

ART INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL 2015

ALIREZA ADAMBAKAN
IMAN AFSARIAN
SAMIRA ALIKHANZADEH
REZA AZIMIAN
MOHAMMAD-HOSSEIN EMAD
REZA LAVASSANI
ROXANA MANOUCHEHRI
PAYAM MOFIDI
AHMAD MORSHEDLOO
AZADEH RAZAGHDOOST
BABAK ROZHANINEJAD
MOJTABA TAJIK

HALIÇ CONGRESS CENTER
BOOTH C7
4, 5, 6 SEPTEMBER 2015

ASSAR ART GALLERY
FOUNDED 1999, TEHRAN-IRAN

With a large collection of modern and contemporary Iranian art and 12 well-known visual artists in attendance, Assar Art Gallery plays a significant role in Tehran's artistic landscape.

As one of Tehran's leading galleries, Assar regularly highlights work by its represented and some of Iran's notable emerging artists. The gallery is dedicated to quality conservation, archiving and publication and has been actively supporting and sponsoring various related projects. As well as its domestic activities, Assar is also a regular presence in international art fairs promoting contemporary Iranian art and showcasing selected works by its representing artists to a wider audience. As part of Assar's dedication to cultural and educational enhancement of the city and its commitment to making some of the country's best kept collections accessible to growing audiences, the team is involved in organizing and setting up large scale exhibitions mainly of Iran's Modernist movement in a specially designed museum/gallery space in the north of the city.

Assar Art Gallery's mission is to engage artists and audiences through an ambitious program of quality exhibitions, collections, collaborations and publications both domestically and internationally. It also identifies and supports the most significant works of art within the Iranian cultural scene and aims to bring 20th century Iranian art to the attention of the rest of the world.

IMAN AFSARIAN
BORN 1974, TEHRAN-IRAN

Considered one of Iran's leading contemporary painters at work today, Iman Afsarian works primarily with oil. His still life subjects are the result of a lengthy process from start to completion due to his strong psychological attachment to his chosen workspace, subjects and techniques. In his work he mostly depicts objects, scenes, or elements abandoned and neglected.

Afsarian's latest work *Virgin Mary* is a highly personal work. In this work, he uses elements such as light and a nail metaphorically to refer to an annunciation while being deeply committed to representation and technique.

Afsarian has participated in numerous national and international exhibitions and his works are part of reputable international collections. As well as being an established artist, he is the director of the painting section of one of Iran's most reputable art magazines *Herfeh: Honarmand* [Profession: Artist]. He regularly publishes articles on art, culture and painting in various different domestic publications.

Virgin Mary, oil on canvas, 145x200 cm, 2014



SAMIRA ALIKHANZADEH
BORN 1966, TEHRAN-IRAN

Alikhanzadeh is a mixed-media artist who lives and works in Tehran. She works with a varied range of materials and techniques in order to assay her ways of presentation in various formats and models.

Her subjects are the result of her fascinations with old recorded personal documents such as photographs and letters found in random places and in people's homes. Her intense and determined search to find the right subjects combined with the manipulation of her chosen materials creates formidable and iconic works of art.

Her latest work is the first from her new series *Glorious Decay* made using damaged or disposed photographs she has found on the streets or in trash.

Samira Alikhanzadeh has been part of many national and international exhibitions and art fairs in North America, Europe and the Middle East since 1995. Her work has been acquired for important collections and museums such as LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art).

No.1 from the *Glorious Decay* series, digital print, acrylic and mirror on board, 150x104 cm, 2015, unique



