in electronic engineering and she is a member of Iran’s Sculpting Association. She began her artistic work as a student in 1994 in the Kargah-Honar workshop and later became an instructor there. In 2006 she was introduced to the sculptor and Master Parviz Tanavoli. In 2008, she became his apprentice and learned greatly from him. Vahdani’s work is mostly inspired by the concerns of modern humanity.

**Peace in Persia,**  
from **Woman here and hereafter series, 2012**  
Signed ‘Atoosa’ (lower left)  
Fiberglass, wood and fabric, unique piece  
140 x 90 x 20 cm - 55.1 x 35.4 x 7.9 in.

## Majid BIGLARI

“In the Middle Land, soil blossoms

In the Middle Land, bullets rain down

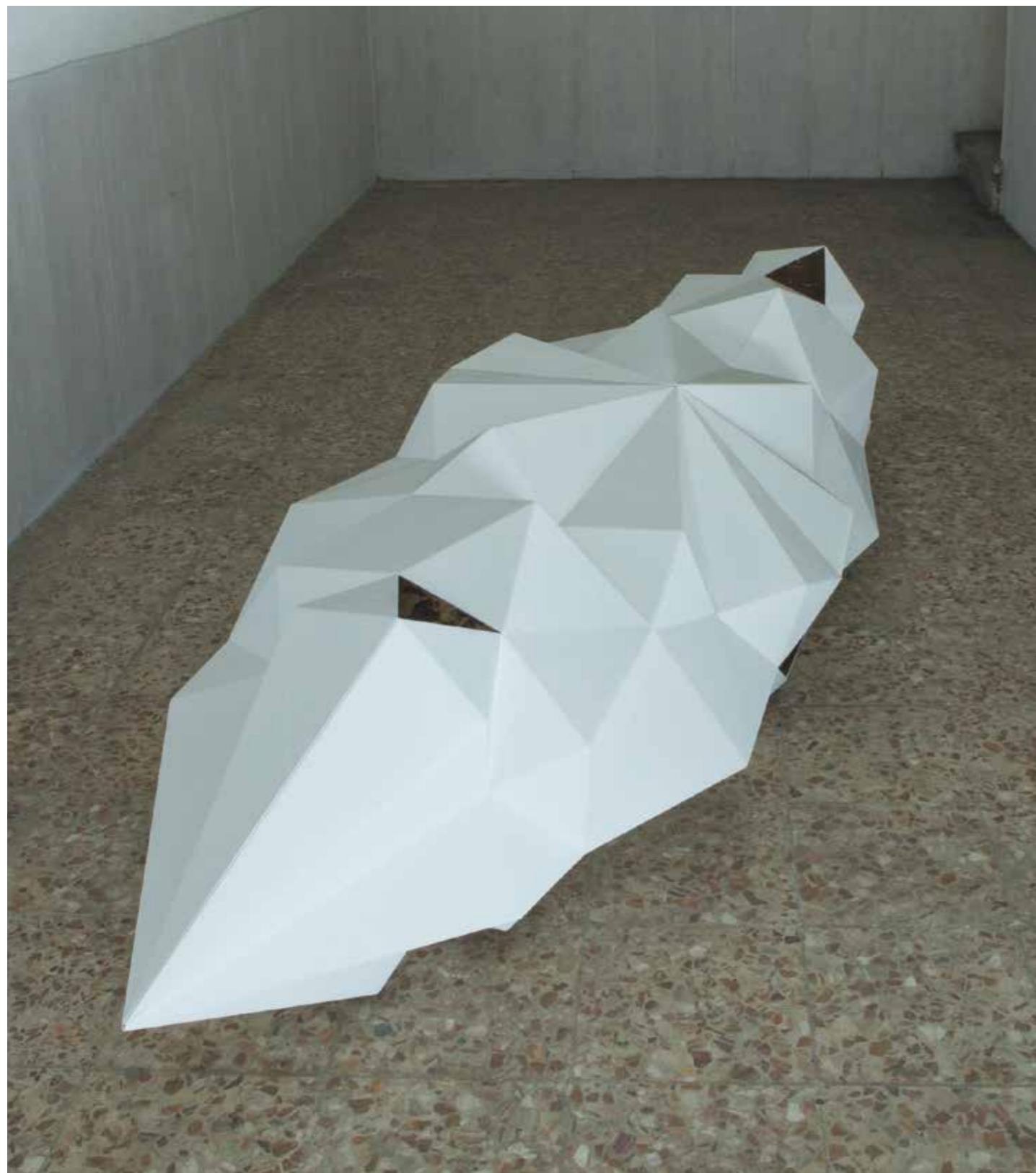
In the Middle Land, there is yearning, love, tears, and humans...

In the Middle Land, when there is no more war, the sky will rain down, sun will shine, all wishes will come true and the soil will blossom once again.”



Born in 1986 in Tehran, Iran. Majid Biglari has a BA in sculpture delivered from the Tehran University of Art and is a member of the Iranian Association of Sculptors. His first exhibition in 2007 was a group exhibition of drawings entitled ‘A Place Better Than Here’ in the Farabi Salon of Tehran’s University of Art. Since then, his works have been shown in close to 20 group and solo exhibitions in Iran.

**The buying power of family, 2013**  
Signed (on the bottom)  
Bronze and glass plastic paints, edition of 10  
16 x 5 x 5 cm - 6.3 x 2 x 2 in.



## Sahand HESAMIYAN

“Middle East, a historical region, and ancient land where great civilizations have come to be, the birth place of the world religions. Always in war, always in turmoil. What prevents the reign of peace and friendship?”

Born in 1977 in Iran. Sahand Hesamiyan has a Bachelor of Sculpture from the Tehran University. His works have been exhibited in solo installations in Dubai and Tehran, as well as in group shows in Tehran, London, Los Angeles, Italy, Dubai and Mexico. Hesamiyan participated in no less than 6 biennales and recently, he was a finalist for the Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize.



**Cocoon, 2010**  
Signed (underneath)  
Composite, gold leaf and paint, edition of 3  
40 x 140 x 30 cm - 15.7 x 55.1 x 11.8 in.

# Roxana MANOUCHEHRI

“In her Encounter series, Roxana Manouchehri observed the similarities between religions.

By employing visual similarities between Islam and Catholicism, she captures religious emotional experiences and portrays them through the juxtaposition of Iranian/Muslim and Irish/Catholic icons.

Through the traditional Iranian religious art-making technique of ‘reverse painting’, Manouchehri merges two different religious identities. Depicting Islamic and Celtic tales and characters on arched glass windows similar to those used in Gothic Churches, she creates a strangely familiar mood.”



Born in 1974 in Tehran, Iran. After graduating from an MA in Painting at the University of Art of Tehran (2002), Roxana Manouchehri went on artist residence programmes in South Korea, Ireland and Finland. Since 1997, she has featured in around 30 group and solo exhibitions in Iran, South Korea and Finland. She is a member of the Iranian Society of Painters as well as the Seoul Art Collective.

**Untitled from the Encounter series, 2010**  
Signed (on the reverse of the centre panel)  
Reverse painting on perspex with timber wood frame  
Triptych: 190 x 170 x 10 cm - 74.8 x 66.9 x 3.9 in.

# Shahriar AHMADI

“Hope the day comes soon when humankind comes to peace without any expectation.”



