



BEYOND THE BAN

Contemporary Iranian Art

June 14 – August 30, 2017

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Beyond the Ban is a collaboration
between the Center for Human Rights
in Iran, a New York based non-profit,
and Susan Eley Fine Art, New York.

COVER: SHIRIN NESHAT, FROM THE LAST WORLD SERIES (2003), GELATIN SILVER PRINT, 4 X 12.8 INCHES

Beyond the Ban is a group exhibition showcasing the work of leading Iranian artists based in the United States. It features painting, photography and prints by such luminaries as Shirin Neshat, Nicky Nodjoumi, Nahid Hagigat, Shoja Azari, Shahram Karimi, Jason Noushin, Afshin Naghouni, Nazanin Noroozi, Raha Raissnia and Hossein Fatemi.

American Art has thrived through the contribution of its immigrants. Beyond the Ban celebrates this dynamic tradition of diversity in American art by showcasing the stunning contributions of one of the immigrant groups targeted by President Trump's travel ban. The artists in the exhibition have generously donated their artwork to benefit the Center for Human Rights in Iran, a non-profit based in New York City. The exhibit demonstrates the rich stylistic and thematic variety of art being produced today by the vibrant community of Iranian artists living in the US.



NICKY NODJOU MI, HOW TIMES CHANGE (2015), OIL ON CANVAS, 40 X 30 INCHES

Nicky Nodjoumi

Nicky Nodjoumi's figurative paintings engage in political discourse with a light, satirical touch, melding his experiences in Iran and the United States into scenes that resonate beyond specific historical contexts or geographical boundaries. His works are in several prominent institutional collections worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the British Museum in London, Guggenheim Museum in Abu Dhabi, the DePaul Art Museum in Chicago, and the National Museum of Cuba. In 2014, Nicky had a solo exhibition at the Cleveland Institute of Art, entitled *The Accident*. Nodjoumi received a Bachelor's degree in Art from Tehran University of Fine Arts, and a Master's degree in Fine Arts from City College of New York in 1974. He subsequently returned to Tehran and joined the faculty of his alma mater. Nodjoumi also joined his politically galvanized students in criticizing the Shah's regime, designing political posters inspired by the revolutionary spirit sweeping the country, only to be exiled in the aftermath of the revolution. The artist was born in Kermanshah, Iran in 1941, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn.





NAHID HAGIGAT, THREE FACES WITH WHITE ANIMAL (2015), HAND PAINTED ETCHING FROM 1970'S PLATE, 22 X 18 INCHES

Nahid Hagigat

Nahid Hagigat is a visual artist who draws inspiration for her paintings from her own life stories. Her work is in numerous private and public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the British Museum, Tehran Museum of Modern Art in Iran, JP Morgan-Chase in New York, New York University, and World Bank in Washington, D.C. In addition, she often exhibited her art in Tehran and was instrumental in introducing printmaking to Tehran art galleries. After graduating with a degree in Fine Arts from Tehran University, Nahid received her Ph.D. from New York University in Art and Art Education. She recently received her second Ph.D. from Huntington Pacific University in Art & Behavioral Therapy. The artist was born in Iran in 1943, and currently lives in New York City.



NAHID HAGIGAT, THREE WOMEN IN GREEN PATTERN (2015), HAND PAINTED ETCHING FROM 1970'S PLATE, 22 X 18 INCHES



NAHID HAGIGAT, THREE WOMEN IN FLORAL PATTERN (2015), HAND PAINTED ETCHING FROM 1970'S PLATE, 22 X 18 INCHES



SHOJA AZARI, "A FAMILY" (FROM WINDOWS SERIES) (2006), CIBACHROME COLOR, 24 X 26 INCHES

Shoja Azari

Shoja Azari is a multimedia artist and filmmaker. His work confronts broad themes of gender, politics and piety, drawing inspiration from and re-interpreting religious icons. He has produced a body of collaborative work with the artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat, which includes video installations, short and feature films and several multimedia performance and theater pieces. While collaborating with Neshat on a wealth of film and video projects, Azari created several feature narrative and art house films, including an adaptation of Franz Kafka's work, called *K* (2002), and a series of short films, *Windows* (2006), *Simple Little Lives* (2015) and *Badria* (2017). He has also partnered with artist Shahram Karimi on a variety of multimedia projects. He has participated in exhibitions at the Venice Biennale, at museums such as Germany's Haus der Kulturen and the MUSAC in Spain, and at art fairs including Art Basel, Switzerland, ARCO, Spain, and Art Dubai. His works are in the permanent collections of various museums and foundations, including the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in the United States, and the Farjam Collection in the UAE. The artist was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1958, and currently lives in Brooklyn.



