

Carpets of Eden, Gardens of Fantasy

Curated by
Behrang Samadzadegan



LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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Gardens of Fantasy**

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In the ethereal domain of fibers and threads, where the ordinary converges with the enchanting, carpets emerge as tacit narrators, murmuring tales of a transcendent Eden. Within their woven realms unfolds a ballet of fantasy—a choreography of patterns and hues that captivates the senses and sparks the imagination.

The carpet, understood as a flat, patterned surface, served as a model for painters at the end of the nineteenth century and was a frequent point of comparison when discussing works. The Oriental carpet was of continuous importance even though it might be claimed that interest peaked during the nineteenth century; in the wake of Orientalism, carpets were a well-established motif as a code for the exotic.

These carpets, much like dreamers, yearn for Eden. They embody more than mere threads and fibers; they carry the echoes of an enchanted garden, a sanctuary of dreams. In the quiet corners of our homes, these carpets become sanctuaries where fantasy blossoms.

Artists, whether by conscious choice or the unconscious pull of inspiration, find themselves drawn into the intricate embrace of these textile gardens. Some become lost in the meticulous order of patterns and the rhythmic geometry, finding solace in the structured beauty of carpets.

Yet, within this order resides a realm of unexplored creativity—a territory where artists navigate unbridled fantasies. Like architects of dreams, they go beyond the surface, delving into

the unseen, weaving layers of imagination that transcend the tangible. Here, carpets cease to be mere floor coverings; they metamorphose into canvases, hosting a symphony of dreams where fantasy begets more fantasy.

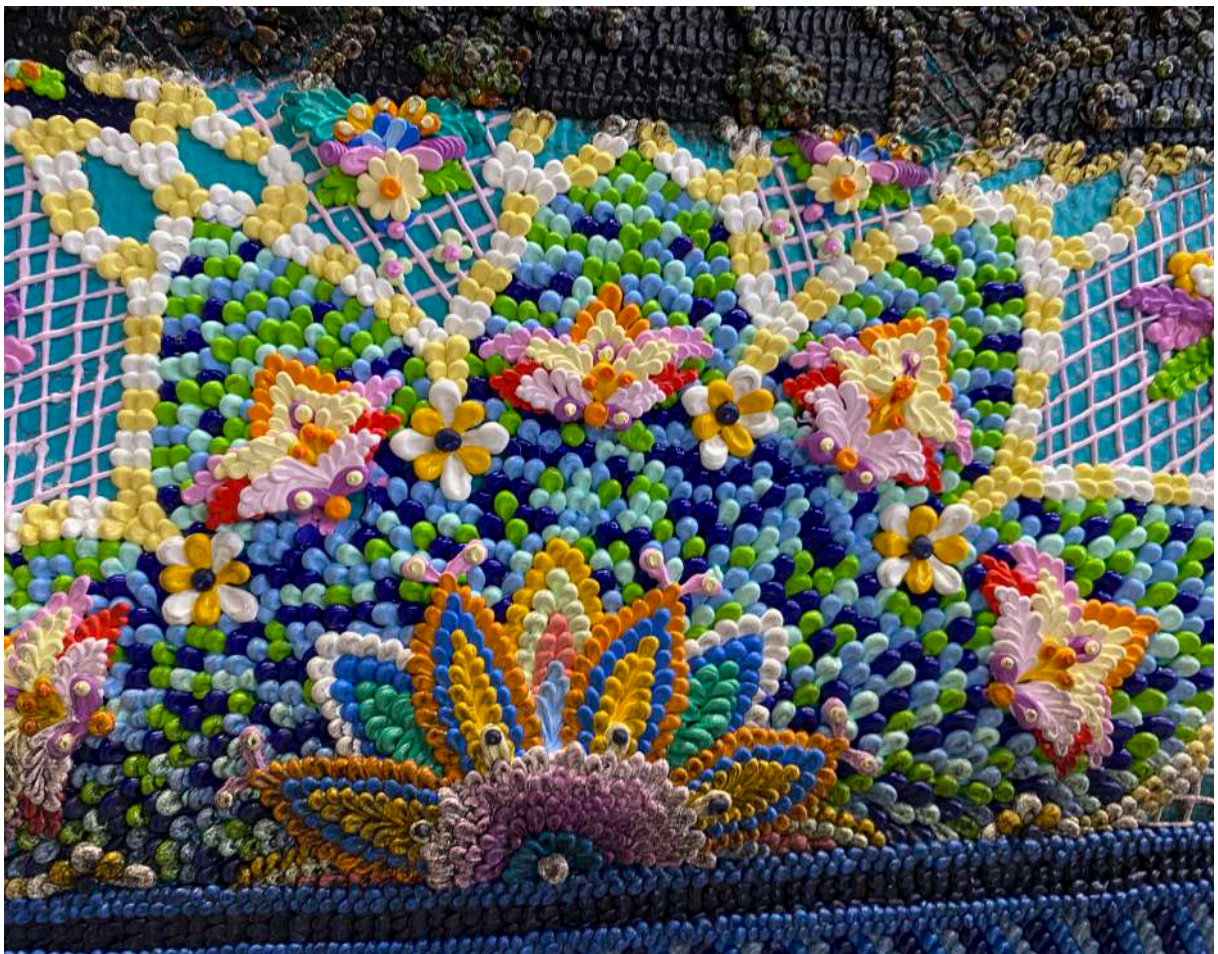
The very notion of “fantasy within fantasy” becomes a portal through which artists journey into the depths of their imaginative worlds. As they thread the needle of creation, they infuse these woven tapestries with the essence of their dreams, intertwining reality and fantasy in a mesmerizing dance.

In “Carpets of Eden, Gardens of Fantasy,” the viewer is invited to explore these realms—a pilgrimage through the fantastical gardens where carpets dream and artists awaken the dormant magic within. Each step unveils a narrative, a brushstroke of creativity inspired by the rich tapestry beneath our feet. Let the exhibition stand as a testament to the extraordinary potential found in the overlooked corners of our daily lives—a celebration of the ordinary transformed into the extraordinary.