Born in 1979 in Kamyaran (Kurdistan), Iran. Graduated from both a BA (2005) and an MFA (2005) in Painting from the Art University of Tehran, Iran, Shahriar Ahmadi has a long history of group and solo exhibitions that took him around the world, from Iran to Dubai, Switzerland, the USA, Japan and Venezuela, among many others places. He was represented in 3 painting biennales in Iran and 13 international art fairs, including Scope Basel in 2011. His works have been sold in some of the most renowned auction houses worldwide - including Sotheby's in London (2011) and Christie's in Dubai (2010-2011).

**Untitled from the Kiss series, 2012**  
Signed and dated (lower right)  
Acrylic, pencil and gold leaf on canvas  
180 x 130 cm - 70.9 x 51.2 in.



## Amin ROSHAN

“The purpose of the security helmet is to protect. The inscription on the helmet symbolizes the Dove of Peace - a dove exposed to a kind of limitation whose boundaries are defined here through its scale and size - a dove coming out of the Iranian historical and cultural motifs, which has now become a part of those motifs.

An industrial safety helmet and a dove of peace with its geometrical shape reminding us of nowadays' Iran's industrial atmosphere. A country (Iran) associated with constraints upon which its survival is dependent today. A helmet worn by our ancestors since long ago. Finally, in summary: a security helmet with a British mark and a limited dove peace symbol on it represents the industrial and cultural constraints of our land today. It's a helmet of constraint we have been wearing since long ago, inherited from our ancestors.”

Born in 1982 in Masjed Soleyman, Iran. Amin Roshan has exhibited his sculptural works in Iran, France and Kuwait.

In 2010, he runs a workshop and exhibits at a school in Nantes, France.

And in 2012, he also participated in the famous fair of contemporary art, Art Scope in Miami, the United States.

### **Dimensions of Peace, 2013**

Signed (under the hat)

Aluminium hat of the National Iranian Oil Company, unique piece  
49 x 27 x 31 cm - 19.3 x 10.6 x 12.2 in.

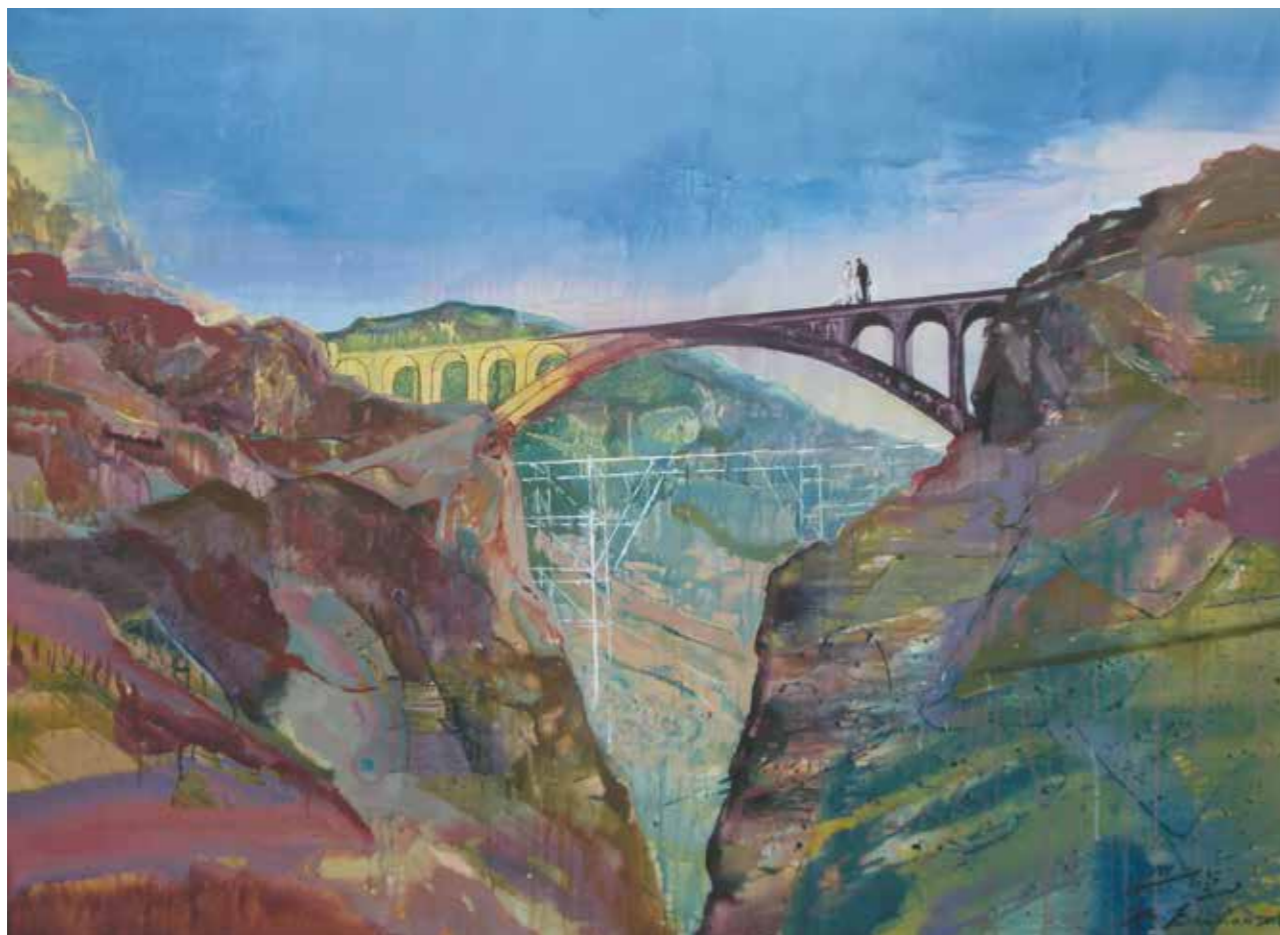
# Mehdi FARHADIAN

“For me, in the society where I live, having peace is a dream as powerful as it is unstable. I merge the glory of colours and peace with the anxiety of its fall.”

Born in 1980 in Tehran, Iran.

Mehdi Farhadian has an MA in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Tehran University.

His works have been featured in more than 20 group exhibitions and art fairs worldwide, including at renowned auction houses such as Sotheby's in London and Christie's in Dubai, as well as at the Chelsea Museum of New York in 2009. He has had 2 solo exhibitions in Tehran between 2009 and 2011.



**Veresk unity, 2008**

Signed and dated 'M. Farhadian 2008' and signed and dated in Farsi 'Mehdi Farhadian 86' (lower right corner)

Acrylic on canvas

130 x 180 cm - 51.2 x 70.9 in.

# Farsad LABBAUF

“Peace...that uninterrupted equilibrium that starts within and prevails through all instability, strife and injustice. A crown worn by few who dance to their own rhythm, beyond unrest.”



**Dr. Mossadegh and the flowers of insolence, 2012**

Signed (upper left, between lines)

Enamel on oil on primed canvas

230 x 170 cm - 90.5 x 66.9 in.

Born in 1965 in Tehran, Iran. Farsad Labbauf holds a Bachelor of Industrial Design (1987) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts obtained with honours (1982-6) from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, the United States. His paintings are very recognisable thanks to the influence of traditional Persian arts that lies in the artist's style. Labbauf's works have featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the globe, from Iran to the United States, Italy as well as England. They are in many famous art collections, including the Saatchi Gallery in London and the Walt Disney Company Foundation in Orlando.



