

PARINAZ ELEISH GHARAGOZLOU



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Parinaz Eleish: *Beyond The Sea There Is A Town*
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LEILA HELLER GALLERY

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Catalogue by Raylene Liu

Front Cover Image: *My own Seat at the Table, 2022*

Back Cover Image: *The Modern Metropolis, 2022*

AMNESIA OF A FORGOTTEN CITY

You walk down alleyways and dead-ends. You circle the squares and roundabouts of your memory. You recognize the feel of the summer heat on your skin. That is yours for ever. Passing by an open window, you know the smell of the mid day meal cooking on a stove. You are sure the fried onions would have a sweet taste on your tongue if you were called in to share the repast. You should be in sync with the city's pulse, this beating heart that you sense against the soul of your shoes.

And yet.

And yet you see it cracking, crumbling, crashing. For years now, for a long time. It is soundless, slow, steady. You are walking down narrow lanes, treelined avenues and around street corners, all renamed reshaped. Where there was a door there is gaping hole. Where there were windows, blind darkness within an empty frame. A three legged chair abandoned to its fate, a stuffed bear for the alley cats. Cities no longer in control of their past or their destiny, abandoned to the pillage of the greedy, of the small limited minds.

You walk down narrow lanes and pass by filigreed garden gates. You look for stories, memories contained within the walled ruins that were home to all that. And so much more than that. The heart and soul of the city. And yet.

You find a city without borders a city with no past, no future. And you remember having read this:

"If I see my city as beautiful and bewitching, then my life must be so too." - Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City*.

By Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlou

The series "Amnesia of a forgotten City" is about history and it's relation to our future. When a society's link to the past is severed, it promises a rootless lot. With the systematic destruction of the familiar stories of a people, we will have no evidence and no memory to propel us toward a sane future.

Eleish's works may provoke strong emotions of nostalgia in the viewer but it is not backward-looking. The goal of these works is to alert the viewer that, as a society, we need to be mindful of what has been handed down to us and preserve it for the next generation. Preservation of the past is an investment in the future.

It is the tradition of storytelling in Iran that inspires Eleish. Those epic stories that tell of heroes, martyrs, giants, and monsters can cause tears of joy or sadness in the eyes of the captured audience. Her large unframed panels resemble the painted curtains of the traveling storytellers. They allow her as a painter to have a surface with no clear boundaries to tell tall tales as if the stories will continue beyond the edge of the canvas, spilling out, allowing you to imagine the rest of the story outside the frame.

Each canvas tells stories of loss, triumph, and the future. Some are tragic, some whimsical. The miniature details within the large-scale paintings are a tribute to the miniature painting tradition in Iranian art. The tradition's sense of scale, stilted perspectives, and minute details have always fascinated her.

In this series, Eleish sees herself as a storyteller of a moment in time. She often works from ordinary snapshots that she has taken. They are rarely significant. But they capture what moves her. "Though I begin each painting with a story and an idea, at the core, I hope it is the raw emotion that will carry the viewer." She says.

