

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Reza Derakshani: Crowns & Leaves: The Blue Season



Every Blue Day & Every White Night, 2025, oil and enamel on canvas, 180 x 300 cm

New York, NY – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the solo exhibition by Reza Derakshani, “Crowns & Leaves: The Blue Season,” opening on 25th October 2025.

Marking his first solo show in New York in over five years, the exhibition gathers eleven paintings from three major series: *Day and Night / Fig Leaf*, *Rain / Day*, and *Crowns*. Each is a meditation on memory and identity. Across these bodies of work, Derakshani channels his lifelong pursuit of a visual language where history and modernity are one. The color blue has a rich history in Persian culture and beyond, oftentimes representing nobility and divinity. Blue also recalls the flow of the Caspian Sea and the towering presence of minaret rooftops. This exhibition explores the “blue season,” its associations, and invites us to look closer.

A crown of sapphire,
soft as sighs
Woven with honor, bright as sunrise.
It's quiet weight, A whispered pride,
forever.

Beneath the shadow of the ancient fig tree,
The night turns blue
Rain drips like verses, cool and true
Leaves shiver,
catching silvered tears
while moonlight hums through ancient years.

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A regal pulse,
The crown of sapphire,
carried through the silence of the night.

Blue rain, blue crown, blue honor,
Shadow of the fig tree
quiets my soul.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A pivotal figure in contemporary art, Reza Derakshani has established a legacy that spans decades, with works housed in major institutional and private collections worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; British Museum, London; Museum Gunzenhauser, Germany; and State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg. Born in 1952 in Sangsar, Iran, Derakshani is a painter, musician, and performance artist. He graduated from the University of Tehran in 1976, continued his studies at Pasadena School of Art, and later taught at the University of Tehran before leaving the country in 1986. His art reflects the intersection of his diverse experiences, with a deep engagement in both Eastern and Western artistic traditions. As a musician he has performed at festivals like the Brooklyn Museum and Montreux Jazz Festival, and now resides in St. Petersburg, Russia.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment in New York City in 1982, Leila Heller Gallery has gained international recognition in fostering creative dialogue between Western and Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and Southeast Asian artists, and specializing in modern and contemporary masters. In 2015, the gallery expanded to Dubai, opening a 17,500 square foot space, the largest gallery in the Middle East. The gallery presents dynamic exhibition schedules in collaboration with world-renowned curators, often hosting panels and film screenings, as well as producing catalogues and books for each exhibition. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in institutional collections such as The Metropolitan Museum, The Tate Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Brooklyn Museum, LACMA, MOCA LA, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the British Museum, Centre Pompidou, S.M.A.K. in Ghent, and the Sharjah Art Museum, among many others.