# Newsha TAVAKOLIAN

"Imagining a dream - eyes closed, mouth open, as if in a dream. Standing facing us with their backs to the darkness, they sing, soundless. They have been standing here, singing for themselves for a long time, imagining us, hearing. Standing, facing days of tedium, facing a world that has adorned them with a false crown. Standing, waiting."

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran.

A self-taught photographer, Newsha Tavakolian began working professionally in the Iranian press at the age of 16. She started working for the women's daily newspaper Zan, and later worked for nine other reformist daily papers, all of which have been banned. At the age of 21, she started working abroad, covering wars, natural disasters and social documentary stories in Iraq, the Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Yemen. Her work has been published in international magazines and newspapers such as Time Magazine, Le Figaro, New York Times Magazine, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and National Geographic. Tavakolian is particularly known for her work focusing on women's issues.



**From Listen series, 2012**

Signed (on the reverse)  
Photography back lit, presented as light box, edition of 7  
90 x 110 cm - 35.4 x 43.3 in.

# Abbas KIAROSTAMI

"White of a pigeon  
erased in white clouds  
a snowy day."

Born in 1940 in Tehran, Iran.

Abbas Kiarostami is regarded internationally as one of the most visionary cinema artists. His filmography includes *A Taste of Cherry* (1997) for which he was awarded the Palme d'Or at the 50<sup>th</sup> Cannes International Film Festival, *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999), *Ten* (2002), and *Shirin* (2008).

Kiarostami is also acclaimed worldwide for his work in poetry and photography. In the latter, his body of work includes 'Untitled Photographs', a collection of over thirty photographs from his hometown Tehran. His creations in all three domains of predilection have been exhibited in numerous shows around the world's most famous museums, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, MoMA in New York, Kunst Museum in Berlin, Victoria & Albert Museum in London, County Museum in Los Angeles and many others.



**Untitled from Trees in snow series, 2005**

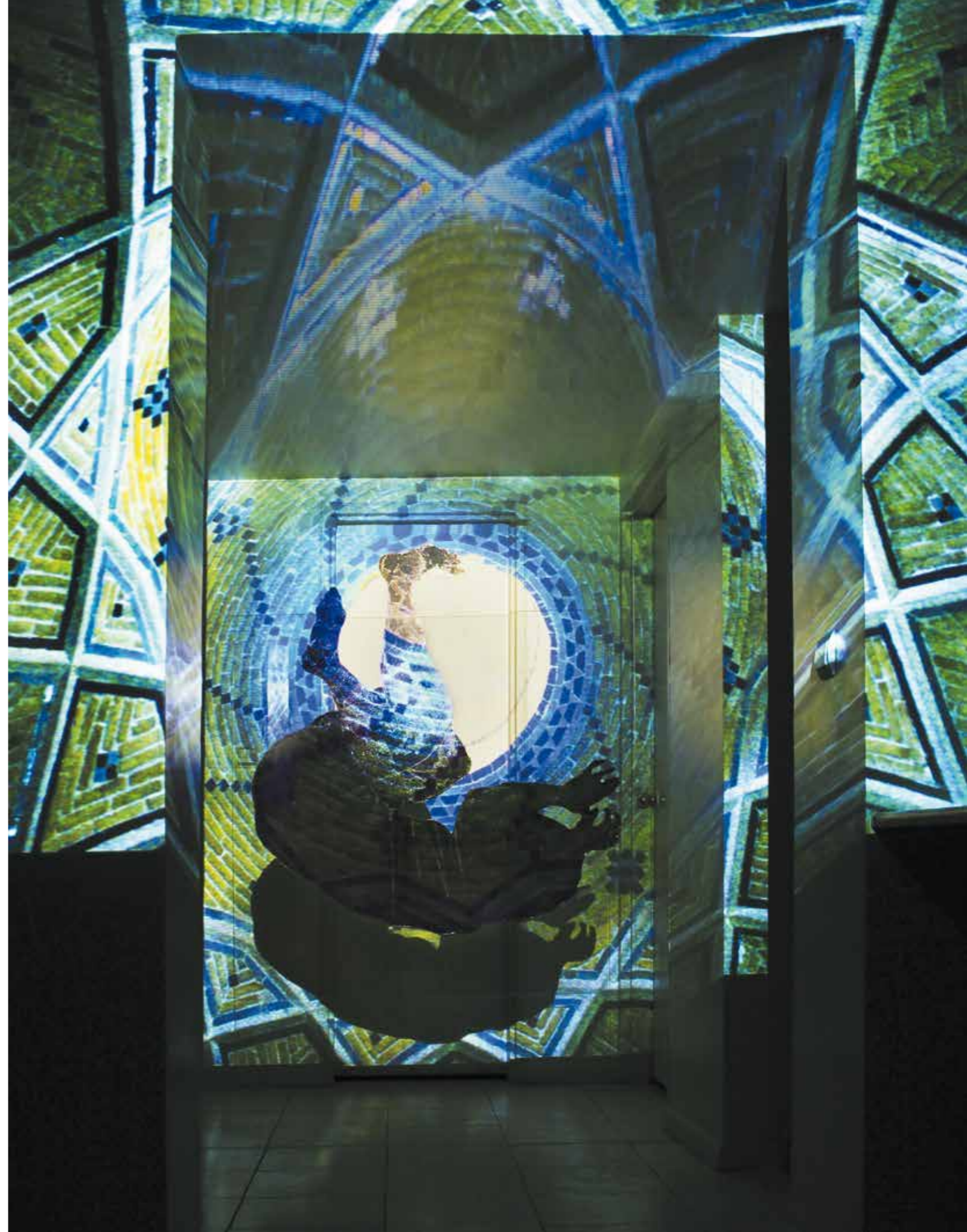
Signed (on the reverse)  
Silver gelatin print on paper, edition of 7  
52,2 x 80 cm - 20.5 x 31.5 in.

# Shima ESFANDYARI

"In this project I use designs from Persian architecture and its motifs, especially the form of lotus. This design has been used in several Persian buildings such as Persepolis, Taq-e Bostan as the symbol of peace and friendship. With its ancient connection with Persian culture, it was already a popular motif for Persian carpets, textiles and architecture. The lotus is of great significance to many ancient cultures, and in particular to the Eastern religions. In the past, the lotus regularly appeared as the symbol of peace, purity, serenity, transcendence, enlightenment, rebirth, beauty, immortality and fertility. I show the current situation of humanity through suspended figures within Persian architecture, as they are separated from the light in the centre of the lotus form. They have been cut and fallen down from light, peace and purity like a new born child separated from the peace and serenity of her mother's womb. The peace and enlightenment of true Persian culture that existed in the past and edges towards obscurity and may be forgotten."

Born in 1977 in Tehran, Iran. Shima Esfandiyari holds a BA in Painting from the Art and Architecture University of Tehran (2001) and is an official member of the Iranian Painters Society. Since 2007, she has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Iran, Georgia, UAE, Kuwait and Sweden. In 2007, she was the winner of the Drawing Biennial at the Imam Ali Museum of Tehran.

**Bodies, 2013**  
Signed and dated in Farsi 'Shima Esfandiyari 91' (upper left)  
Oil on plexiglas with video projection  
120 x 90 cm - 47.2 x 35.4 in.