This exhibition not only offers new perspectives on carpet research and artistic exploration but also presents the carpet as a model for understanding art and art histories in a broader sense.

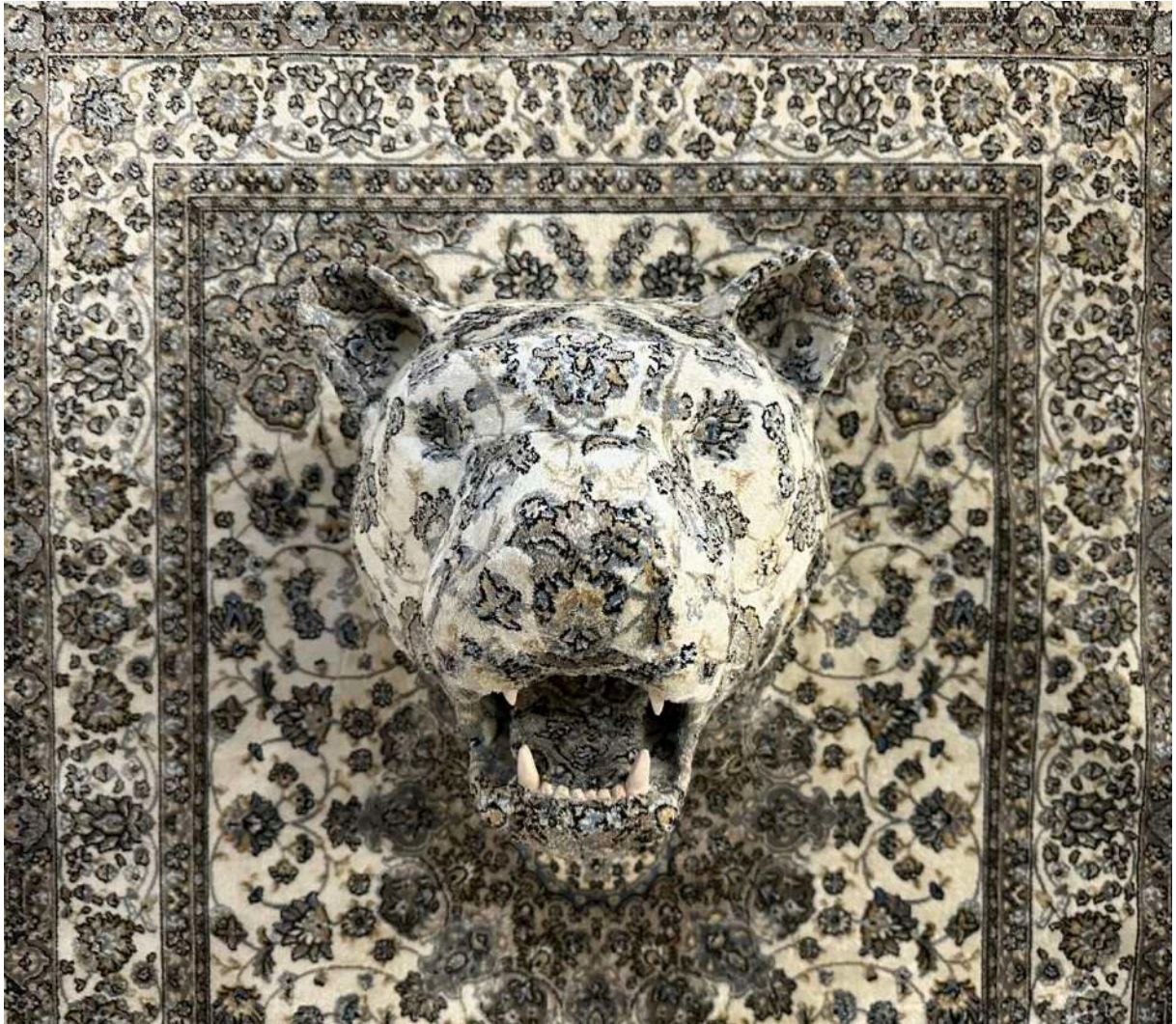


Antonio Santin
Tortilla De Mariposas
2024
Oil on canvas
160 x 220 cm





Debbie Lawson
Ozymandias, King of Kings
2020
Carpet and mixed media
244 x 150 x 150 cm



Debbie Lawson
White Tiger
2024
Carpet and mixed media
165 x 120 x 50 cm





Josefina Concha E.
Sueno De Aquo Fue Coe
2023
Textile
450 x 150 cm (3 Pieces)



