

An abstract painting featuring a vibrant, multi-colored background. The composition is dominated by vertical, flame-like streaks in shades of yellow, orange, and red, set against a deep blue and purple sky. In the lower right corner, there are clusters of pink and purple flowers, possibly tulips, with green leaves. The entire piece is covered with numerous small white dots, creating a starry or sparkling effect. The text 'Behrang Samadzadegan' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle, with 'Flames Beneath the Flowering Sky' in a smaller font below it.

Behrang Samadzadegan

Flames Beneath the Flowering Sky

LEILA HELLER GALLERY

Flames Beneath the Flowering Sky

Written by Yasmin Moshari

Where I stand, blossoms bloom, besieged by ceaseless fire. Initially inspired by classic romantic tales, Behrang Samadzadegan's tableau now diverges into the current events of the Middle East, where the night sky blazes with missile trails, and homes are warmed by the conflagrations of war; yet flowers flourish and hope prevail.

Behrang believes painting draws reality to fiction, conveying ideas, images, or emotions free of the predispositions of existence. In this series, he explores fantasy, literature, and contemporary concerns by studying the relationship between medium and subject. He challenges the inert biases of narrative images composed of historical and literary accounts through the prism of Persian Miniature Painting. The coincidental surfaces of watercolor and geometric structures, juxtaposing arbitrary and controlled movements, along with the incorporation of familiar and unfamiliar elements in the process of drawing an indefinable conceptual landscape, conquer the image's limitations. By pushing the boundaries of narrative through the lens of Persian Miniature Painting, he creates a dialogue between the past and present.

Behrang's deep connection to Iranian painting continually informs his artistic vision. This influence is evident in his storytelling propensity, his vibrant color palette, geometrical compositions, limited depth, peculiar perspective, and certain elements such as the flames. This idea is best represented in Behrang's flares, which reference The Fire Ordeal of Siyavosh and The Ascent of Muhammad to Heaven (Mi'raj). In Behrang's appropriation of flames, the figures are absent, leaving an inferno for today's Muslim nation. Likewise, where Siyavosh emerges triumphant in the Shahnama, Behrang's painting shows only fate-determining flames, rapaciously consuming his triumph.

Behrang Samadzadegan entwines themes of fantasy, literature, and socio-political issues through the lens of Persian Miniature Painting, daring to dismantle the prejudiced perceptions of historical and literary imagery. In the act of painting an elusive conceptual landscape, he transcends mere representation. Behrang's exploration of flames and flowers illuminates the multiplex interplay between historical narratives and contemporary realities in a region marked by both conflict and hope.