## Roshanak VARASTEH

"Has left us the white bird of Peace  
Scattering our yearnings into the wind  
Withering away the golden olive leaves  
Burns within of unkept promises  
Cry for Peace, my forgotten country."



**Peace bearer, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Acrylic on canvas  
165 x 165 cm - 65 x 65 in.

Born in 1965 in Tehran, Iran. Roshanak Varasteh completed her secondary education in Paris, later in the United States. She earned a BA degree in Studio Art/Art history at Wellesley College in 1987. She also attended the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts and completed a Fine Arts one-year program in 1986. After her studies she went to Tehran and Paris and participated in various group exhibitions. She has also held 2 solo exhibitions in Tehran and at the Commission Européenne in Luxembourg.

## Shadi GHADIRIAN

"Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace... You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us."  
John LENNON



**Nil, nil, 2012**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Photography, edition of 10  
76 x 76 cm - 29.9 x 29.9 in.

Born in 1974 in Tehran, Iran. Shadi Ghadirian is a photographer whose works have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the world. Professionally, she is a photographer for the Museum of Photography (Akshaneh Shahr), as well as the photo editor for the 'Women in Iran' website and the manager of the first Iranian specialized photography website fanoosphoto.com. Her works can be found in collections in the most famous art institutions around the world, including The British Museum and The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art in California, the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Mumok (Museum Modern Kunst Stiftung Ludwig) in Vienna, the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Aurillac (France), the Devi Art Foundation in India and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran.

## Reza TAEBI

“Peace is a condition out of any kind of fear, violence and insecurity; a context we always look for. As Anton Chekhov believed: we shall find peace. We shall hear the angels; we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds.”



Born in 1976 in Kerman, Iran. Reza Taebi has a BA in Art Crafts from the Art University of Tehran (2000). He is a member of the director and teacher staff of ceramics and pottery community, and was invited as member of the jury at the 10<sup>th</sup> Ceramics and Pottery Biennale in 2011. Since the late 1990s' his works have been exhibited in exhibitions and biennales across Iran, Italy, Croatia, Armenia and Turkey.

**Peace, 2013**  
Signed (inside the sculpture)  
Ceramic with metal stand, edition of 3  
80 x 42 cm - 31.5 x 16.5 in.

## Samira ALIKHANZADEH

“As a sign of peace and friendship, a bouquet is handed over to another person, but the other person is not someone else. And the bouquet and us become one in the mirror.”

Born in 1967 in Tehran, Iran.

Samira Alikhanzadeh studied Painting at Azad University and began exhibiting in 1990. The use of vintage portrait photographs shaped her style, evoking memories of her viewers' very own ancestral heritage, a style that is unique on the Iranian contemporary art scene.

Alikhanzadeh has exhibited significantly worldwide and she was represented in several art fairs, in the UAE and in Europe. Her works have been auctioned in Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonham's in London, Dubai and Paris.



**Peace from the Double series, 2013**  
Signed in Farsi, dated and numbered (lower centre)  
Acrylic and mirror fragments on printed board, edition of 3  
100 x 150 cm - 39.4 x 59.1 in.

# Behjat SADR

"Behjat Sadr had little confidence in humanity. For her, peace was something constantly put at risk by man's greed. She always used to say that if there were no self-interest, there wouldn't be any wars. Politicians inspired her no trust and she didn't adhere to any ideology. Sadr's 'Dangers' expresses the possibility of violent change: a tranquil river which can transform itself into a brutal torrent, swallowing almost everything.

Her cynicism towards humanity made some people think that she didn't like life, but few people had such a lust for life as Behjat Sadr. That hunger stayed with her in her last moments, spent swimming in the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean.

She looked for peace in the beauty of nature and in chaos.

For her, trees signified life, and they are present in a large part of her work: as trunks, rhythms, and as patterns of intertwined branches. Behjat Sadr believed that human lives are improved by understanding beauty, nature and art."



**Untitled, 1977**  
Signed 'Sadr' (lower right corner)  
Mixed media on cardboard  
50 x 70 cm - 19.7 x 27.6 in.

Born in 1924 in Iran - died in 2009 in France.

Behjat Sadr studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran, at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence and at the Naples Academy of Fine Arts. She was featured in the 1956 Venice Biennale, before returning to the University of Tehran to teach for over 20 years.

Sadr left Iran following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, moving to Paris with her daughter. She worked steadily during her second European period. The artist was consistently supported by galleries in her adopted France from the 1980s onward. Her story was told in Iranian filmmaker Mitra Farahani's documentary *Behjat Sadr: Time Suspended* (2006).

Sadr died from a heart attack, aged 85, at her home in Southern France.

She will be remembered as an artist, teacher, traveller and peerless pioneer of the Iranian arts diaspora.



**Dangers, 1988**  
Signed 'Sadr' (lower right)  
Mixed media, oil on paper and photography on cardboard  
51,5 x 66,5 cm - 20.3 x 26.2 in.

## A note from

**Tehran** A significant portion of the contemporary works which I encounter daily have a rhythmic beat of pain and anxiety: the anxiety and obsessions of a young generation, which initially grew from childhood in an atmosphere of revolutionary violence, and then the worry and fears of war, and ultimately matured in an environment of scarcity, limitations, and concerns.

Our young artists generally have a bold and brazen language. Many of them with an unbelievable courage, depict our environment of pain, imbalance and inflamed suspense. Political and social issues are critiqued in their works sometimes directly and in most cases metaphorically. They dare and speak the truth to the existing powers. Working within the boundaries of state and self-censorship, screaming in an oblique language, crying out for peace, and all the while whispering unspeakable sorrows.

Nazila Noebashari

## Shirin NESHAT

Born in 1957 in Iran.

Shirin Neshat's art explores her native Iran, although she now lives and works in New York.

She has always employed different techniques and media throughout her numerous projects.

With her earliest works, such as the 'Women of Allah' series, she used black and white photography, often overlaid with calligraphy. Neshat depicted the female figure, at times herself, as the subject and overlaid images with Farsi text and verses of ancient Persian poetry.

She uses traditional imagery such as the veil, contrasted with images of guns to explore some of the more philosophical and ideological issues relating to the revolution and the role of women in Iranian society.

Nowadays, she works primarily in film, creating dual video projections exploring the tension between tradition and modernity for the women in Iran.



**Munis and revolutionary man, 2008**

Calligraphy on photographic print, unique piece  
22 x 42 cm - 8.7 x 16.5 in.