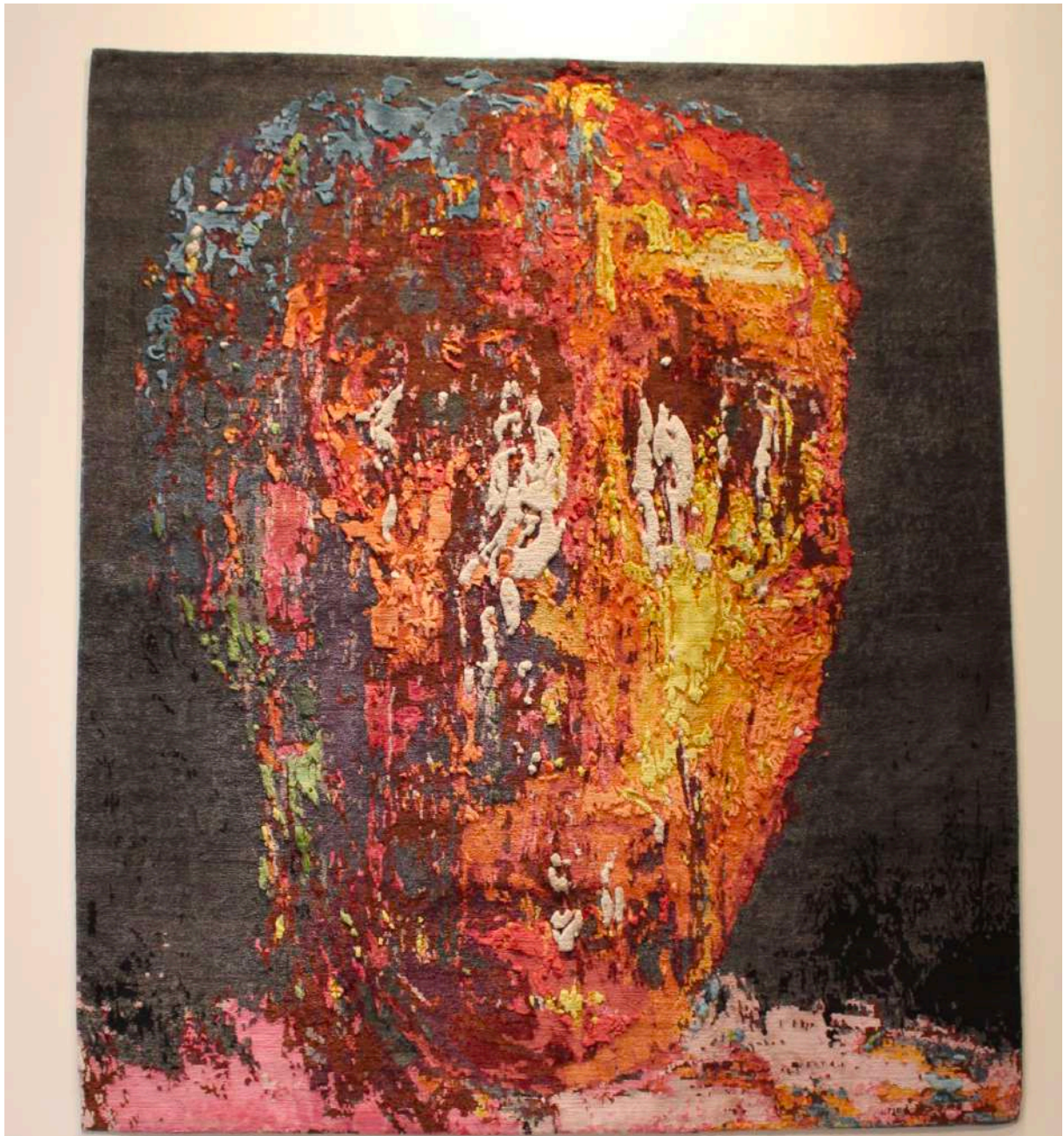
Bijan Ghaseminejad
Frequency
2017
Wool carpet
175 x 365 cm



Bijan Ghaseminejad
Zigzag
2021
Wool carpet
119 x 328 cm



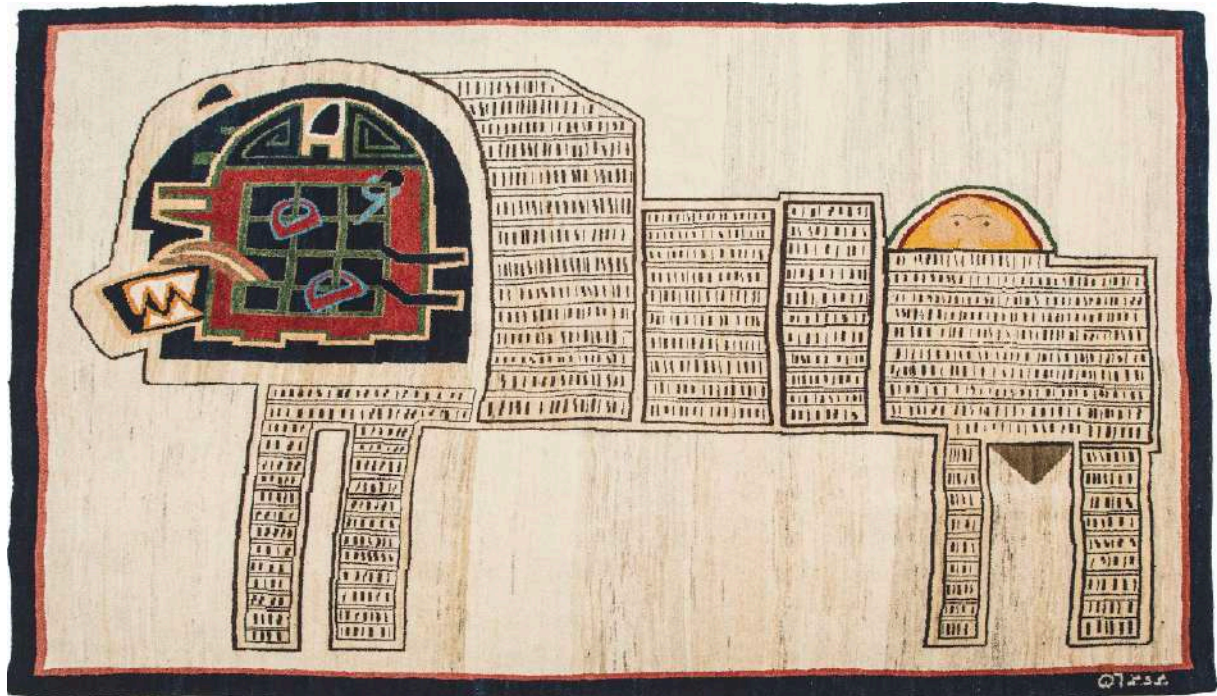
Shoeib Gorgani
36°17'57"N 52°53'15"E
2023
Handwoven carpet with
recycled plastic bags
190 x 350 cm



Marwan Sahmarani
The Crying Man
2015
Wool carpet
Edition: 3
225 x 195 cm



Faig Ahmed
Ilan (Snake) Geometric Series
2014
124 x 163 cm
Courtesy of Farshad Mahoutforoush Collection.