HOSSEIN FATEMI, NEGAR FROM THE SERIES "VEILED TRUTHS" (2013), ARCHIVAL INKJET PRINT, 35 X 35 INCHES

Hossein Fatemi

Hossein Fatemi began his journey as a photographer covering politics and social events in his home country of Iran at the age of 17. Between 2006 and 2008, he turned his lens on the wars in both Georgia and Lebanon. In 2009, Hossein moved to Afghanistan, where he documented American military ground operations and the lives of Afghans amidst and in the aftermath of war. His photographs have been published in numerous national and international journals including Newsweek, the New York Times, the Guardian, and the Washington Post. During subsequent trips back to his homeland of Iran, Hossein produced *An Iranian Journey* and *Veiled Truths*, two controversial and award winning projects focusing on youth and female identity. Hossein's photographs have been exhibited world-wide. He's won numerous awards and was nominated for the 2016 World Understanding Award for the Pictures of the Year. Fatemi was born in Iran, and currently lives in Chicago, Illinois.





NAZANIN NOROOZI, THE BOOK OF JOY NO. 12 (2016), MIXED MEDIA AND RESIN, 32 X 19 INCHES

Nazanin Noroozi

Nazanin Noroozi works predominantly in the medium of painting, but also incorporates printmaking and photography with resin, exploring new ways to represent the notions of collective memory and diaspora. Noroozi's work has been widely exhibited in both Tehran and the United States, including the Museum of Russian Art, Noyes Museum of Art, and Columbia University. Noroozi completed her MFA in painting and drawing from Pratt Institute in 2015. The artist was born in Tehran in 1985, and currently lives in New York City.



NAZANIN NOROOZI, THE BOOK OF JOY NO. 07 (2016), TONER TRANSFER, ACRYLIC AND RESIN, 27 X 20 INCHES



NAZANIN NOROOZI, THE BOOK OF JOY NO. 10 (2016), MIXED MEDIA AND RESIN, 31 X 22 INCHES



RAHA RAISSNIA, UNTITLED (2015), OIL ON WOOD PANEL, 24 X 34 INCHES

Raha Raissnia

Raha Raissnia creates complex works, which combine painting, film and drawing. Much of her work explores the intersection of these different mediums, with respect to materiality and the creative processes. In 2015, her work was included in All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennale curated by Okwui Enwezor. In 2016, Raissnia's film work was the subject of a solo presentation at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Recent solo exhibitions have also been held at Ab/Anbar Gallery in Tehran, Miguel Abreu Gallery in New York, Galeria Marta Cervera in Madrid, Galerie Xippas in Paris, and the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art in Isfahan, Iran. She has collaborated and performed with numerous artists and musicians such as Dalius Naujo, John Zorn, Charles Curtis, Aki Onda and Panagiotis Mavridis. Her film performances and installations in collaboration with such artists have been held at various venues, including the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Raissnia received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1992 and her MFA from Pratt Institute in 2002. The artist was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1968, and currently lives in Brooklyn.



RAHA RAISSNIA, CADGE SERIES 01 (2014), OIL ON WOOD PANEL, 12 X 16 INCHES



RAHA RAISSNIA, CADGE SERIES 04 (2014), OIL ON WOOD PANEL, 12 X 16 INCHES



JASON NOUSHIN, THE GATE OF A HUNDRED SORROWS (2015), ENCAUSTIC, CONTE, PLASTER AND INK ON WIRE, 16.5 INCHES

Jason Noushin

Jason Noushin works in a multitude of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation and performance art. His work explores the temporal frameworks of bi-cultural identity through a wide-ranging lexicon of socio and geopolitical references.