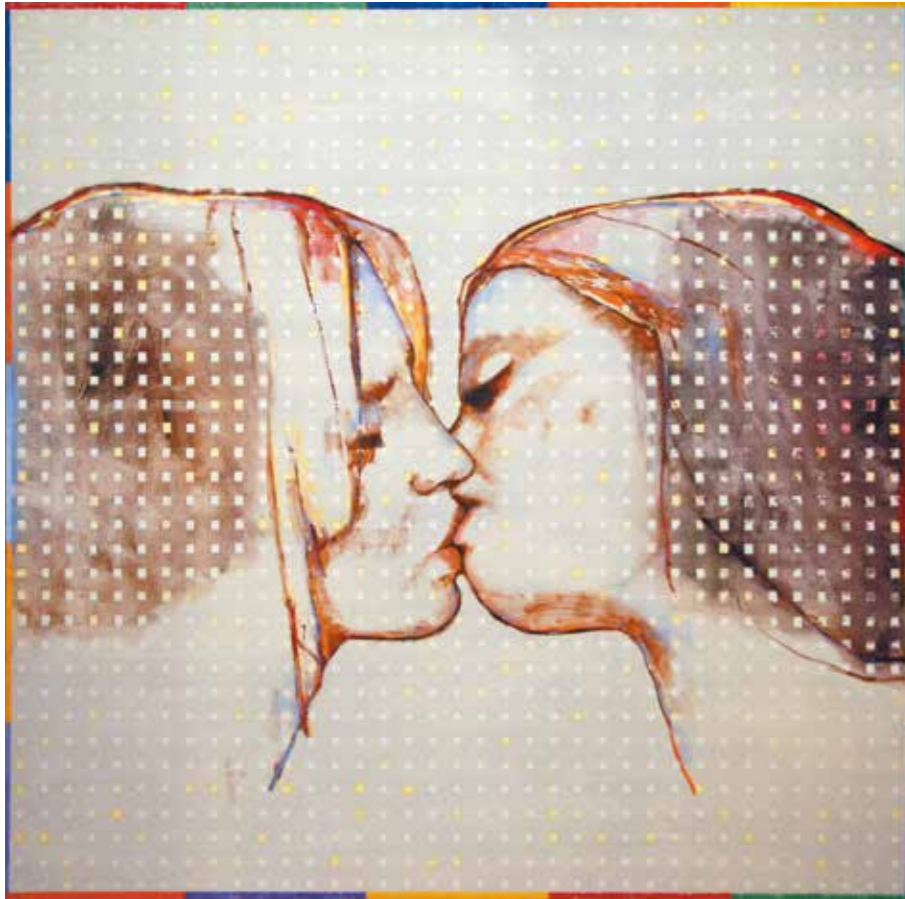
# Mostafa DAREHBAGHI

"Peace of mind, serenity, and calmness are descriptions of a disposition free from the effects of stress."

Born in 1966 Tehran, Iran.

Mostafa Darehbaghi's art is fundamentally abstract. Indeed, although living creatures (mostly animals) appear in his works, they are depicting floating in a non-geographical environment, beyond all palpable space, making them abstract two-dimensional forms. Despite the void surroundings, a pure energy flows through his works and makes them brim with emotion.

Darehbaghi's works have been featured in tens of solo and group exhibitions across the world, and he is represented in many prominent permanent collections, including that of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and the Sidney Marcus Foundation in Atlanta.



**Woven of soul braided by heart, 2013**  
Signed (on the front and on the reverse)  
Acrylic on canvas  
190 x 190 cm - 74.8 x 74.8 in.

# Mandana MOGHADDAM

"When the cypress trees fell, earth tremors were felt, water springs and buildings severely damaged and all night long all kinds of birds gathered, so that the sky was filled with such loud wails that people were astonished (Ali Ibn Zayd Bayhaqi). Persian cultures believed the cypress tree to be sacred, a symbol of freedom, youth and integrity, with an inherent essence of truthfulness: one can't be deceived in its presence."

Born in 1964 in Tehran, Iran.

Mandana Moghaddam's work revolves around the notions of communication and isolation. In the recent years, she took part into numerous international exhibitions, including in Arnhem, Berlin, Istanbul, London, Tehran, New York and at the Venice Biennale (2005).

Her works can be found in the Vehbi Koç Foundation's contemporary Art collection, as well as at Gothenburg Art Museum, the Friburg New Art Museum and in the collection of the Swedish Arts Council in Stockholm.



**From the Hanging cypresses series, 2012**  
Signed (in between the lines of tree)  
Photography taken from installation and printed on canvas, edition of 5  
100 x 165 cm - 39.4 x 65 in.

# Koorosh SHISHEGARAN

"...and I wait for that day,  
even if it is past my time."  
Ahmad SHAMLOU



**For Peace on earth, 2013**  
Signed (lower left corner)  
Acrylic on canvas  
180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.



**For Peace on earth, 2013**  
Signed and dated 'KOOROSH SHISHEGARAN  
March 2013' (lower left)  
Print, edition of 75  
100 x 70 cm - 39.4 x 27.6 in.

"Someone asked me:  
How can I find the peace among your "Two Birds"?  
I said: find it out maybe in that abstract creature."

Born in 1944 in Qazvin, Iran.  
Koorosh Shishegaran studied at the School of Fine Arts of Tehran and continued his academic studies at the Faculty of Decorative Arts - Art University - receiving a BFA in Interior Design.  
His ability to humanize abstraction makes him one of the most expressive and emotive artists of the contemporary Iranian art movement. His works before 1981 can be classified into different series, including Mass Production Works (1973-74), Appropriation of Works of Great Artists (1974-76), Postal Art (1976), Art+Art (1976-77), Art for Production (1977-78) and Political Social Posters (1978-81).  
Throughout these years, aside from developing his painting style, he participated in many exhibitions, both in Iran and in the rest of the world (London, Washington, Basel, Switzerland, Beijing...).



**Two birds, 2012**  
Signed 'KOOROSH' and signed and dated in Farsi '91' (lower left corner)  
Acrylic on canvas  
135 x 135 cm - 53.1 x 53.1 in.



# Maryam AMINI

“The image of a crying girl, looking upon our time and place, at the events that unfold around us. The image stands atop white flowers, as a tribute to the desires and struggles of a wounded and confounded contemporary human being with a wish to live in a future with peace and stability.”

Born in 1977 in Isfahan, Iran. In 1995, Maryam Amini gets a diploma in Iranian Painting from the College of Fine Art of Isfahan; and in 2003 she graduates from the Art University of Tehran with a BA in Painting. Since then, her works have appeared in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. She was also involved in several specific projects, such as the Iran Project Ceramic works at the European Ceramic Work Centre (EKWC) in the Netherlands in 2008.

**A Memorial to Peace, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Collage, light, gold leaf, mirror and fiberglass flowers, unique piece  
Two pieces: 133 x 73 x 35 cm - 52.4 x 28.7 x 13.8 in.



# Behnam KAMRANI

“5+1’s meetings are going to determine the peace not only for Iran but also for the whole region; yet everything is vague... It’s like walking on the edge of a blade... Our destiny may easily slip on each side... And we may need a saviour like Batman...”

Born in 1968 in Shiraz, Iran. Behnam Kamrani graduated from a PhD in Art research from Art University of Tehran in 2008. Since then, his works have been exhibited in more than 40 group exhibitions in - among other countries - Iran, Spain, China, Australia, Italy, the United States and France; and in over 10 solo exhibitions in Iran. He is a member of the Iranian Society Painters and of the Editorial Board of 'Art tomorrow' Magazine.



**The Mask, 2012**  
Signed and dated (on the reverse)  
Oil on plastic fabric  
119 x 133 cm - 46.8 x 52.4 in.



## Maryam SALOUR

“Immured in masquerade peace flutters in urge.  
Unmask wings in-flight.”

Born in 1954 in Tehran, Iran. Maryam Salour graduated from the Computer Science Centre in London and the Ecole Supérieure des Informatiques in Paris, before taking a course in Ceramic Studies at Paris' Académie de Savigny. Later, she started working as a calligrapher for Kayhat Publishing in Paris. Having prepared 8 programs for BBC World Service, including 2 programs on young blind Iranian painters, she holds extensive knowledge and understanding of Iran's contemporary art. She also conducts summer ceramic classes for children and young people.