Parviz Tanavoli
Lion on White I
1977
Bijar weave
212 x 170 cm

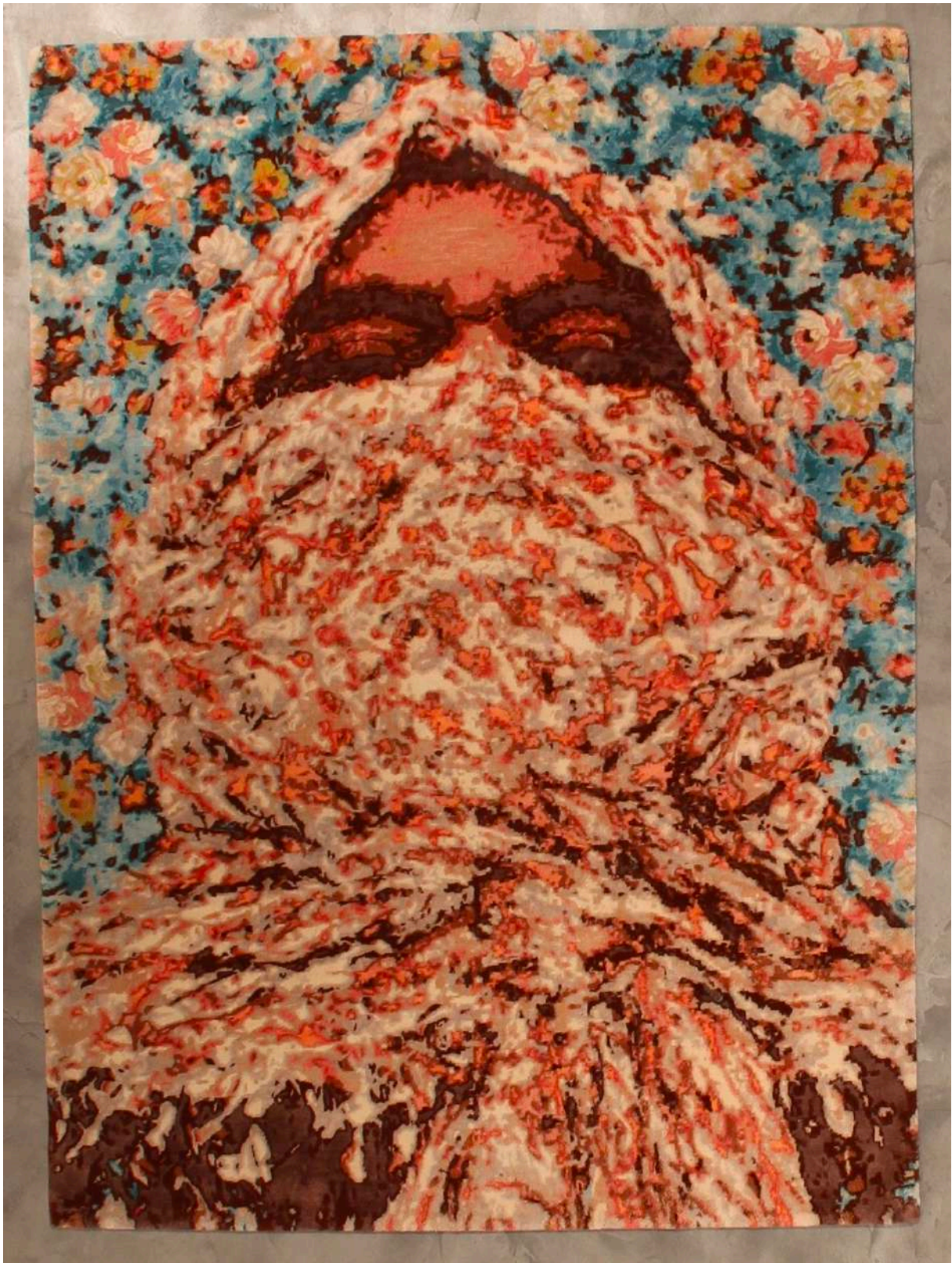


Maryam AL Homaïd
Celebration I & II
2022
Handwoven / Hand-dyed wool
200 x 366 cm (each)