Noushin's work has been exhibited in the Rogue Space in New York; Hilles Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University in New Haven; Hammond Museum in North Salem, NY; Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, the Seyhoun Gallery in both Tehran and Los Angeles; at CONTEXT Art Miami with Shirin Gallery NY, and the Gerald Moore Gallery in London. The artist was born in England in 1969, but moved to Iran as an infant, where he grew up. He currently lives in Hamden, Connecticut.



JASON NOUSHIN, ILS SONT FOUDES CES ROMAINS! (2017), OIL, SHELLAC, INK, PENCIL, TUMERIC AND COMIC BOOK LEAVES ON LINEN, 48 X 48 INCHES



JASON NOUSHIN, FENUGREEK (2016), OIL, CEMENT, PLASTER, COLORED PENCIL AND BRASS WIRE ON LINEN, 46 X 46 INCHES



SHIRIN NESHAT, FROM THE LAST WORLD SERIES (2003), GELATIN SILVER PRINT, 4 X 12.8 INCHES

Shirin Neshat

Shirin Neshat is an Iranian visual artist, known primarily for her work in film, video and photography. Her artwork explores the tension and contrast between Islam and the West, femininity and masculinity, public life and private life, and antiquity and modernity. She was named artist of the decade by the Huffington Post in 2010. She has won numerous awards and showed her work all over the world, including in the Whitney Museum of Art; Tate Gallery in London; Guggenheim Museum in New York; Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; Centre Pompidou in Paris; State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; the Neue Galerie in New York; and the Gladstone Gallery in New York. Neshat was born in Qazvin, Iran in 1957, and currently lives in New York City.



SHAHRAM KARIMI, SUITCASE (2007), MIXED MEDIA, 15.75 X 23.6 INCHES

Shahram Karimi

Shahram Karimi is poet, painter, video artist and film production designer. His paintings portray the dilemma of the contemporary bicultural Iranian who seeks his historical and personal identity by wedding his personal past with contemporary form. Karimi has exhibited his work all over the world, including the Brigitte Schenk Gallery in Cologne, Germany; Leila Heller Gallery in New York; Mah Gallery in Tehran, Iran; Stadtmuseum Siegburg in Germany; Milani Heller Gallery in New York; Chelsea Art Museum in New York; and the Castelli Gallery, New York; and various art fairs, including Art Cologne and Art Dubai. Karimi is also the visual artist and production designer for films produced by Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari. The artist was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1957, and currently lives in Cologne, Germany and New York City.





AFSHIN NAGHOUNI, THE GREAT CONFLICT (2016), OIL, ACRYLIC AND RESIN ON CANVAS, 43 X 36 INCHES

Afshin Naghouni

Afshin Naghouni works big in a larger-than-life way, zooming-in to produce a super-sized canvas in a neo-figurative style that captures the appeal of intimate moments in a woman's life. Naghouni's paintings wrestle with controversial and complex issues in relation to women in the West and East, including exploitation, oppression and perceived liberation. Naghouni has shown his paintings worldwide, including exhibitions at Kensington Royal College of Art in London, England; Go Figurative in London; Mall Galleries in London; Aun Gallery in Tehran, Iran; Afran Gallery in Tehran; Nikombashi Mitsokushi in Tokyo, Japan; Opera Gallery in London; at CONTEXT Art Miami with Shirin Gallery NY. Naghouni has a post graduate degree from the London Metropolitan University, Sir John Cass Department of Art Media and Design. The artist was born in Iran in 1969, and currently lives in London, England.

A special thank you to Nicky Nodjoumi for his assistance in curating Beyond the Ban. We would also like to thank the following galleries for their collaboration and assistance in making this exhibition possible: Gladstone Gallery, Taymour Grahne Gallery, Leila Heller, Elizabeth Houston Gallery and Miguel Abreu Gallery.

Center for
**HUMAN
RIGHTS**
in Iran

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Gallery hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 11 am – 5 pm
and by appointment.