

# VANITY FAIR

CULTURE

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## Persia in New York

Beyond the tragedy of Brooklyn-based band the Yellow Dogs, a vibrant scene of Iranian artists, musicians, filmmakers, designers, and actors is flourishing in America, centered in New York. If there's a silver lining to the story, it's the chance to recognize and celebrate the vital work of Iranians in the arts living here.

By Nancy Jo Sales



### AMIR H. AKHAVAN

Amir H. Akhavan's 2008 gallery show depicting the "Persian Boy," a lover of Alexander the Great, caused a splash in the art world of Tehran. Now he has an upcoming series about soldiers, and works with the Leila Heller gallery. "A soldier is a product of circumstances and not to be hated," he says. "It's about having compassion for all sides."

Painting: *The First Supper*, 2013. Oil on canvas.

Photograph by Justin Bishop.