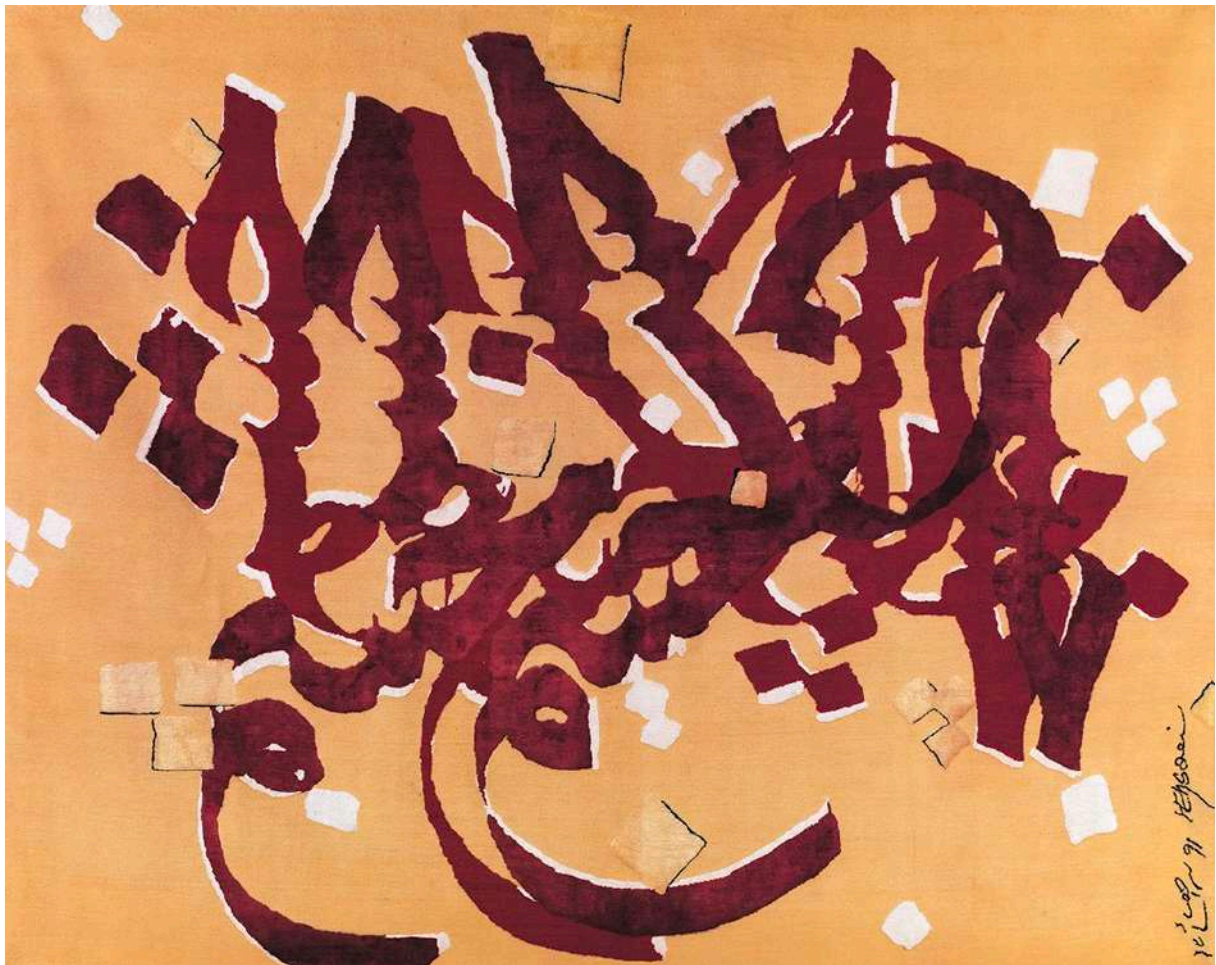




Etel Adnan
Tapesry
2010
212 x 159 cm



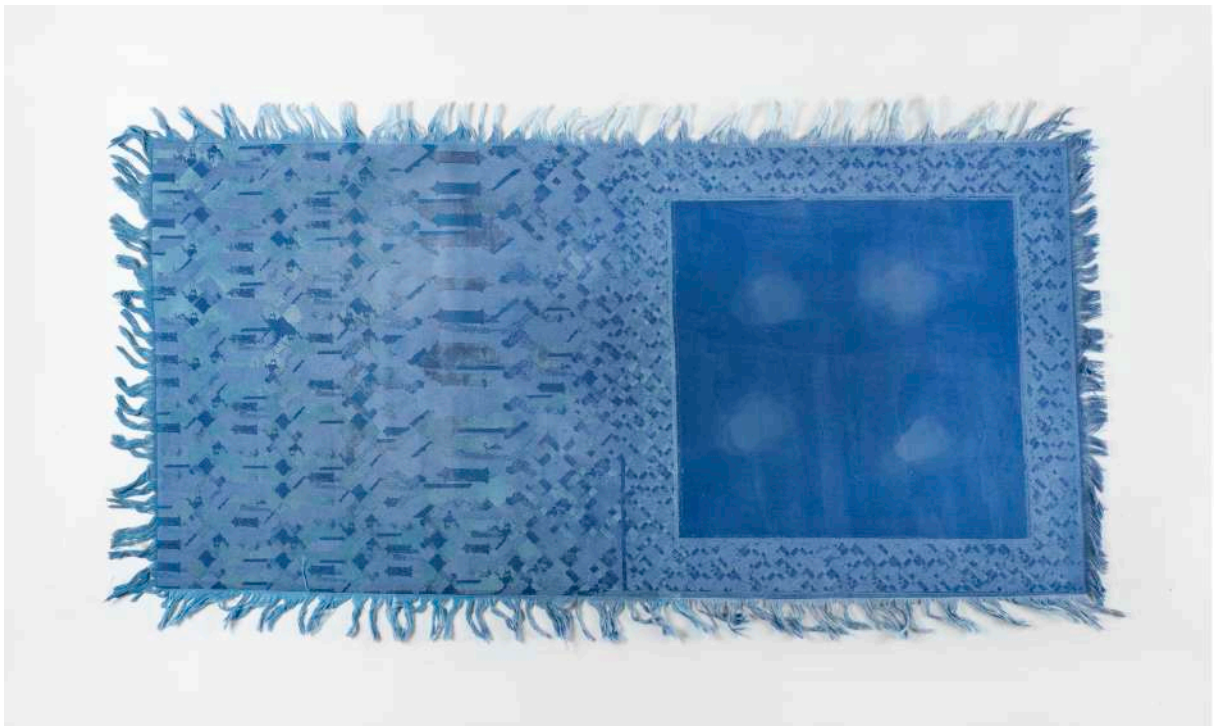
Ayman Baalbaki
Al Moulatham
2011
Carpet
200 x 145 cm



Mohammad Ehsaei
ANGER N.2
2024
Handknotted in Isfahan, Iran
400.000 knots per square
meter, Persian highland
wool with pure natural silk
275 x 210 cm



