

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Morteza Khosravi: Between Action and Silence The Witnessing Body



From Salo series in praise of Pasolini, oil on canvas, 130 x 180 cm

New York, NY – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the solo exhibition by Morteza Khosravi, “Between Action and Silence, the Witnessing Body,” opening on 24th February 2026. This marks the artist’s first solo exhibition in the United States.

“Between Action and Silence: The Witnessing Body” by Morteza Khosravi translates the ephemerality of time and the physicality of the body into the language of painting. He gives form, color, and line to the spaces between action and silence. For this body of work, Khosravi draws inspiration from Pier Paolo Pasolini’s film *Salò* and a selection of archival images and photographs. These two sources converge thematically in their exploration of memory, beauty, violence, and interpretation. The simultaneous layering and removal of paint allows for Khosravi’s process to be revealed to the viewer. This representation exemplifies the idea of the body as bearing, sustaining, eroding, and accumulating moments and memories. It heightens not only the visual experience but also the emotional response: time inscribes itself onto this body. These works reject the rigidity of a singular explanation; they offer caveats and propose alternatives to meaning.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Morteza Khosravi is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice engages with the history of art, approaching painting as a medium in itself rather than a narrative form. He began studying graphic design at the Aref Bojnordi School of Art, earning early recognition in local and national festivals. Trained under masters Gholamhossein Sohrabi and Ali Beigiparast, Khosravi developed a strong foundation in drawing and painting. He has held numerous solo and group exhibitions in Iran and abroad, including solo shows at Leila Heller Gallery (Dubai), Artlab Gallery (Beirut), Iranshahr and Golestan Galleries (Tehran), and 4rtgallery (France). His work has also appeared in group exhibitions such as Festival Partage des Arts (France), Galleri Ramfjord (Oslo), Simine Paris (Paris), Contemporary Istanbul (Turkey), and Building Bridges Art Exchange (Los Angeles).

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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.