



## [Suburb] Ayda Roozbayani

November 3 - 17, 2023

SARAI Gallery is pleased to present *Suburb*, Ayda Roozbayani's solo exhibition of oil paintings and her first solo collaboration with SARAI Gallery. *Suburb* opens on Friday, November 3rd, and will be on view until November 17, 2023.

Ayda Roozbayani's striking nocturnal landscapes depict lost or confused figures wandering about within vast industrial backdrops or through shallow waters, representing her generation's universal state of alienation from their outer and inner nature as inheritors of a desolate world left behind as a consequence of their ancestors' ambitious quest to consume and ultimately dominate the natural environment with machinery. Seen in this light, the titular *Suburb* becomes a limbo state; a transitional land stretched between the boundaries of the current dystopian reality and a utopian alternative the young figures are desperately searching for.

The figures' relatively small proportions to the landscapes are reminiscent of the Romantic era's humbling state of man against the vast, powerful nature. With their lack of distinctive facial features – their faces turned away from the viewers – as they all seem to be gazing on an unknown horizon, these figures draw contemporary references to Friedrich's famous "wanderer" gazing upon an endless fog, pondering his own place in the universe. Facing the same timeless question yet with a modern undertone of urgency, these small clusters of people whose collective identity could be anything from a group of explorers or hikers to a handful of survivors from an obscure apocalyptic event, are often seen near or walking through bodies of water, making it a key recurring element in the series. Transparent, free-flowing, and deep, the water separates two realms: the past and the future. It is an agent of purification and a metaphor for mysteries, the unknown, and the beyond, and by staring at it or dipping their feet into it, the figures seem to be engaging in an act of introspection or attempting to reunite their inner nature with the external nature.

For more information about SARAI Gallery please contact:

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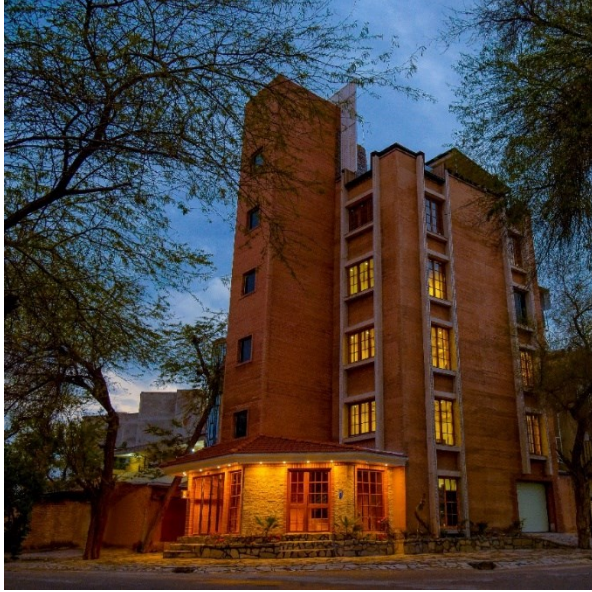


[www.saraigallery.com](http://www.saraigallery.com)



[saradipour.art](https://www.instagram.com/saradipour.art)

# SARÂÎ سَرَای



**SARAI Gallery** is a contemporary gallery specializing in Middle Eastern art. Founded in 2018, SARAI Gallery represents bright emerging and young regional talents including Iranian and Pakistani artists internationally, helping them achieve their potential both in recognition and value by organizing exhibitions and joint events, and publishing works by artists. Moreover, since 2020, SARAI has introduced Khor Art Initiative, an annual art prize for local artists, reviewed by a high-profile international jury. SARAI Gallery has been participating in top art fairs around the world including Art Dubai 2020-21 and 2023, The Armory Show 2021-2023 (winning the Presents Booth Prize in 2021), KIAF 2021-22, Abu Dhabi Art 2021-2022 and 2023, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022 and 2023 (announced), Expo Chicago 2023, Art Brussels 2023, and Taipei Dangdai 2023 among others, making it one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms. SARAI Gallery's main exhibition space is located in Mahshahr, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year, while under Karavan Projects, SARAI organizes collaborative shows with selected galleries and institutions at home, particularly in Tehran, as well as in major art capitals across the globe including Cromwell Place, London. Our LA-based office handles US and international affairs.



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# SARÂÏ سرای



**Ayda Roozbayani** (b. 1995, Iran) is a figurative artist. She holds a BA in painting from Alzahra University, Tehran. She has held several solo exhibitions, participated in multiple group exhibitions, and received various awards. Roozbayani's work was recently selected to be shown as part of the KHOR Artists 2022 group exhibition

Roozbayani's visuals are made of a combination of modern and classic styles of representation using various techniques including oils, acrylics, watercolor, pencils, and collage work. The relationship between humans and nature, the domination of the industrial world over modern humans and their emotional states are the central themes of her works, echoing our humanity's collective sense of confusion, loneliness, and expectation. Water is a key recurring element in many of Roozbayani's paintings, acting as a medium of mysteries, the unknown, a metaphor for introspection, or the boundary separating the figures from the rest of the world.