Mona Hatoum
Baluchi (red and orange)
2007
Cotton and wool
105.5 x 185.5 cm



Areen Hassan
RUG
2019
Silkscreen printing
and unraveling
95 x 50 cm



Areen Hassan
RUG
2019
Silkscreen printing
and unraveling
95 x 50 cm

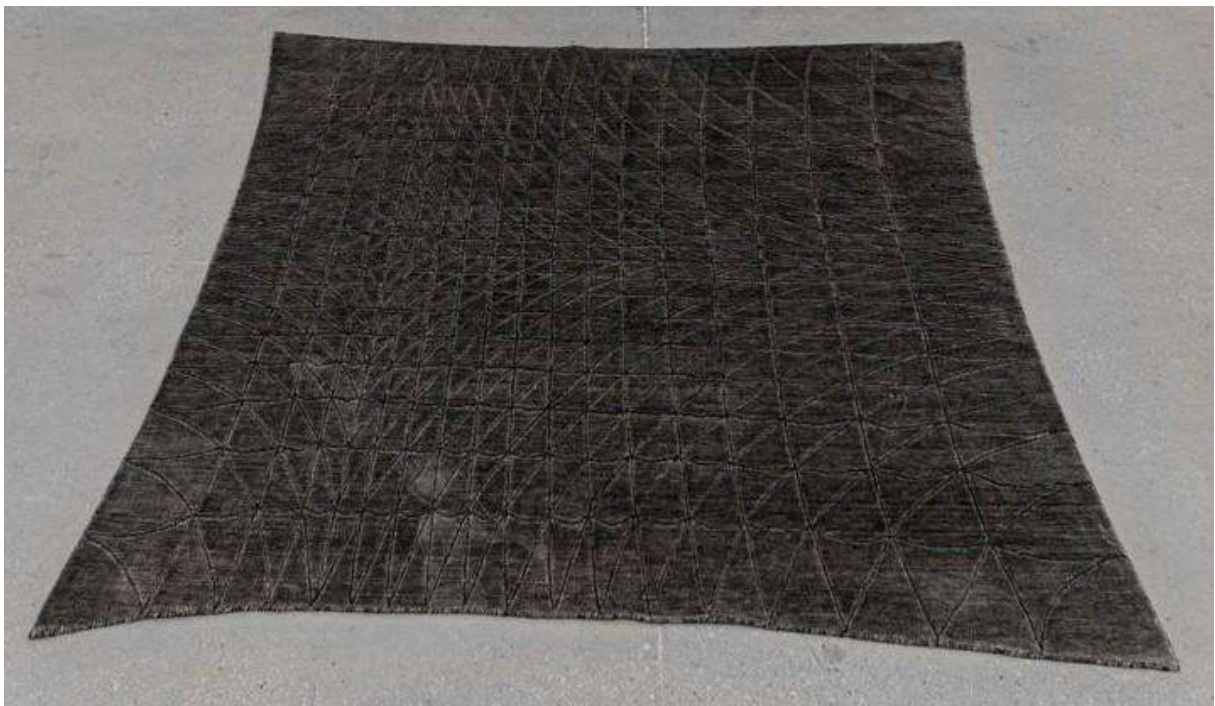




Areen Hassan
Threads
2023
Silkscreen printing
and unraveling
460 x 150 cm



Ali Cha'aban
Metamorphosis
2023
Persian carpet on
molded plywood
270 X 150 X 150 cm



Aref Montazeri
IMMORTAL MIRROR 01
2024
Hand woven carpet
200 x 200 cm



Farid Rasulov
Peacock New #19
2023
Digital print Print on Aluminium
100 x 150 cm



Farid Rasulov
Leopard #32
2023
Digital print on aluminium
100 x 150 cm



Farid Rasulov
Eagle #25
2023
Digital print on aluminium
100 x 150 cm



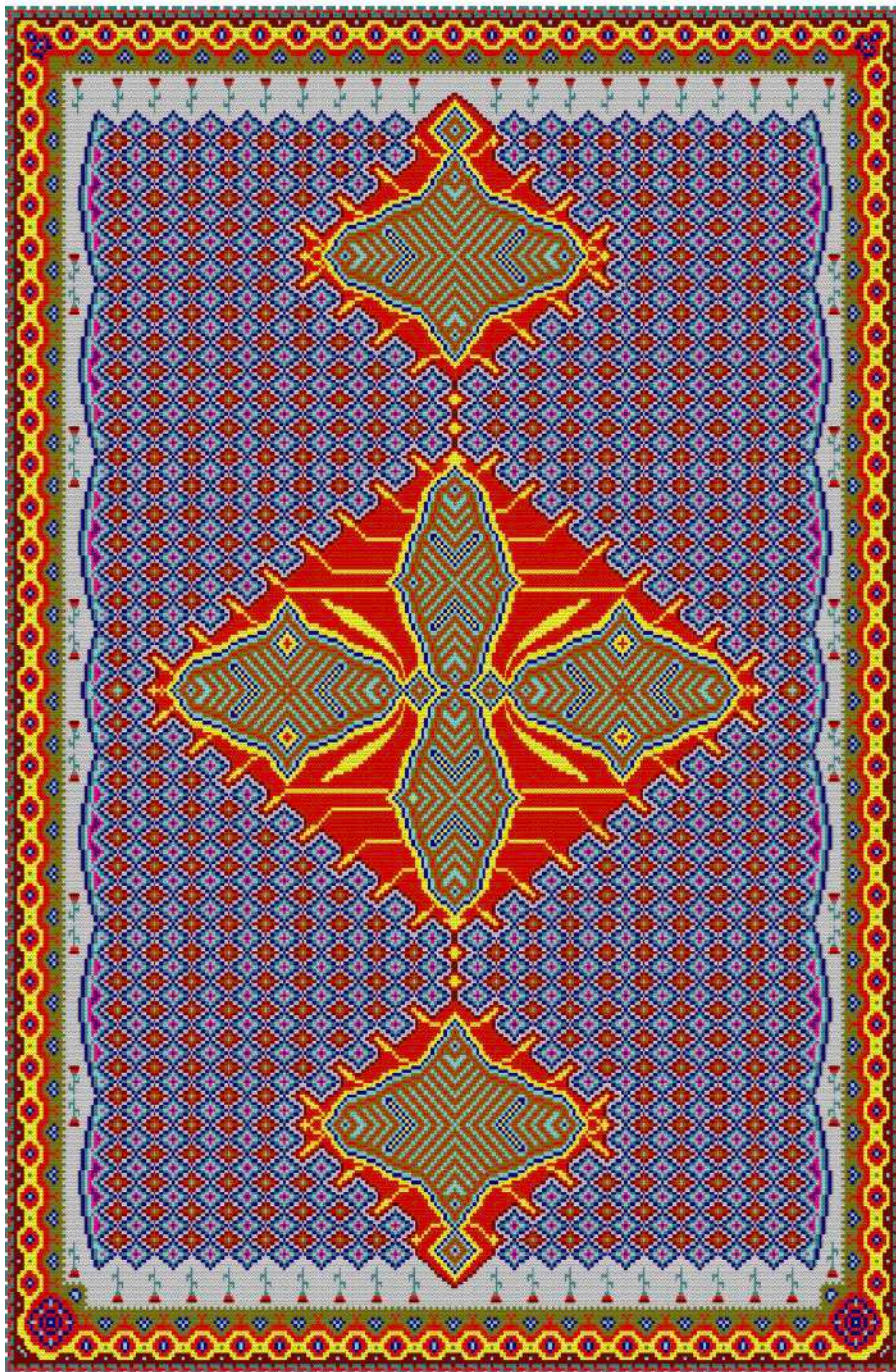
Farid Rasulov
Goat New #17
2023
Digital print on aluminium
100 x 150 cm