CALUMNY
2023
Watercolor and gold leaf
on paper
140 x 200 cm



Flames and Flowers no.1
2024
Watercolour on Cotton
Paper
206 x 140 cm



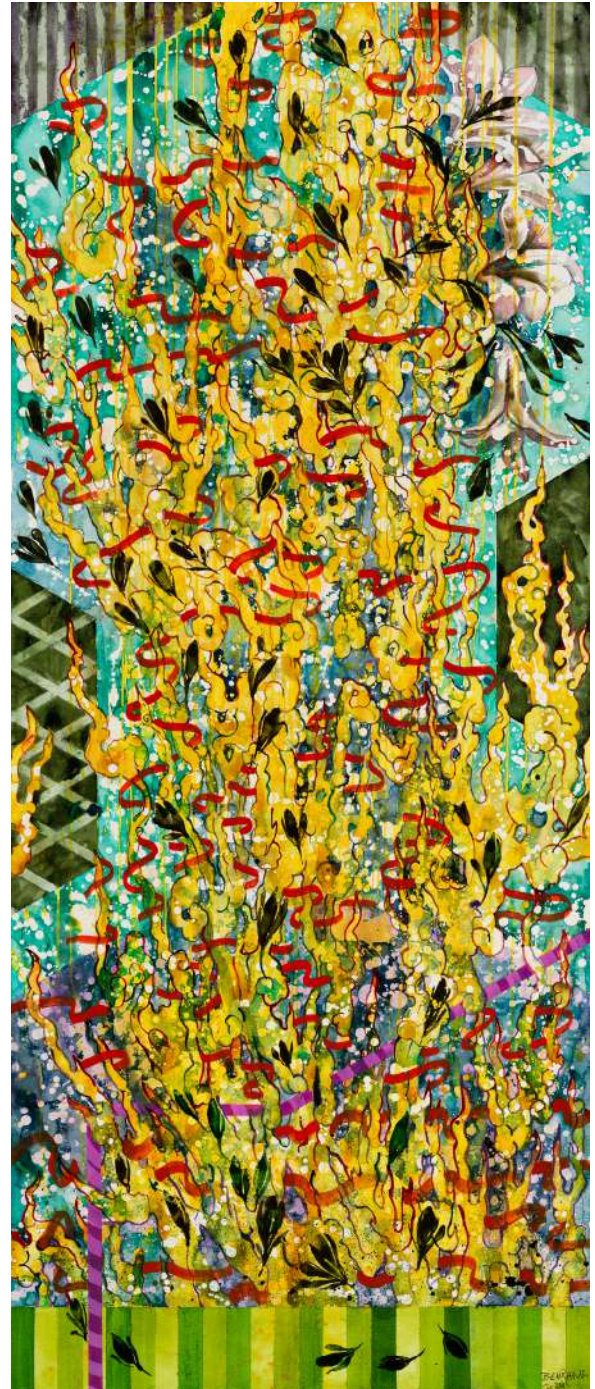


Flames and Flowers No.2,
2024
Watercolour on Paper
180 x 76 cm



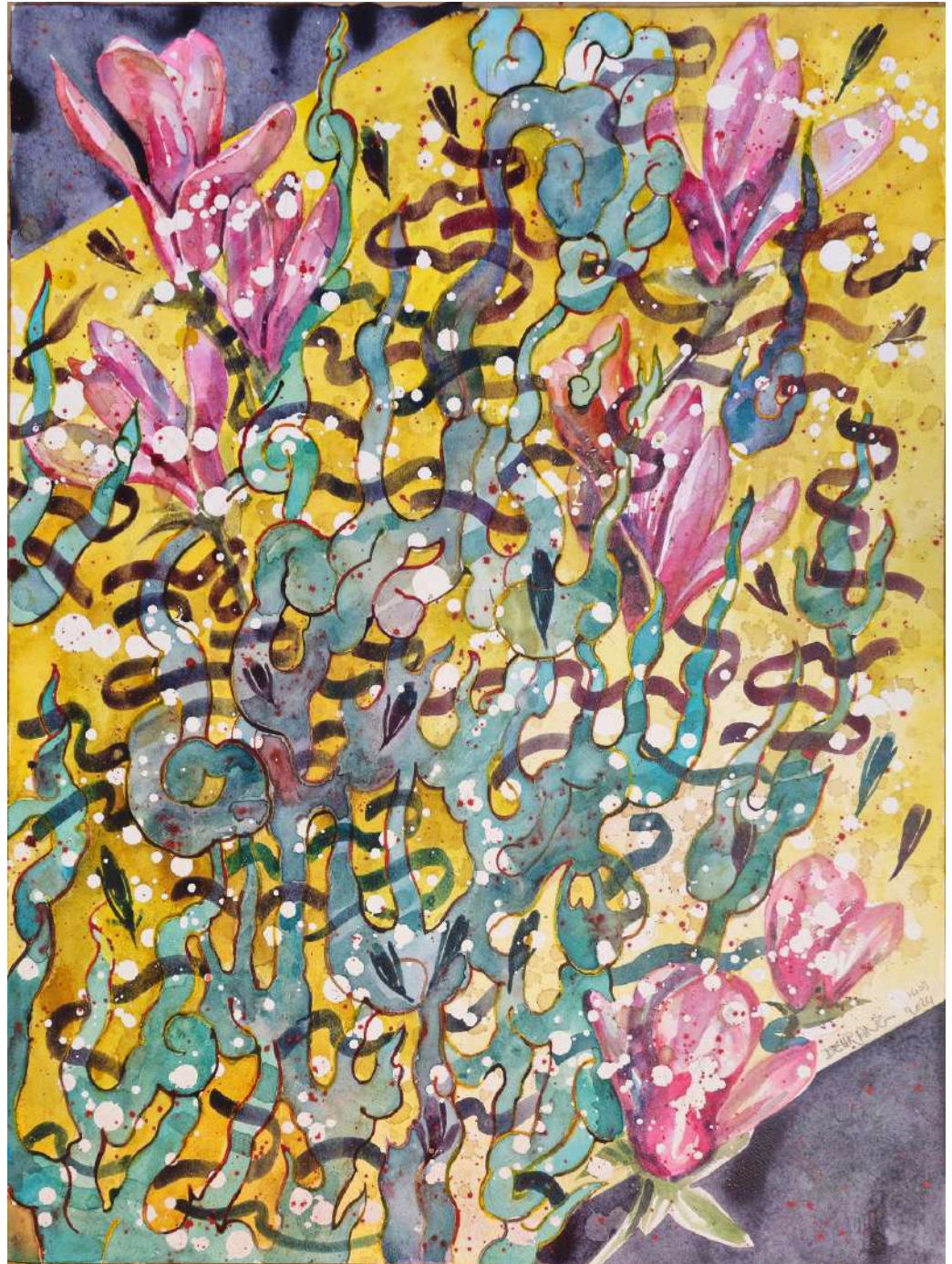


Flames and Flowers No.3,
2024
Watercolour on Paper,
180 x 76 cm





Flames and Flowers no.4
2024
Watercolor on paper
76 x 56.5 cm





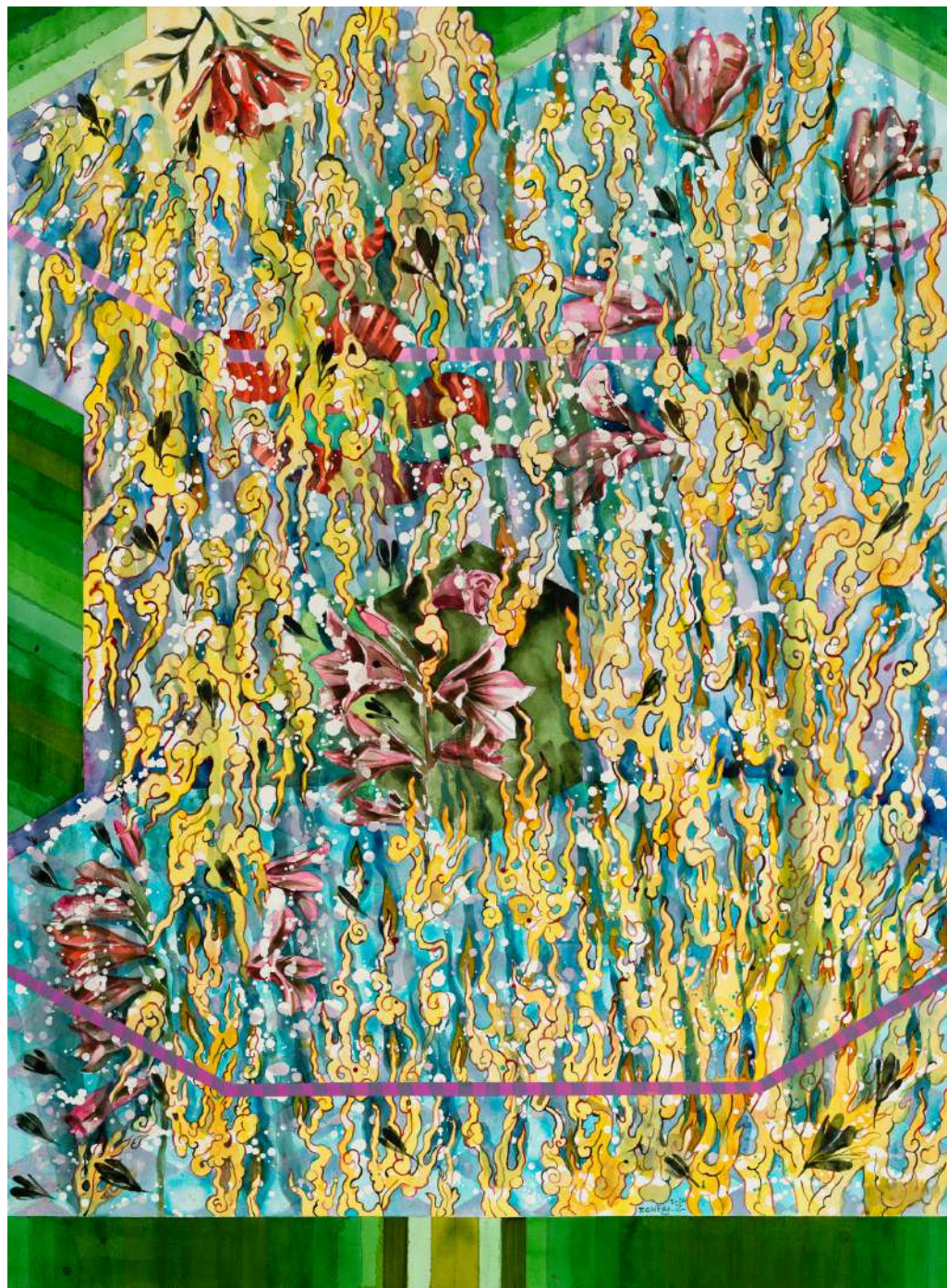


Khosrow
2024
Watercolour on Cotton
Paper
83 x 131 cm



BEHRENDZ

2014



Dear Diary
2024
Watercolor on paper
170 x 125 cm

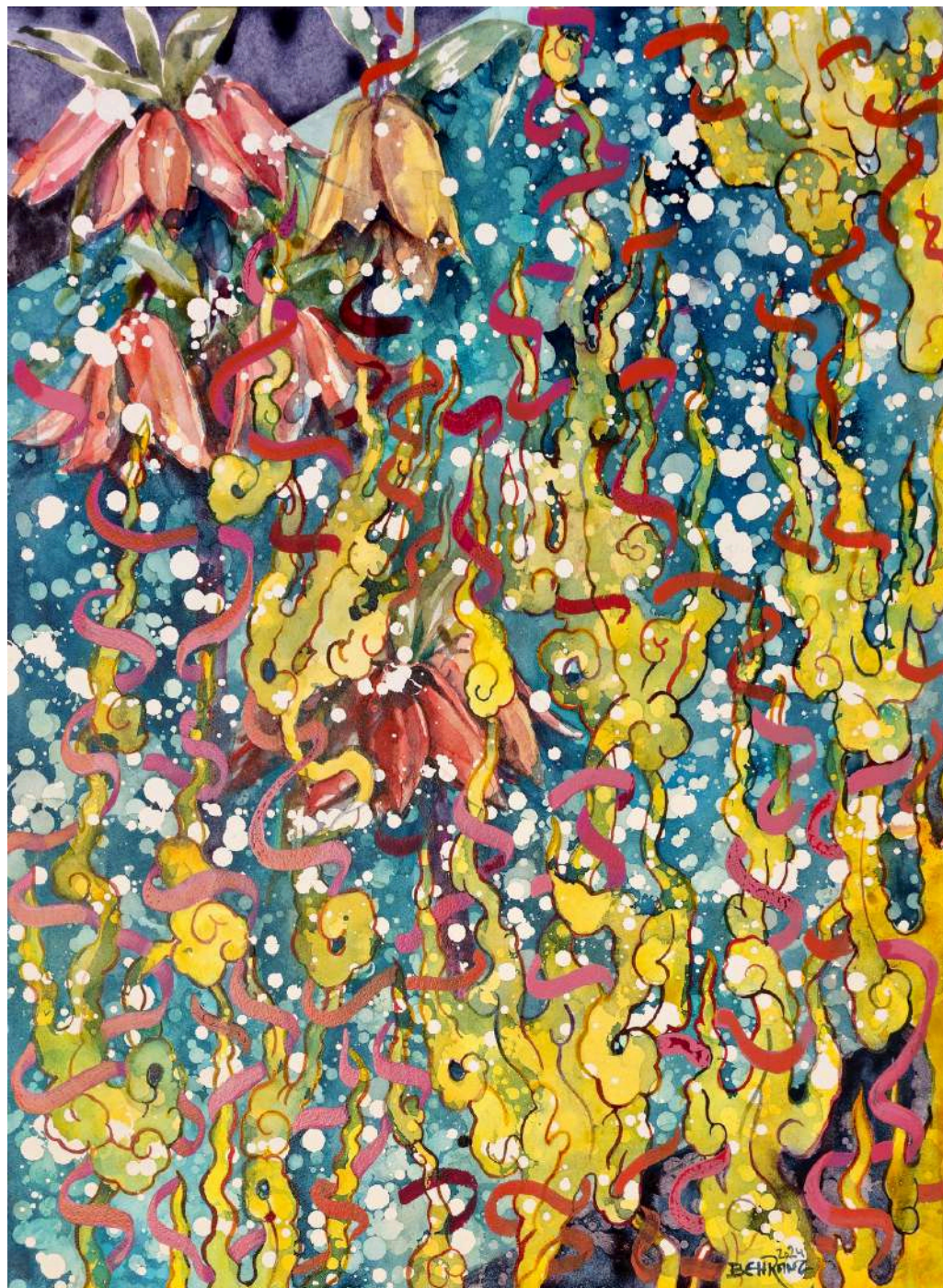


The Witness
2024
Watercolor on paper
75.5 x 55.5 cm





Flames and Flowers no. 5
2024
Watercolor on cotton
paper
76 x 56.5 cm







Chasing Hope
2024
