



[Somewhere Around Here] Parham Peyvandi

August 18 – September 1, 2023

SARAI Gallery is pleased to present Parham Peyvandi's new exhibition called *Somewhere Around Here*. Marking Peyvandi's second solo exhibition at SARAI Gallery, *Somewhere Around Here* opens on August 18 and it will continue to run until September 1st, 2023.

The present series consists of fine drawings and intimately scaled paintings. While still focused on the urban environment as its main subject, *Somewhere Around Here* is a clear departure from earlier works by Parham Peyvandi (b. 1989, Iran), including his previous series *Gazing Through the City*, where the artist presented reimagined vistas by altering familiar skylines of his city of residence, Tehran, and surrounding them with lush landscapes reminiscent of his childhood home. Here, he “stands face-to-face with the city”, looking directly into its edges and niches and transferring his process of observation onto canvas and paper. While Peyvandi's virtuosity in using pen marks – reminiscent of etching works – revitalizes the dull structures and skylines, his paintings echo an imposing silence. Visually evacuating a mega-city like Tehran of its nearly 20 million inhabitants could hardly be interpreted as a mere subconscious or compositional choice. The city landscapes, while beautiful and in some cases multi-colored, seem to be sitting on an unspeakable secret. One can see traces of the warmer background tones which are almost fully buried under the thick, grey layers in some of the paintings. Here, the artist seems to leave the viewers staring into the many vacuous eyes of a seemingly dormant, yet deadly, concrete monster. The appearance of the city is far from apocalyptic, yet the sheer contrast between the seemingly clean, orderly, and seemingly 'healthy' exterior of the urban components and the near-total absence of any markings, signs, figures, or indication of activity creates an uneasy atmosphere; a dull, old pang of melancholy whose real source is long forgotten. Even Peyvandi's exclusive preference for smaller canvases – another marked difference between his older works and the current series – seems to suggest that this city indeed harbors secrets that must be safely 'contained' within small frames.

For more information about SARAI Gallery please contact:

Hasti Heydari art@saraigallery.com

And for press inquiries:

Sajjad Emadi contact@saraigallery.com

Instagram handles:

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

[@parhampeyvandi](https://www.instagram.com/parhampeyvandi)



art@saraigallery.com



www.saraigallery.com



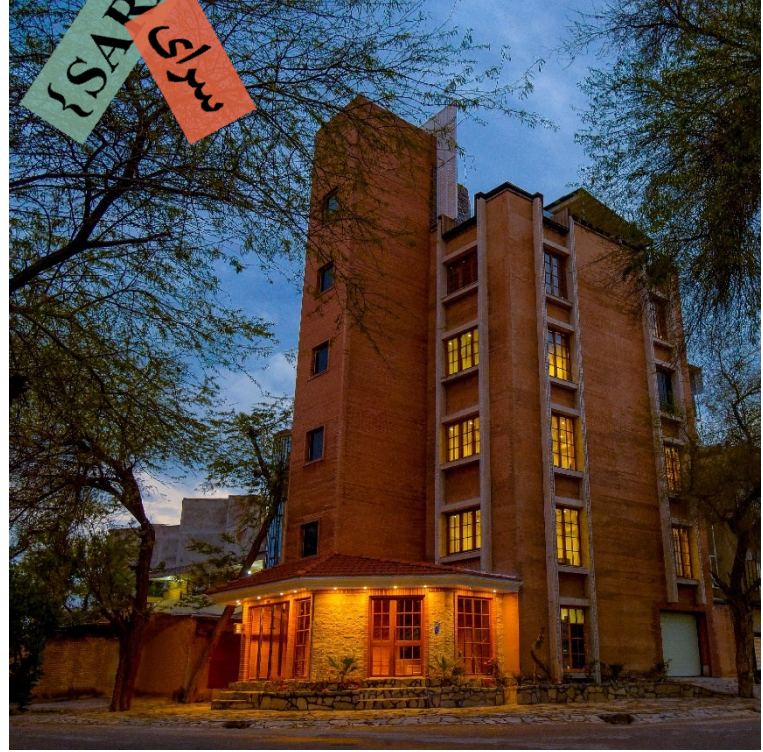
[saradipour.art](https://www.instagram.com/saradipour.art)

SARÂÎ

سرای

{SARÂÎ}

سرای



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 2022, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022, 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.



art@saraigallery.com



www.saraigallery.com



saradipour.art



Parham Peyvandi

PARHAM PEYVANDI (b. 1989, Iran) holds a BA in Urban Designing and an MA in Painting. Peyvandi's paintings mainly focus on the contradictions as well as the connections between the urban and natural sceneries. His educational background in urban studies and the enchanting landscapes of his birthplace, Mazandaran, are the two main points of inspiration for his works. Represented by SARAI Gallery, Peyvandi had a solo booth at the Armory Show 2022 and has appeared at several other top art fairs around the world including KIAF Seoul 2022, ASIA NOW 2022, and Taipei Dangdai 2023.

Whether representational or imaginary, for Parham Peyvandi, the process of creating urbanscapes begins with strolling around, sketching, and taking quick notes out in the real world. To paint the fantasy realms in “Gazing Through the City“, he would continue to work inside his studio, away from the urban context, creating a necessary spatial and temporal distance where the soulless urban spaces could blend with imaginary elements thanks to the use of a bright color palette and bending the rules of perspective. The imaginary elements in Peyvandi's works are influenced by his life and are shaped based on his state of mind and the conditions of his society. Similarly, Peyvandi’s recent representational scenes, particularly the paintings, offer ‘deafening silence’, as if the city blocks are meant to host anything but ‘life’.