

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlou: *Stories in Thousand Pieces*
January 29th – March 1st, 2025

Leila Heller Gallery is proud to announce Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlou: *Stories in Thousand Pieces*, a solo exhibition on view from January 29th through March 1st, 2025. This exhibition showcases Gharagozlou's captivating mixed-media works, which serve as mosaics of memory, storytelling, and political dialogue.

Gharagozlou's work presents a layered exploration of life's intricacies, weaving together fragments of laughter, pain, memory, and hope. Her large-scale canvases draw viewers into a journey from afar, where bold structures and landscapes come into focus. Up close, they reveal a universe of details—hundreds of tiny pieces that tell their own stories and invite intimate contemplation.

"Using mixed media allows me to build reality out of the many pieces," Gharagozlou reflects. "The stories continue beyond the border of the canvas." Newspapers, a recurring element in her work, act as witnesses to the passage of time. They guide and mislead, reflecting the complexities of life and the interplay of memory and history.

Drawing inspiration from her observations of daily life, Gharagozlou's paintings are imbued with an acute awareness of shared human experiences. The fragments in her work—shards of glass, newspaper clippings, and painted textures—represent the interconnectedness of people, places, and moments, forming a mosaic that speaks to universal themes of resilience, identity, and transformation.

Through *Stories in Thousand Pieces*, Gharagozlou invites viewers to uncover the layers of her storytelling: "Close up, my painting communicates a different story than the one you saw from afar. It tells of the intricacies of our daily existence, the evidence of our past in our present."

Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlou is an artist and storyteller whose work bridges the gap between personal narrative and collective history. Her innovative use of mixed media and her ability to blend the political with the poetic make her a distinctive voice in contemporary art.

About the Artist: Parinaz Eleish 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 received 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 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 Tehran. She has two daughters Leila and Homa. Her studio is located in Brighton MA.

About Leila Heller Gallery: For over four decades, Leila Heller has been globally recognized as an industry trailblazer– fostering creative dialogue and cultural exchange between Western artists and their counterparts in the Middle East, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. In 2010, the gallery relocated from the Upper East Side to its flagship space in Chelsea, New York, where it quickly established a reputation for discovering and nurturing artists who have made a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture.

In March 2019, Leila Heller returned to the Upper East Side after an eight-year stint in Chelsea. The New York space has since refocused on the secondary market, hosting notable exhibitions such as "Double Vision," curated by Jane Holzer and featuring works by iconic artists like Andy Warhol, Richard Prince, Jeff Koons, and Keith Haring.

Expanding its international presence, Leila Heller opened its first satellite location in 2015 in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue, a major cultural hub in the region. The Dubai gallery, boasting 16,500 square feet and soaring 32-foot ceilings, is the largest in the Middle East and comprises three distinct exhibition spaces. It showcases a diverse array of leading regional and international artists, many of whom are exhibiting in the Middle East for the first time. The gallery is committed to supporting the evolving practices of established artists through innovative curatorial and educational programs, emphasizing a cross-cultural dialogue between Western and Middle Eastern artists.

Beyond its robust exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery is also known for its collaborations with world-renowned curators, educational panels, film screenings, and the production of scholarly catalogues and books. The gallery actively participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects to foster new conversations in the broader context of galleries, artists, and institutions. Its artists are regularly featured in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and their works are part of prestigious institutional collections worldwide.

Press inquiries: For more information, images, and prices, please contact sosi@leilaheller.com