Watercolor on paper
208 x 132 cm



Not an Oil Story, but a
Romance
2024
Watercolor and Gold leaf
on paper
208 x 130 cm





ABOUT THE ARTIST

Behrang Samadzadegan (b 1979 Tehran, Iran) learned the basics of art at a very young age. He received his BFA from the Tehran University of Arts and his MFA from Tehran Tarbiat Modares University. In 2008 he received the Golden Feather from the first International Media Art Forum for Youth in Cairo. In 2009 he received the Visiting Arts artist residency award in Spike Island, Bristol, United Kingdom. In 2012 he was awarded an artist residency from the Atelierhaus Salzamt Linz, Austria. He was also the recipient of the artist residency of the Cleveland Foundation Creative Fusion Artists Program, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Since 2004 he has been giving lectures on art theory and holding workshops at the Sooreh University, Tehran University of Art, Aria Art Institute, and Mahe Mehr Cultural Art Institute. As a visiting artist, he taught at the Cleveland Institute of Art for a semester in 2015. He has been a jury member of the fourth Damonfar Biennial for Painting, the New Generation Annual for Painting, the Video Artist Festival of Isfahan, the Persbook Annual of Contemporary Arts, the Vista Prize, Versus Biennial, and the Mohsen Projects Open Call. In 2022 he curated the exhibition titled “Minimalism and Conceptual art in the mid-20th century” at the Tehran Museum Of Contemporary Art (Tehran MOCA).

In his works, Behrang seeks to probe the possibility (or impossibility) of representing truth, identity, and history within the framework of aesthetic laws and to challenge the capacity of the image for displaying these concepts. As a scholar and curator, he enjoys discovering and studying new artistic phenomena and believes in rethinking and challenging the established rules and requirements of art. Painting has been Samadzadegan's main focus. The subject matters of his works are drawn from images and narratives of contemporary Iranian history, which he combines with fictional stories and the aesthetics of painting. His goal, however, is not to represent historical narratives. The image of history, he believes, is a personal matter created under the influence of visual and aesthetic stereotypes, a combination of confusion, chaos, and a futile quest for reaching unattainable truth.