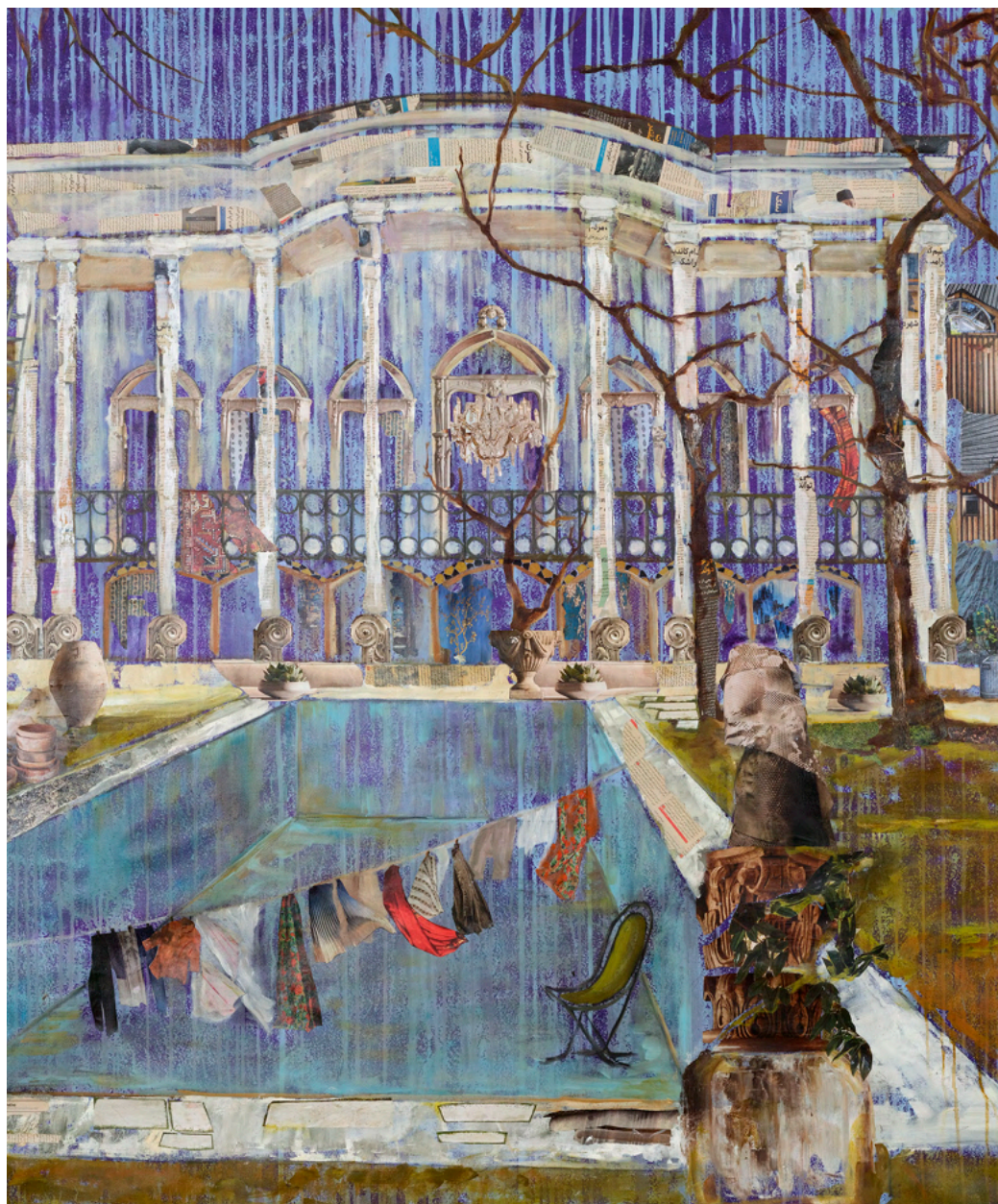




***Dead Calm*, 2020**
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
72.25h x 118.50w in / 183.51h x 300.99w cm



The Modern Metropolis, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
73h x 61w in / 186.69h x 154.94w cm



***The Blue Swimming Pool*, 2020**
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
72.25h x 60.50w in / 183.51h x 153.67w cm



What You Left Behind, 2020
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
60.50h x 80w in / 153.67h x 203.20w cm



My owe Seat at the Table, 2022
 Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
 61.5h x 72w in / 156.21h x 182.88w cm



***The Profound Loneliness*, 2022**
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
72h x 60.5w in / 182.88h x 153.67w cm