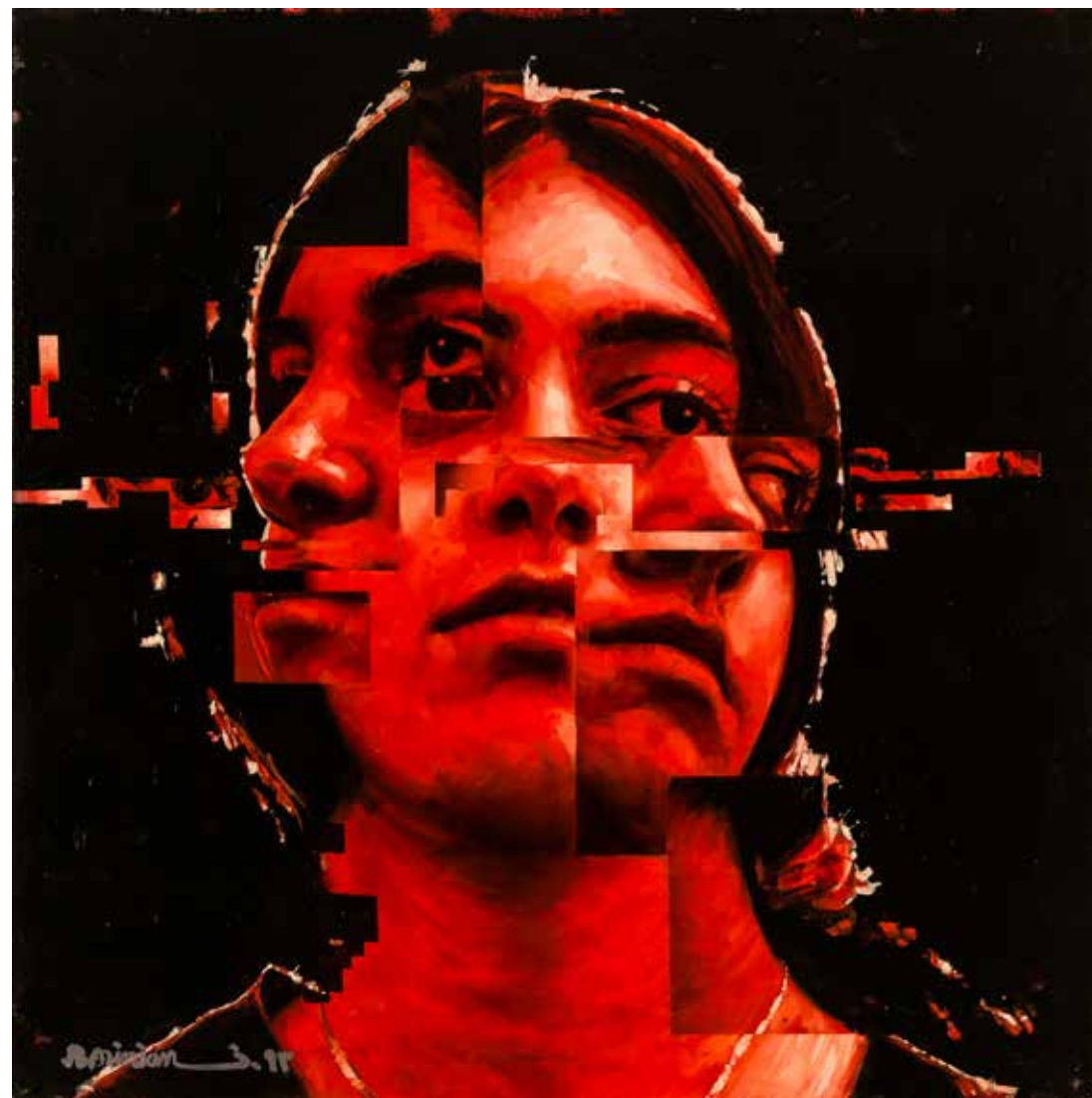
REZA AZIMIAN
BORN 1977, HAMEDAN-IRAN

Reza Azimian is a self-taught painter who works primarily with oil, exploring and depicting social subjects. He is especially focused on Iran's contemporary and changing culture and its parallel effects on identity and social conducts. His highly intense and psychologically charged subjects and compositions have all contributed to his very distinctive way of expression.