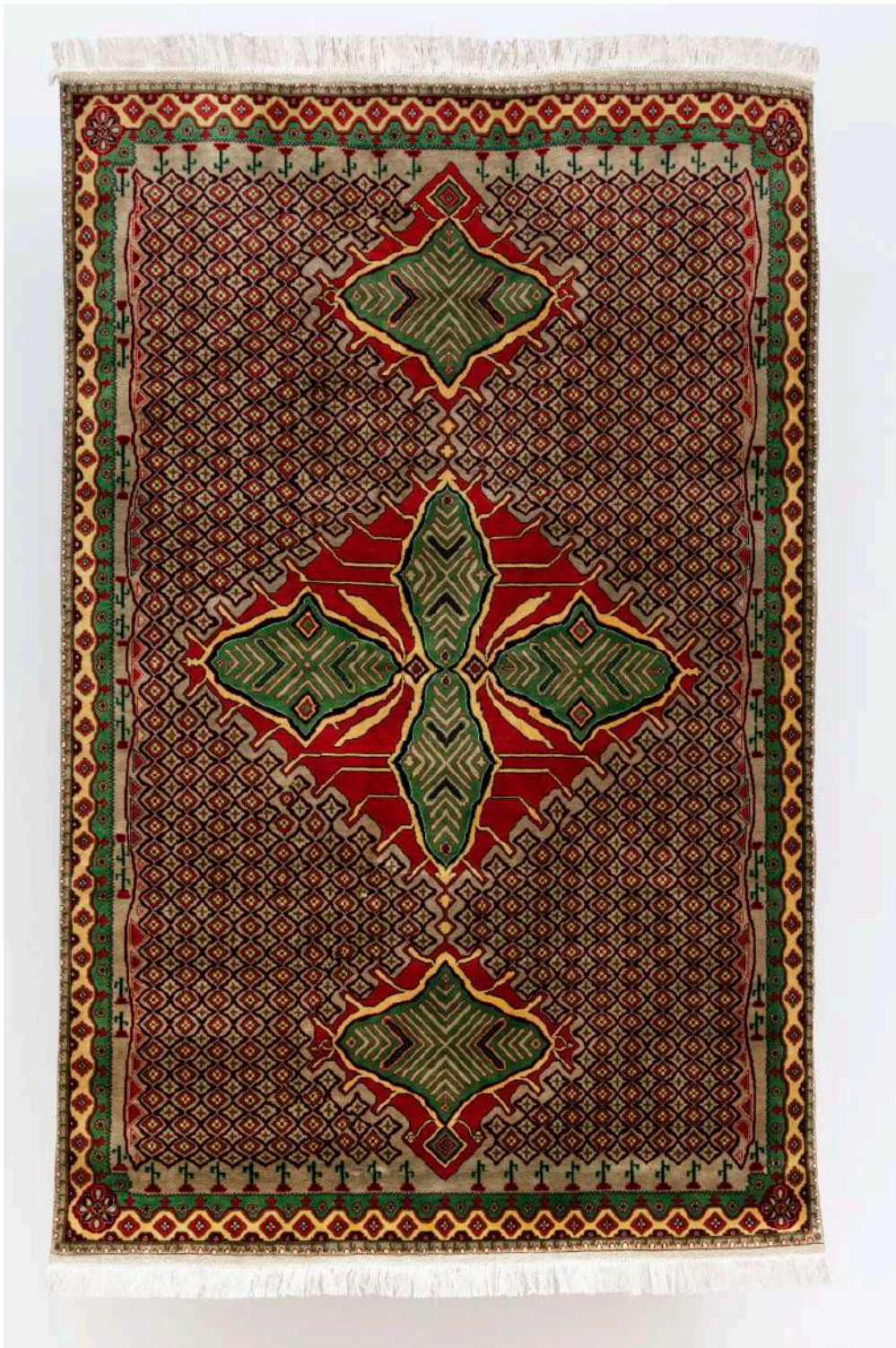
Farid Rasulov
Cat New #8
2023
Digital print on aluminium
100 x 150 cm