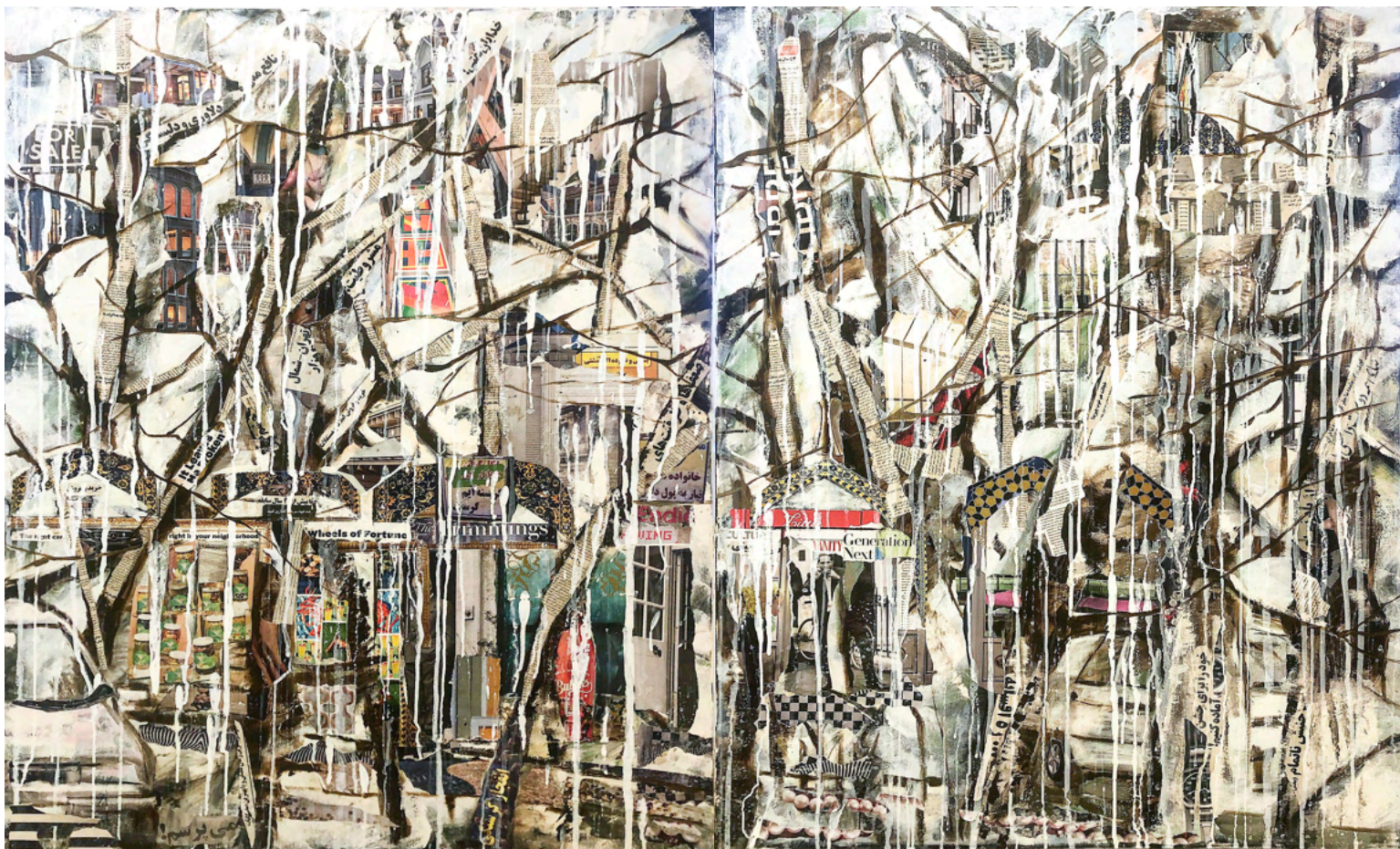


Being a Women, 2022
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
70.75h x 60w in / 179.7h x 152.4w cm





My City Holding Its Breath, 2022
Mixed Media and collage on Canvas
60h x 36w in / 152.4h x 91.44w cm