Behrang Samadzadegan

Born 1979 Tehran, Iran

Visual Artist, Curator, Lecturer

EDUCATION

- 2007 MFA in Painting from T.M.U- Tehran
- 2001 BFA in Painting from Iran Art University-Tehran
- 1996 Graduation from High school in graphic design

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2008 Golden Feather, 1st International Media Art Festival (IMAFY), Cairo, Egypt
- 2009 Visiting Arts artist residency in Spike Island, Bristol, United Kingdom
- 2012 Artist residency, Atelierhaus Salzamt, Linz, Austria
- 2015 Cleveland Foundation Creative Fusion Artists Program, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2002 Requiems, Painting exhibition, Atbin gallery, Tehran
- 2005 The Post War Dream, Painting exhibition, Elahe gallery, Tehran
- 2006 H&H, heaven and hell, Digital illustrations, 13 Vanak gallery, Tehran
Military Attendance, Painting exhibition, Gollestan gallery, Tehran
- 2009 Everything is just fine!, Aaran art gallery, Tehran
- 2011 Good Stories for Good Children, Aaran art gallery, Tehran
Love in The time of unrest, XVA Gallery, Dubai
- 2013 Art of Impotency, Aaran art gallery, Tehran
- 2015 Heading Utopia, Zygote Press Inc, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- 2018 The Chronicle of Cenmar's Descent in Kafka's Castle, Mohsen Gallery PASIO, Tehran
- 2021 HEADING UTOPIA; CHAPTER 2: THE SPRING THAT NEVER CAME, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2023 The Missing Witness, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 Flames and Flowers, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 A Consumption of Justice (curated by Beral Madra), Diyarbakir Art Center, Turkey
- 2006 5th Gyumri International Art Biennial, Armenia
CONCHA suitcase show, Manila, Philippines
- 2007 Everything is going to be alright, Apartment Project, Istanbul, Turkey
East by East, Video and film festival, the art institute of the University of Chicago, USA
First contemporary art biennale of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki - Greece
Bounded by Basement gallery, Vienna - Austria
Second Video Festival, Contemporary Image Collective (CIC) Cairo- Egypt
Reloading images, Berlin-Tehran / Work in Progress 2007, A project by Reloading -
Images-Berlin, in collaboration with Parkingallery Tehran-Berlin
CARAVAN, An exhibition of Iranian contemporary art, Shiraz Gallery, Venice-Italy
- 2008 Meeting with the Heterotopias: A selection from the 1st Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art", February 9-March 30, 2008, Municipal Gallery of Larisa - G.I.Katsigras Museum, Larisa, Greece
The 1st International Media Art Forum for Youth "IMAFY."
Heterotopias. A selection from the 1st Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art" Belgrade cultural center
BREAKING NEWS, contemporary art from the Middle East, F&A projects, Paris, France.
HAPPY DAYS, video and shorts from the Middle East (49th Thessaloniki film festival), Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2009 Iran inside out, Chelsea Art Museum, July 2009, New York, USA.
The Promise of Loss, Hilger Brot galley (curator: Shaheen Merali), Vienna, Austria.
Golden Gates, Contemporary art from the Middle East, Paris, France.
- 2010 The Promise of Loss, Arario Gallery, January-February 2010, New York
Iran inside out, Farjam foundation, Dubai
ARTISTERIUM 3, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
Postcards from Tehran, 18th Street Art Center, Santa Monica, USA
- 2011 My superhero, Morano Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Position Velocity Acceleration, XVA Gallery, Dubai