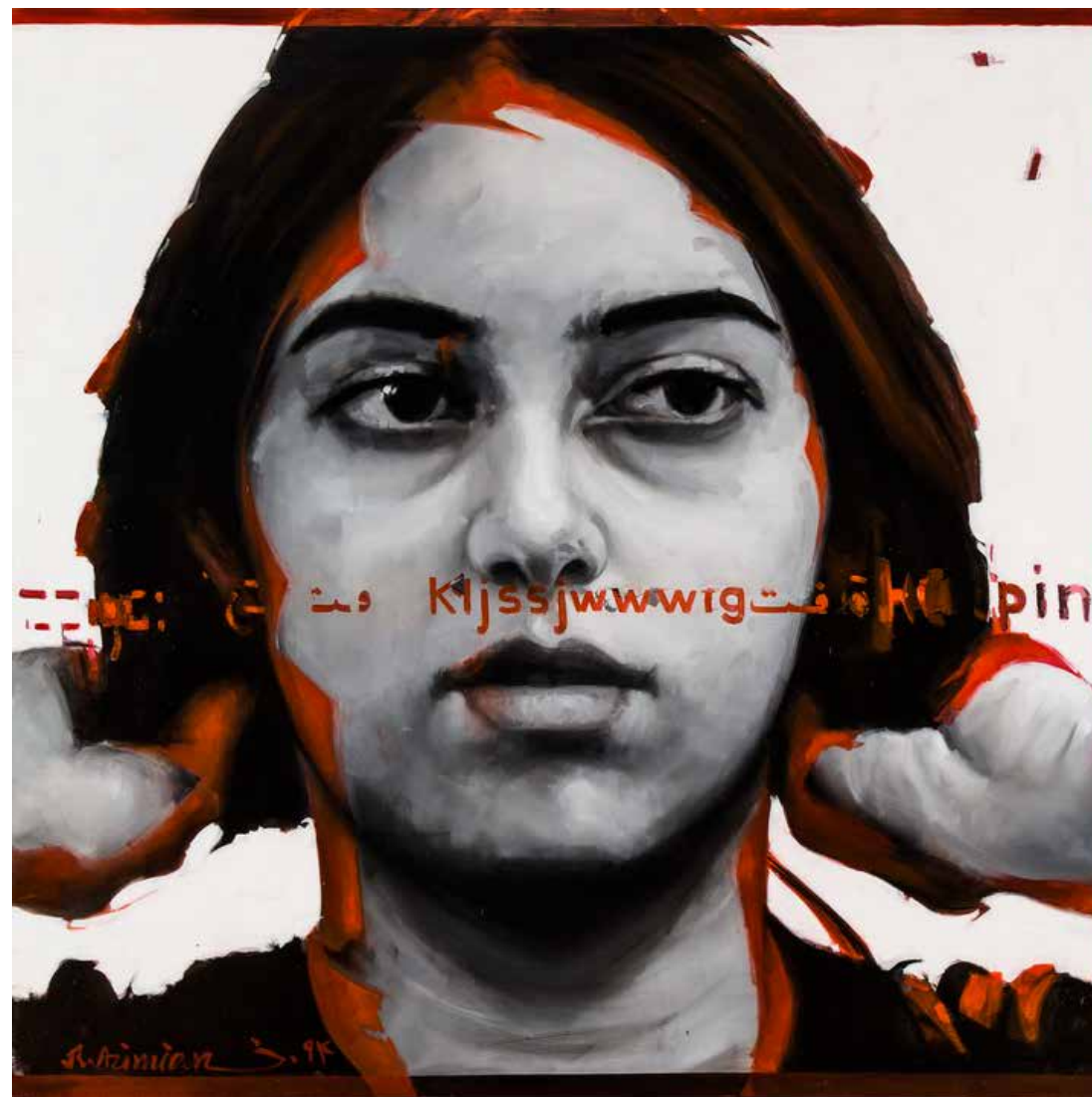
In his latest works he has chosen limited palette of three colours: black, red and white to emphasise on contrast and juxtaposition: the contrast between the glossiness of red and dullness of black, between the gentle feeling of a delicate figure of a woman and the immense amount of void and monotony.

Azimian's works have been exposed worldwide in solo and group exhibitions and as part of many International art fairs. His works are also part of important collections both inside and outside Iran.

No.4 from the Reset series, oil on canvas, 150x150 cm, 2014



Yes, Yes, Sure... from the *Reset* series, oil on canvas, 151x151 cm, 2015



MOHAMMAD-HOSSEIN EMAD

BORN 1957, ARAK-IRAN

Emad is considered one of the country's most celebrated sculptors for his large body of unique and imaginative works.

The unrefined surfaces of his sculptures and their visual simplicity are the essential characteristics of his creations. He materializes his poetic and abstract vision towards existence through his work, inviting his audiences to connect to the natural world around them.

He is engaged with contrast and opposite notions between inner and outer connection, darkness and light and, emptiness and abundance. His latest sculpture entitled *Ingurgitation* is inspired by excessive state of greed and voracity that surrounds us.

Emad has exhibited worldwide in the past twenty years and has won many awards. Several of his works are installed in public spaces in Tehran and other cities of Iran and his work has been exposed in several art fairs and national and international biennials.

Ingurgitation from the *Balance* series, wood, 94x135x135 cm, 2014



PAYAM MOFIDI
BORN 1980, TEHRAN-IRAN

Payam Mofidi is a painter, video artist and an animation filmmaker currently based in Montreal, Canada.

Payam uses a unique lyrical aesthetic language with epistemological expression to narrate and create his works. In his works, he predominantly deals with psychologically paradoxical notions and in many cases he portrays his characters in situations they seem to be trapped in loops which metaphorically signifies the social actuality of contemporary man and the global social order and control.