All for Sale, 2020

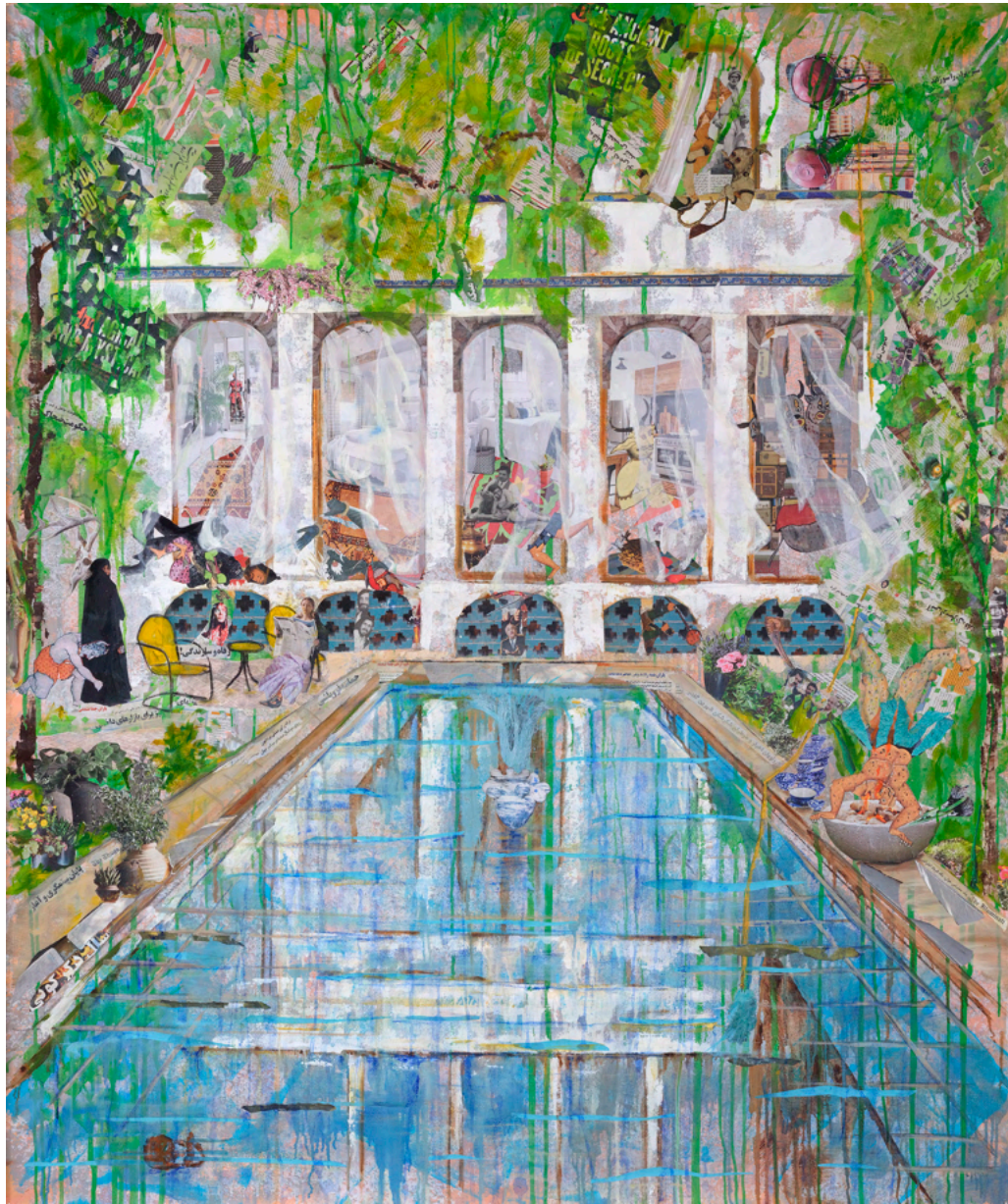
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas, Diptych

48h x 72w x 1.5d in. / 121.92h x 182.88w x 3.81d

Each panel: 48h x 36w x 1.5d in. / 121.92h x 91.44w x 3.81d



What of the Broken Roof of my House? 2020
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
72.50h x 120w in / 184.15h x 304.80w cm



The Best Little Boo Tick Hotel in the East, 2021
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
71h x 60w / 180.34h x 152.4w cm



