



a³=1

Sam Nikmaram

August 19 – September 2, 2022

SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is pleased to present **a³=1**, Sam Nikmaram's first solo exhibition at SARAI Gallery. **a³=1** opens on August 19 and it will continue to run until September 2, 2022. The present exhibition consists of Nikmaram's ceramic and papier-mâché sculptures and works on paper.

Sam Nikmaram belongs to the younger generation of Iranian artists who use an increasingly playful, vibrant, and universal formal vocabulary to capture their complex and multilayered existence in a fast-paced world. Nikmaram's concern for nature and the forces shaping our living environment is reflected both in his choice of material – his sculptures are often made out of papier-mâché and disposable objects – and his often isometric drawings and paintings composed of neatly delineated, minimalistic examination of environmental elements including green and grey, clear and pollutant, each time creating a new and different whole. In a process involving bricolage, he collects used bottles, cans and other often-massed produced objects and step by step, guided by his child-like imagination turns them into unique, playful characters of presumably elaborate background stories. Nikmaram employs stylization and geometric order to create isometric spaces and give form to his variety of imaginary creatures of mythological and folkloric qualities. Attention to nature is one of the key features in his work not only in his technique and sustainable and ecological approach to sculpture but also as a source of inspiration for his creative process. In his view, imagination and myths are present in many actual and tangible aspects of the world, which is why many of his social concerns are reflected in his works in an imaginative way.

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SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is a contemporary gallery specializing in Middle Eastern art. Founded by Hassan Saradipour in 2018, SARAI serves as a platform to showcase emerging and established artists internationally by organizing exhibitions and joint events, and publishing works by artists.

Moreover, since 2020, our gallery has introduced Khor Art Initiative, an annual art prize for local talents, reviewed by a high-profile international jury. SARAI Gallery has been listed on Art Dubai 2020-21, KIAF 2021-22, and The Armory Show 2021-22 among others, making us one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms. SARAI became the winner of The Armory Show's Presents Booth Prize. SARAI Gallery is located in Mahshahr, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year. As an arts-and-culture establishment, we chose this location over bustling metropolises not only for maritime transport but, more importantly, because we care about engaging both artists and audiences on a local level and we believe decentralization is a key aspect in representing Iran's art as a country blessed with rich and diverse cultures and ethnicities. Furthermore, under Karavan Projects, our gallery organizes collaborative shows with top art galleries in Tehran and major art capitals around the world. Our LA-based office handles the US and international affairs.

Visit us at saraigallery.com



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www.saraigallery.com



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Sam Nikmaram



Sam Nikmaram (b. 1991, Iran) is a visual artist. He received his BA in sculpture from Tehran University of Art, Tehran, Iran. Nikmaram has participated in several sculpture biennials and many group exhibitions both at home and throughout Europe. He became the Honored Artist at the 5th Damounfar Painting Biennial, Iran, in 2014. Nikmaram's foundation in graphic design back in high school provided him with an opportunity to experiment with a variety of artistic media. Nikmaram's foundation in graphic design back in high school provided him with an opportunity to experiment with a variety of artistic media and have a wide range of collaborations throughout the years including theater stage design, puppet show design, urban sculpture design and construction, and furniture design among others.