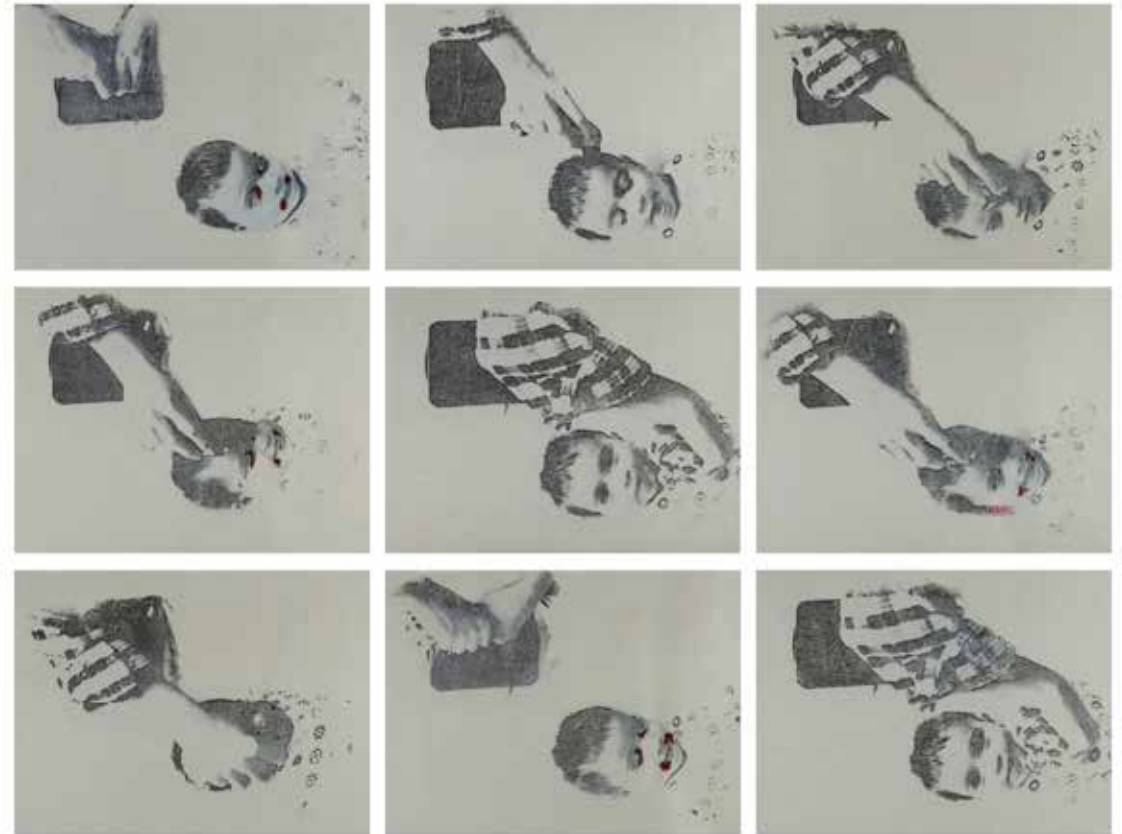
The three videos, *Cohesive Disorder 1,2 and 3*, which together are fragments of one installation, are captured in time through either staged photography or videography. The installation presents the viewer with an uncomfortable situation where a perception is formed at the crossroads of the viewer's point of view and the three interconnected video panels. The carefully selected visual vocabulary is intended to nudge the viewer's perception towards the artist's angle without imposing a singular manner of thinking.

Mofidi's works have been exhibited in Iran, Europe and North America as well as being part of numerous festivals and art fairs worldwide.

Video Still - No. 1 from the *Cohesive Disorder* series, duration: 2:35", 2013-2014, edition of 3 + AP



Video Still - No. 2 from the *Cohesive Disorder* series, duration: 2:14", 2013-2014, edition of 3 + AP



Video Still - No. 3 from the *Cohesive Disorder* series, duration: 7:56", 2013-2014, edition of 3 + AP