***Remembrances of Things Past*, 2020**
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
94h x 72w in / 238.76h x 182.88w cm



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سوريس، فر
لكن لم
الوسط عالم
2021
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لقد تعرض انه يجب
ممية الكبيرة، كالإمارات العربية المتحدة، أو
ودية. إلا إن الأمر ليس كذلك، وفقاً لسيدي
افتتاح أول مركز تكنولوجي لها في منطقة
شمال أفريقيا، اختارتي المجموعة مملكة
لها. توضح اليسار فرخ أنطونيوس، رئيس
لوسط وشمال أفريقيا، وال
ب في الإمارات: "لقد
لبحرين. ومن



To Kown It You Must Walk It, 2022
Mixed Media and collage on Canvas
76h x 60w in / 187.96h x 152.4w cm



The golden dome, 2020
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas
60.75h x 83.60w in / 154.31h x 212.34w cm

PARINAZ ELEISH

BIOGRAPHY

Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlou was born in Tehran to an Iranian mother (historian/publisher) and an Egyptian father (economist.) She grew up in Tehran until high school and finished her diploma in Switzerland before coming to the US for her higher education. Eleish recieved a BFA in Film Production and Painting from Emerson College and the Museum of Fine Arts in 1981. She holds two MFAs: one in Film Production from Boston University and one in English Writing and Poetry from the University of New Hampshire.

After graduation, Eleish worked in various areas of film production at different independent Boston film production companies. For five years she held the position of film and media coordinator at the French Library and Cultural Center, now merged with the Alliance Francaise in Boston. In 1993, Eleish moved to back to Tehran where she had her own painting company, Samarkand a Faux Real co., which specialized in faux finish painting. Eleish returned to the US after three years and started Damascus Dreams, a one-man hand crafted jewelry design company specializing in work with ancient beads, before she began painting full-time.

Eleish has published poetry in English and recently published a novel in Farsi which is available in print and audio on Amazon, iTunes and related book stores as well as in Iran.

Eleish and her husband Yahya Gharagozlou and live most of the time in Boston, and part time in Tehran. She has two daughters Leila and Homa. Her studio is located in Brighton, MA.

EDUCATION

- 1981 B.F.A, Emerson College/Museum of Fine Arts
1983 M.F.A., Boston University
1992 M.F.A., University of New Hampshire

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "Amnesia of a Forgotten City", Newyork,
2013 "Web of Trees", Khaki Gallery, Boston, MA
2015-6 "Web of Trees", Eleish Van Breems, Westport, CT

GROUP SHOWS

- 2010 "The Creative Process", New Art Center,
Newton,MA
2011 "The Creative Process", New Art Center,
Newton, MA
2012 "The Creative Process", New Art Center,
Newton, MA
2012 "Proof of Purchase", School of the Museum of
Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2012 "Art Sale", School of the Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston, MA
2012 "Web of Trees", Khaki Gallery, Boston, MA
2013 "Proof of Purchase", School of the Museum of
Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2013 "Art Sale", School of the Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston, MA
2014 "Art Sale", School of the Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston, MA
2015 "Art Sale", School of the Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston, MA
2015 "Proof of Purchase", School of the Museum of
Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2015 "Tehran Virtual or Real", Aran Gallery,
Tehran, Iran

- 2016 "Blue Gold", Gallery Etemad, Tehran, Iran

HONORS & PRESS

- 2012 Featured Artist, Wellesley Townsman, MA
2012 Medici Artist, School of the Museum of
Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2017 Featured Artist, Behind Closed Curtains:
Interior Design, Iran
2017 Cover of Middle East Magazine, May Issue

PUBLICATIONS

- "A World Between", Anthology, 1999
"Let Me Tell You Where I've Been", Anthology, 2006
Jasousan-e Shamsabad-e Bala (The Spices of Shamsabad-e
Bala), Nashr-e Trikh-e Iran Press, 2019





ساخته در ۳ ساله
۸۰ میلیارد دلار

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