**Peace, 2011**  
Signed  
Ceramic, unique piece  
70 x 20 x 8 cm - 27.6 x 7.9 x 3.1 in.

## Hamid SARDAR-AFKHAMI

“Like many children growing up in Iran, I was raised on the tales of the Book of Kings penned by Ferdowsi, a medieval bard who strove to preserve our ancient linguistic traditions by composing in Persian omitting all Arab words. His tales focused on the heroic tradition of Persian knights and their wars with the neighbouring realm of Turan, a country to the north inhabited by nomadic Iranian and Turkish tribes.

The relationship between Iran and Turan is that of long-standing enmity between nomadic and sedentary races, but also one of love and peace. The Persian hero Rustam ultimately falls for the daughter of his enemy and fathers a child who grows to be a warrior more beautiful and powerful than any seen before.

Because of its non-sectarian approach to chivalry, the Book of Kings was propagated far and beyond the Persian realm; its heroic cycles recounted before khans and shepherds across Central Asia. As an Iranian artist hurled into exile after the revolution, I could not stop moving. Struggling with existential restlessness, I started travelling across Central Asia...in the search of inner peace. During these journeys I could not help but conjure up images from the Book of Kings. These were deep-seated memories that shaped my encounters with the nomadic people who have preserved in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century an alternative way of life that many of us can only imagine...one that fulfils the universal human need to belong free from the confines of city walls, by moving through seasons, migrating in the manner of certain birds and animals that live in harmony with natural elements. Imagine my delight when I encountered this young Kazakh boy who introduced himself as 'Rustam', sitting on his horse and holding his falcon in perfect heroic symmetry.”



**Rustam holding young falcon, 2011**  
Signed  
Fine Art print, edition of 9 + 3 AP  
70 x 90 cm - 27.6 x 35.4 in.

Born in 1966 in Iran. Hamid Sardar-Afkhami is a professional photographer as well as a scholar of Tibetan and Mongol languages who received his PhD from Harvard University. After living in Nepal for more than a decade, he went to live in Outer Mongolia in 2000 to make a record of people's customs and lives before they became divorced from their natural and spiritual environment. Sardar-Afkhami dedicated his cameras to making a visual record of Mongolia's last nomad tribes. In over a decade, he has produced an important photographic collection concentrating on nomadic culture at the cusp of a great irreversible change.

# Azadeh GHOTBI

"I experienced revolution, loss, exile, and the idiosyncrasy of deep patriotism, yet without a country from early life. I left Iran at a young age, too early to understand the consequences of life-changing decisions, yet old enough to suffer these consequences. I left behind everything I knew and cared for, took for granted. Even my birth certificate was lost forever in this tumultuous process. My existence was at that moment legally/technically erased. Every year that goes by I feel just as Iranian as ever yet the proportion of my life spent there is diminishing. Maybe that makes me appreciate and cherish my roots and culture all the more. I perennially question what it really means to be Iranian and Middle Eastern when one has lived this long away from that part of the world. Yet the feeling of belonging and longing is beyond my control. It's purely emotional and deeply instinctive.

Having lived in exile for over three decades, I was overwhelmed by the sense of awe, joy and pride within the green wave of protestors. But it was the inhumane way in which they were suppressed and all signs of hope destroyed that ignited a burning desire to express myself more directly through my artwork. The growing turmoil spreading across the Middle East, the crushed hopes stemming from Arab spring movements, the constant nuclear war mongering, the continued murder of innocents throughout the region all make me yearn for much needed Freedom and Peace.

I have found working on this subject oddly liberating as if I were somehow being artistically freed - the more I delved and focused on the subject of oppression and violence! Canvas and paint alone no longer suffice to express my rage, frustrations and hope. I have discovered a whole new language of artistic and personal expression taking me at times away from painting and into photography, collages and installations. This is the story of how I found my voice."

Born in 1970 in Iran. Since 2003, Azadeh Ghotbi's works have been exhibited in over 20 exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Heidelberg and Frankfurt. She believes artistic creation allowed her to 'find (her) voice' after she was forced to exile and had to leave Iran at a very early age. Ghotbi now works between Frankfurt and New York.

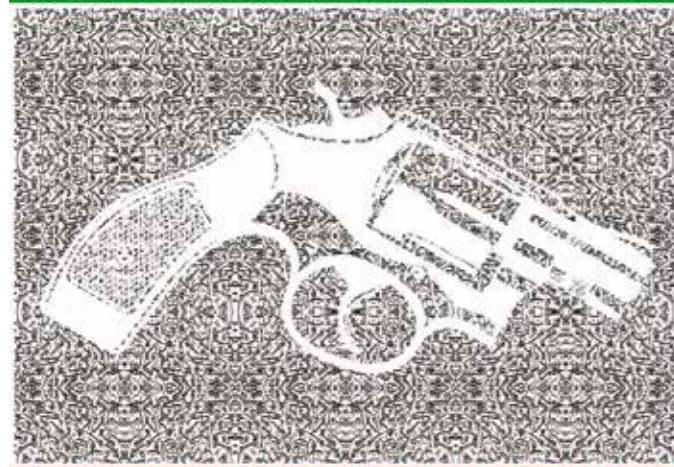


**Give PEACE a chance to soar, 2013**

Signed (on the back of the last 'E')  
PVC covered metal cage, cardboard and ceramic, unique piece  
17,5 x 100 x 5,5 cm - 6.9 x 39.4 x 2.2 in.

# Iman SAFAEI

"Peace is a Dream!"



Born in 1982 in Tehran, Iran. Iman Safaei obtained an Associate Degree in Graphic Design from the Azad University in 2002. Since 2004, he has been showing his works in group exhibitions in Iran, Italy, Ukraine, Switzerland, Kuwait, Russia and the United States, and in solo exhibitions since 2008. He published 'A Selection of Iman Safaei Posters' in 2008 and 'Eye 25, The Soldier Series' in 2010.

**The Nature of Peace, dedicated to Andy Warhol, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Silkscreen print on suede, edition of 5 + 1 AP  
210 x 100 cm - 82.7 x 39.4 in.

# Safaeddin EMAMI

"Peace verses Peace. The world is without boundaries so I pass all borders with peace."

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran. Safaeddin Emami has a BA in Graphic Design and is a member of the Society of Iranian Graphic artists. Since 2010, his works have been exhibited in Iran and the United Kingdom, in both group and solo shows. In 2008, he received the First prize in Poster Design from the Academy of Art at the Contemporary Painting of Islamic Art Biennale.



**The greatest auction of the world (99.99% off), 2013**  
Signed  
Neon lamp on steel sheet, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
120 x 120 cm - 47.2 x 47.2 in.

## Shadi MAHSA

"Forgiveness will enable us to let go of the past and see the future as simply unknown. With no projection onto the future, we can more easily stay in the present. The practice of meditation, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, and non-violent communication coupled with the practices that will prevent the development of gangs and terrorist groups can empower the people to end war and violence. We do not need to wait for the government to create peace."



**Urge to fly, 2013**  
Signed (lower right)  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
100 x 100 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 in.

Born in 1967 in Iran. Shadi Mahsa studied art in Iran originally, then in Australia and the United Kingdom. She is currently enrolled at the Chelsea College in London, where she's pursuing a HND in Art. Since 1992, her works on canvas have been exhibited in shows in London, Tehran, Sydney and even Baltimore in the United States.