- 2012 Reflecting Reality”, Vienna Art Week, Sigmund Freud Museum, Vienna
The state of in-Between, Atelierhaus Salzamt, Linz, Austria
Contemporary Iranian Art, New Albion Gallery, NSW, Australia
- 2014 The Other Side of Visibility, Mottahedan Projects, Dubai
- 2015 Tehran; virtual-real, Aaran art gallery, Tehran
- 2016 United Nonsense, Creative Fusion Artists exhibition, Cleveland, Ohio
Iran X Cuba Beyond the Headlines, Rogue Space Chelsea, New York
- 2017 Factory, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2018 Factory, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2019 Factory, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2020 Factory, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2022 Factory, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
- 2023 Storyteller, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai

MEMBER OF THE JURY

- 2011 The 4th Damonfar Biennial for Painting, Tehran
- 2012 The 7th New Generation (Nasl-e-No) Annual for painting, Tehran
- 2014 The 2nd Video Artist Festival, Isfahan
- 2016 The 6th Persbook Annual of Contemporary Arts, Tehran
- 2017 The 1st VISTA prize for contemporary arts, Tehran
The 3rd Versus prize for painting, Tehran
The 7th Persbook Annual of Contemporary Arts, Tehran
- 2018 The 2nd VISTA prize for contemporary arts, Tehran
The 1st Mohsen Projects Award, Tehran
- 2019 The 3rd VISTA Prize for Contemporary Arts, Tehran, 2019
The 2nd Mohsen Projects Award, Tehran
- 2021 The 4th VISTA prize for contemporary arts, Tehran
Industrial Heritage Project, Dayhim Art Society (DAS), Tehran
- 2024 The 5th VISTA prize for contemporary arts, Tehran



CURATOR

- 2010 Recognizable, an index of Iranian figurative painting in the 1990s, Farevahar Gallery, Tehran
- 2011 Of Blossoms and Bullets, an index of Iranian young artists, Aaran Gallery, Tehran
- 2012 Post-Pop, (an index of the Pop-like visual approaches in Iranian contemporary art within social-political contexts and concepts), Mah-e-Mehr Gallery, Tehran
- Untitled, an index of Iranian young artists, Aaran Gallery, Tehran
- 2015 Less is More, Aaran Gallery, Tehran
- 2016 Suspended, Aaran Gallery, Tehran
- 2018 EPISODE3: Hidden, Mohsen Art Gallery, Tehran
- 2022 Paper: A Field of Revelation, Bavan Art Gallery, Tehran
- Minimalism & Conceptual Art in the mid-20th Century, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA)
- 2023 Storyteller, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.
- 2024 Carpets of Eden, Gardens of Fantasy, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.
- " I Kept the Night Vigil"; Exploring Women's Voices Across and Beyond the Middle East, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2005 Consumption of Justice, Beral Madra, Anadolu Kultur, Turkey
- 2006 Sea Dreams and Illusion, Gyumri Biennale, Armenia
- 2007 Heterotopia, Center of Contemporary Arts, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2009 Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Museum, New York, USA
- Different Sames, New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art, Edited by Hossein Amirsadeghi, Thames & Hudson, London, UK
- Radical movements in contemporary art, Behrang Samadzadegan, Honarha-ye-Ziba quarterly
- 2011 The Future of a Promise, Behrang Samadzadegan, Art Tomorrow Quarterly 3rd issue.
- The judge of other's judgment, a glance at the works of Simin Keramati, Behrang Samadzadegan, Art Tomorrow Quarterly 4th issue.
- 2012 The narrator of restlessness, on Jinoos Taghizadeh's art, Behrang Samadzadegan, Art Tomorrow quarterly 6th issue.
- The Narrator of anxieties, Behrang Samadzadegan, "Restless, the catalogue for Adelaide International Festival 2012.
- 2019 Flowing Through Time: a conversation between Behrang Samadzadegan and Farah Ossouli, 009821projects publications.
- 2017-
- 2021 Chief Editor of "VARIETE," a journal for essays in contemporary arts.
- 2023 FARAH OSSOULI, BURNING WINGS: LAST FOUR DECADES, SKIRA
- CANVAS, Issue 107, March-April 2023
- Rethinking the Contemporary Art of Iran, Hamid Keshmirshekan, SKIRA