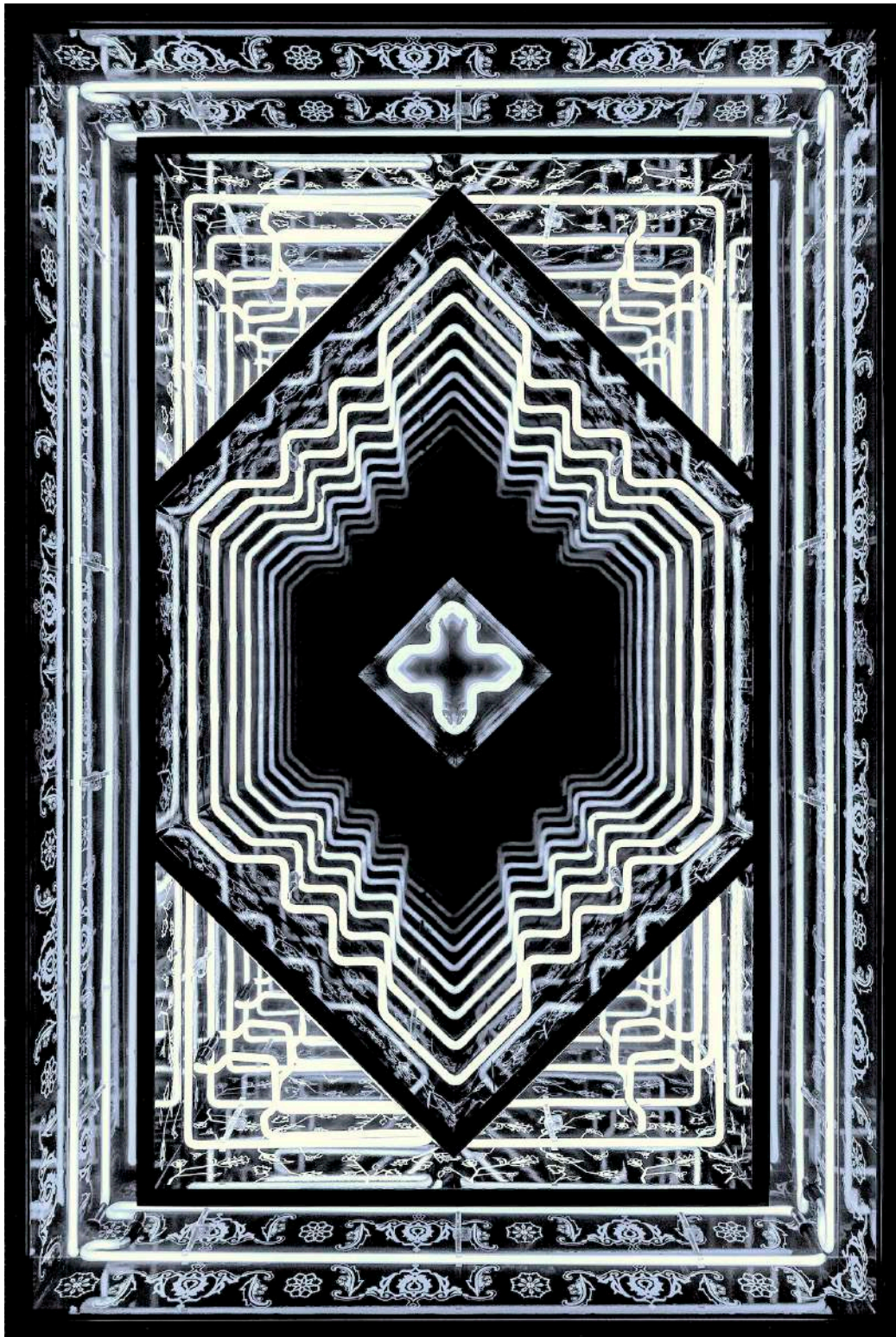
Farid Rasulov
Camel #6
2023
Digital print on aluminium
100 x 150 cm



Shaheer Zazai
2PW3PH MsMax C N1
2020
Digital Print on Watercolour Paper
Produced in Microsoft Word
Edition of 3
111.7 x 167 cm



Shaheer Zazai
2PW3PH MSMax C N1
2022
Handwoven carpet,
wool and natural dyes
Unique work
251.5 x 167.6 cm



Soheil Rad
Carpet series, the core
Wall Light art
2024
Metal, infinity mirror,
white colored neon
120 x 180 x 20 cm



Shahzad Hassan Ghazi
Grace versus strength (series)
2024
Archival Inks, Gouache,
Gold Powder on Canvas
108 x 180 cm



Melis Buyruk
Blooming Carpet
2024
Porcelain(Hand Built),
Wooden Panel
110 x 150 x 12 cm





Marcos Grigorian
Fairy Horse of David of Sasoun
1954
Woven carpet



1954 - 1955
1956 - 1957

Artists:

Etel Adnan
Faig Ahmed
Maryam Al-Homaid
Ayman Baalbaki
Melis Buyruk
Josefina Concha
Ali Cha'aban
Mohammad Ehsaei
Bijan Ghaseminejad
Shoeib Gorgani
Marcos Grigorian

Shahzad Hassan Ghazi
Areen Hassan
Mona Hatoum
Debbie Lawson
Aref Montazeri
Soheil Rad
Farid Rasulov
Marwan Sahmarani
Antonio Santin
Parviz Tanavoli
Shaheer Zazai

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Ozymandias, King of Kings, 2020,
Carpet and mixed media 244 x 150 x 150 cm
Back cover: Melis Buyruk, *Blooming Carpet*
2024, Porcelain (Hand Built),
Wooden Panel, 110 x 150 x 12 cm

LEILA HELLER GALLERY
I-87, Alserkal Avenue, PO Box 413991,
Al Quoz 1, Dubai, UAE
www.Leilahellergallery.com
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Etel Adnan, Faig Ahmed, Maryam Al-Homaid, Ayman Baalbaki, Melis Buyruk, Josefina Concha, Ali Cha'aban, Mohammad Ehsaei, Bijan Ghaseminejad, Shoeib Gorgani, Marcos Grigorian, Shahzad Hassan Ghazi, Areen Hassan, Mona Hatoum, Debbie Lawson, Aref Montazeri, Soheil Rad, Farid Rasulov, Marwan Sahmarani, Antonio Santin, Parviz Tanavoli, Shaheer Zazai.



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