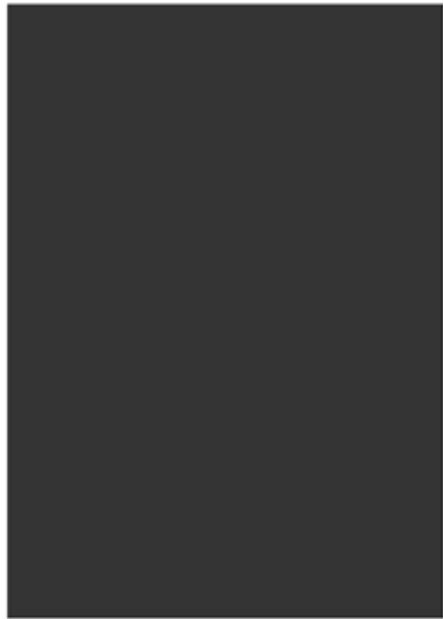
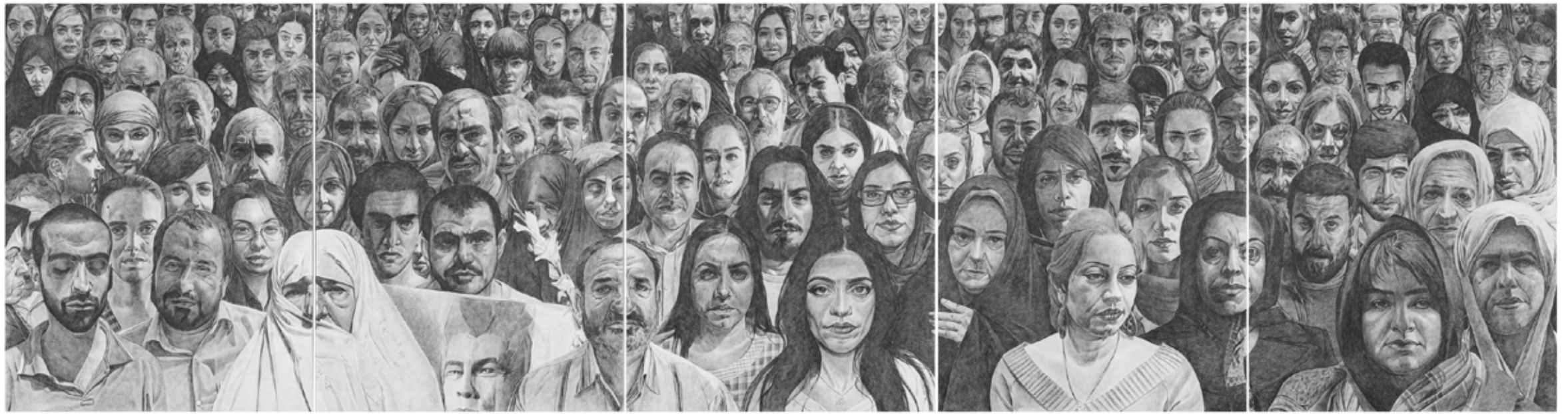
AHMAD MORSHEDLOO
BORN 1973, MASHHAD-IRAN

Ahmad Morshedloo is one of Iran's most celebrated contemporary artists. Working with and using various techniques, he is best known for his iconic large ink pen figurative works.

Morshedloo's large body of work focuses on social issues. He is deeply engaged with the process of rediscovering himself in relations to the society that surrounds him while also assessing how social and political shifts are psychologically influencing the society.

His latest work, *Resonance of Silence*, is a polyptych presenting Morshedloo's observation of today's Iran being challenged by elements of hope, loss, constant change and shifts.

Morshedloo's work has been shown in several international art fairs. He has participated in many group exhibitions worldwide and has held many solo shows inside Iran. His works are part of notable collections such as the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, the Imam Ali Museum and the Saatchi Collection.



Resonance of Silence, pen on cardboard, polyptych (10 panels), 240x450 cm overall, 120x90 cm each panel

MOJTABA TAJIK
BORN 1966, TEHRAN-IRAN

Mojtaba Tajik is a hyperrealist painter who first began his career with photography.

Tajik uses his camera to photograph his subjects. His paintings hence, are the results of still life images that have gone beyond their ordinary context and have delicately been transformed into symbolic paintings. Although Tajik seemingly focuses on subjects that appeal to him aesthetically in everyday life, in his paintings, he tries to portray his subjects beyond their outward and banal context in order to make them his own.

Despite following his signature approach in the choice of colour, form and subject, his latest painting *Build. 17* contains his underlying references to social class inequality.

Tajik has held several solo exhibitions in Iran and around the world and has participated in many group exhibitions and art fairs worldwide.

Build. 17 from the *Wooden boxes* series, acrylic on canvas, 150x64 cm, 2015



www.assarartgallery.com

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be copied or transmitted
in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of **Assar Art Gallery**.

September 2015

Art Director & Graphic Designer: Iman Safaei