## Modjtaba TAJIK

"To me, the Iran-Iraq war always resembled the grey world but the onset of the peacetime once again brought along the childlike and innocent hopes and games..."



**Peace from the Boxes series, 2013**  
Signed (lower left)  
Acrylic on canvas mounted on board  
80 x 60 cm - 31.5 x 23.6 in.

Born in 1966 in Tehran, Iran. Modjtaba Tajik is a member of the Iranian Society of Painters. Since 1995, his paintings have been exhibited in group shows in Iran, Qatar, the United States, the UAE and Kuwait. He was also invited to show his work in solo exhibitions in Iran, the United States and Qatar. In 2011, he participated in the art fair Contemporary Istanbul's side exhibit in Turkey.

## Majid Abbasi FARAHANI

"A symbolic flag of rage, rape and massacre is destroyed by the artist to be replaced by another of Peace..."

Born in 1979 in Tehran, Iran.

Majid Abbasi Farahani studied Architecture at University, but soon left his programme in order to focus his attention on his long passion for art. In 2004, he held his first solo exhibition and has had numerous since then. He also featured in more than 42 group exhibitions in galleries around the world, including in Italy and South America.

In addition, Farahani is a member of the Society of Iranian Painters.



**Flag, 2012**  
Light box with mixed media, unique piece  
120 x 190 cm - 47.2 x 74.8 in.



## Mojtaba AMINI

"Peace is one of those words that stand outside the psyche of an artist or an ordinary citizen, as we are unable to create it. Peace happens at behest of a government and in circle of politics. Not by individuals or artists. We can only wish for it and long for it. War and Peace are realms of Power."

Born in 1979 in Sabzevar, Iran.

With a diploma in Graphic Design from Kamalolmolk Art School and a BA in Painting from the Fine Art Faculty of the University of Tehran, Mojtaba Amini has exhibited in numerous exhibitions in art galleries, art foundations, museums and biennales around the world (Iran, Brazil, the United States, Belgium...).

In 2003, he featured in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Cartoon Biennale of Tehran and in 2009 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennale of Drawing at the Imam Ali Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Joint, 2012**  
Walnut coal, wires and metal, edition of 3  
240 x 70 x 70 cm - 94.5 x 27.6 x 27.6 in.

# Amirhossein RADAIE

“Using certain forms and shapes of the human body, along with various objects, Radaie strives to portray the inner feelings of not only his subjects, but his audiences as well. Even though the outfits that adorn his sculptures belong to the Qajar era, they are ever-relevant, representing the inability of people to determine their destinies, and identify their lack of rights. These people, according to the artist, can only fulfil their aspirations in the confines of their imagination.”

Born in 1986 in Hamedan, Iran.  
Amirhossein Radaie has a BA in Graphics. Depicting the human body alongside common objects in his sculptures, he works towards portraying the inner feelings of both his subjects and his audience. Since 2007, Radaie’s sculptures have featured in several group exhibitions in Iran. He also participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sculpture in 2011.



**From the Fortune teller series, 2013**  
Signed and numbered (lower right side)  
Bronze and cast iron, edition of 5  
30 x 30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 x 11.8 in.



Surviving the existence Nature of the Nature

# Alireza JODEY

“Once surviving the nature of oneself, the outcome is nothing but reconciliation with the nature of surviving the solitude.”

Born in 1969 in Qazvin, Iran.  
After studying Painting at the Islamic Azad Art and Architecture University of Tehran, Alireza Jodey started teaching drawing professionally. Since 1990, he has participated in over 70 group exhibitions in Iran, Canada, Armenia, China, Japan, Italy, Jordan and France. Jodey has also partaken in the 11<sup>th</sup> Art Biennale in Bangladesh (2003-2004), in the 2005 Beijing Biennale, in the 2002 France Triennale and in other solo exhibitions across the world.



**Peace, 2012**  
Signed in Farsi (lower right), signed (on the reverse)  
Mixed media on board  
220 x 220 x 245 cm - 86.6 x 86.6 x 96.5 in.



## BAHMAN

“Humans have a natural proclivity to greed, violence, and war! However, within the same nature is held an instinctive yearning for love, compassion, nurturing, and creativity. When love and creativity overcome hate and violence, there is Peace!”

Born in 1955 in Iran.  
Bahman is an architect and artist whose work is referred to as Neo-Allegorical Art. Indeed, it is defined by a meticulous and sensitive depiction of human expressions, juxtaposed with allegorical imagery inspired from Persian poetry, Greek mythology, Russia novels and German opera. The brightly coloured combination of these constructs a narrative that is unique to his art and has gained him worldwide recognition.

**Nuclear paradise, 2013**  
Signed (on the reverse)  
Stained condoms on canvas  
183 x 153 cm - 72 x 60 in.



# Ladan BROUJERDI

"It is just a dream to be in peace in the contemporary world, but do not forget you can have it just by art; therefore, it is always, the enemy of invention, despite the paradox of what proves us that art is a great invention.

It is said that war is the mother of invention, but do not forget that we don't live to invent; we actually live not to war exactly. We war to live, while living is a grave war, and not warring, a graver."

Born in 1971 in Tehran, Iran.

Ladan Broujerdi obtained a BA in Art Painting from Alzahra University in Tehran in 1996. Since then, he has partaken in group and solo exhibitions in Tehran, Vienna, Dubai, and Miami. In Miami, he featured in the renowned Scope fair in 2012.



**Art is a big machine, 2013**  
Signed and dated in Farsi (lower right corner)  
Gouache and coloured pencils on cardboard  
60 x 120 cm - 23.6 x 47.2 in.

# Mehdi ASHOORI

"The purpose of this work is to provoke a different sense or alter the views on war and violence. This hat could be a symbol of a soldier providing security and peace for a child who is freely playing games in his shadow."

Born in 1981, in Iran.

Mehdi Ashoori is a graduate of the Art University of Tehran.

He started exhibiting his works in 2000 at a Student art festival for which he was awarded the First Prize. Since then, he has been featured in over 20 exhibitions in Iran. Notably, he took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> biennale of sculpture in Tehran in 2004 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sculpture biennale of urban space in Tehran in 2010 and 2012.

The same year, he made the first ever art installation using books in Iran, for the Malek Museum.



**Existence of Peace, 2013**  
Signed 'Ashoori' (lower right) and signed (on the reverse)  
Metal and mixed media, unique piece  
45 x 45 x 30 cm - 17.7 x 17.7 x 11.8 in.



**Crucifix, homage to Salvador Dalí, 1983**  
Signed and dated in Farsi (lower right corner)  
Oil on canvas  
135 x 90 cm - 53.1 x 35.4 in.

## Koorosh ANGALI

"The savage intelligent creature  
Wasted millions of years,  
Contemplating tomorrows,  
No regrets, no fears

Yet, for he who can see  
This not at all a surprise  
For intelligence is not wisdom, necessarily;  
Nor does intelligent mean wise

In my artistic endeavour, I have always wished  
to share that which I experience, with my  
audience - with that friend, who is standing before me,  
compelled to swallow my soul, letting it - letting me -  
run through her/his veins.

I share my concerns, my worries, my hopes;  
above all of which is my hope for peace in human's life.  
The very human who lost his focus thousands of years  
ago, twisting and rolling afloat in the whirlwind of  
chaos and confusion; confused enough to crucify the  
very essence of his own spiritual freedom and peace,  
only because 'he knows not what he does!'