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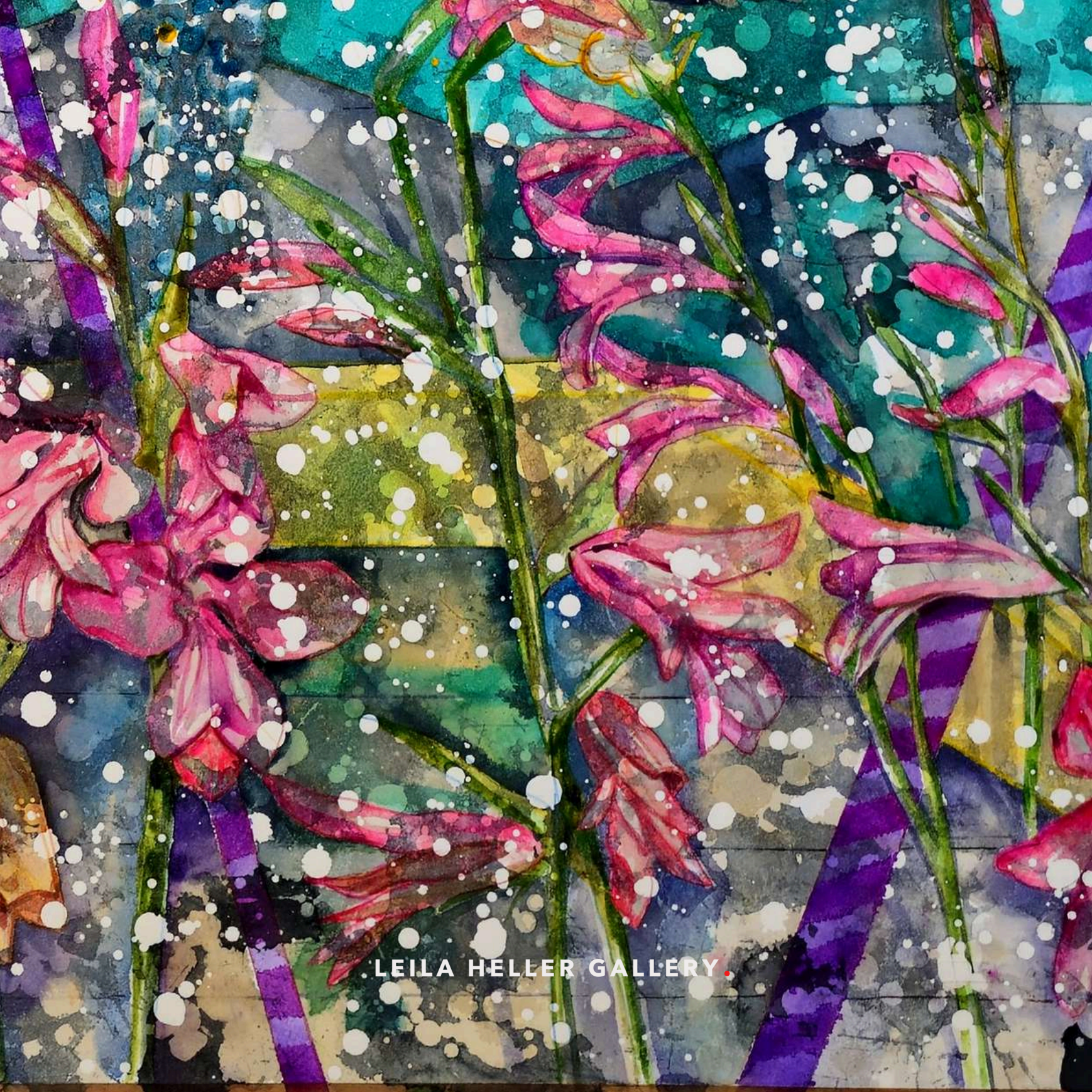
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