As an artist, it is my obligation to use my art and warn  
him; for if there is any hope for the future of  
humankind, it is through Art, nay, it is Art itself!

Born in 1949 in Abadan, Iran.  
Koorosh Angali holds a degree in Mass  
Communication as well as a PhD in  
Near Eastern Studies from US Berkeley,  
California. Later, he did a Post Doctorate  
in Persian Syntax and Grammar at the  
University of Texas.

His work has been featured in  
numerous exhibitions in the United  
States and worldwide and since 2010  
he has been an Associate Professor of  
Visual Arts at The Islamic Azad  
University, Borazjan, Iran. Angali's works  
can be found in art collections in the  
United States, in Europe and in Iran.

## Naemeeh KAZEMI

"Thinking sweet is a remedy to all kinds of bitterness.  
That might occur while observing an object that effaces quarrels.  
A sweet object sides with the domination of peace over war.  
Even objects speak and have words to tell."

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran.

With a BA and an MA in Art, Naemeeh Kazemi is a young artist whose work was selected for the Biennale of Student Photography in 2002.

She has exhibited in several galleries and art fairs in Iran and she is a member of the Iran Visual Art Institute.



**Cupcake, 2012**

Signed (on the left corner)

Painted 3D ABS and mixed media, edition of 5

45 x 35 x 35 cm (each) - 17.7 x 13.8 x 13.8 in. (each)

## Afarin SAJEDI

"Peace is an ideal everywhere, in the world, an ideal that has always existed, but will never happen in its true absolute meaning!"

Born in 1979 in Shiraz, Iran.

Afarin Sajedi has a BA in Graphics from the Arts and Architecture Faculty of Tehran Azad University. Since the early 2000s, her paintings have been exhibited in galleries and cultural centres around the world, notably in Iran, Italy and the United States.

Professionally, she was the Artistic Director at Ahange Zendegi, Negareh, and Nation's people magazines.



**Dream, 2013**

Signed (lower left)

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 150 cm - 59.1 x 59.1 in.

I wish there was a day  
When everyone could stay  
I wish there was a night  
When no one would dare fight  
Except for love.

I wish there was a song  
We could all sing along  
I wish there was a dance  
To which we'd all romance  
Our dreams for peace.

Ahou Koutchess

## Maryam GHANBARIAN

"Meaning of peace is infinite and indescribable.  
One of its most beautiful effects is friendship and sympathy  
between different races and elimination of all sorts  
of discriminations and boundaries."

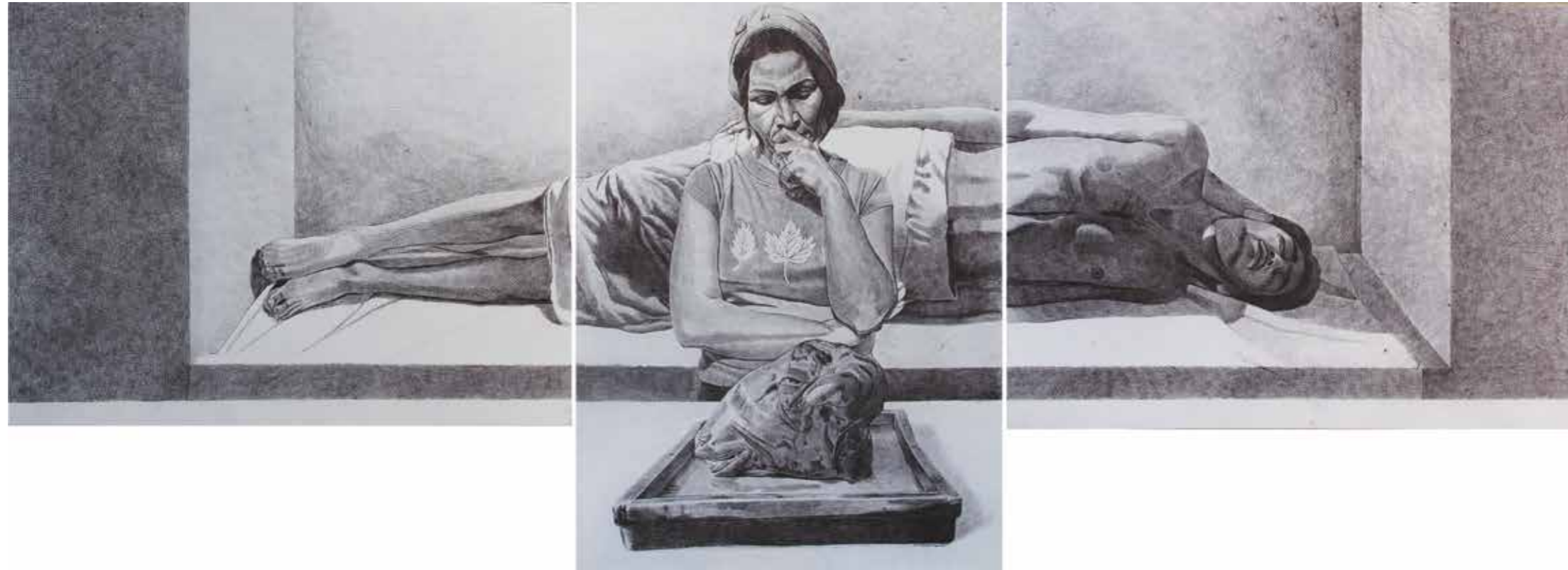
Born in 1987 in Tehran, Iran.

A graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran, Maryam Ghanbarian was the Winner of the special award for poster in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Visual Arts Festival of ECO (Global celebrations of Norooz) in 2012. She took part in the group exhibition *Les Mots dévoilés : Calligraphie contemporaine de l'Iran* (Unveiled Words: Contemporary Calligraphy from Iran) in Geneva, Switzerland.



**Peace, 2013**  
Signed (lower right)  
Acrylic on canvas  
120 x 150 cm - 47.2 x 59.1 in.

# Ahmad MORSHEDLOO



"I did not learn peace to forget it, since my birth, since the time I understood the air, grabbed the soil, tasted the water and burned the fire, I did not learn peace, whatever I learned from it was dispatched layers of people with their passive doubts, peace was a time when their conflicts was over and they had nothing to say to each other... I learned peace with expedient, expedient on silence, not seeing nor dreaming... In this work I have studied the separation of the victims who are dealt with the deposit of their doubts until inevitable fate choose them."

Born in 1973 in Iran. Ahmad Morshedloo is today one of the most renowned contemporary artists working in Iran. His work focuses solely on social subjects and uses various techniques, from oil on canvas to pen and acrylic to project large figurative works. On the contemporary Iranian scene, he is considered a realist/socialist painter, as he never uses fictional characters in his compositions. Morshedloo's work has been presented in numerous international art fairs; he has participated in many exhibitions worldwide and has held many solo shows inside Iran. His works are included in some important collections of contemporary art such as the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Imam Ali Museum and the Saatchi Collection.

**Untitled, 2009 - 2013**  
Signed in Farsi (lower centre)  
Pen on cardboard  
Triptych: 90 x 320 cm - 35.4 x 126 in.

Special  
thanks  
to

Maryam HOMAYOUN EISLER  
Fariba FARSHAD  
Zahra FARIDANY-AKHAVAN  
Nazila NOEBASHARI  
Ahou KOUTCHESS



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