

[KHOR Artists Exhibition 2023]

October 13 - 27, 2023, 2023 Sam Coffee Roasters (Darband), Tehran, Iran

In a collaboration between SARAI Gallery and Zamineh Art Platform as part of *KARAVAN Projects*, the present group exhibition consists of a selection of paintings and works on paper by *KHOR Art Initiative 2023*'s artists Amin Hekmatpanah Dehkordi, Arman Sedaghat, Azadeh Sefidkaran, Bahar Didegah, Ehsan Ebrahimnezhad, Fatemeh Marfavi, Fereshteh Torki, Gandom Amiri, Hadise Najminia, Khatereh Aziz Jalali, Kiana Agharabi, Lohrasb Bayat, Maryam Baniasadi, Mehdi Abedini, Muhammad Amin Fooladshekan, Narges Fadakar, Nava Sabetimani, Rozhan Bagheri, Seyed Taher Mousavi, Tara Shoeyb, Zahra Yousefi, and Zohre Jafarabadi. This is the first *KHOR Artists Exhibition* to be held in Tehran, bringing together 38 works of a wide variety of themes, styles, and techniques; a thrilling visual cornucopia that represents the latest and best of contemporary visual arts created by predominantly young artists in Iran.

Organized annually by SARAI Gallery since 2020, *KHOR Art Initiative* is an art prize for local talents reviewed each year by a jury panel of first-rate regional and world art experts. *KHOR Art Prize* is a free-entry event designed to provide local artists with the rare opportunity for world-class exposure by learning the latest criteria for self-presentation and having their work reviewed by an elite art jury. Besides the usual prize, being known to a greater audience and having their works exhibited, *KHOR*'s shortlisted artists enjoy the recognition of being associated with what is fast becoming established as a prestigious award in the region. Some of *KHOR*'s previous winners have soared particularly high, going from obscurity to being represented by SARAI at top regional and world art venues within just a few years. Roxane Zand, Nada Shabout, Melissa Gronlund, and Myrna Ayad formed the jury panel at *KHOR Art Initiative*'s latest edition.

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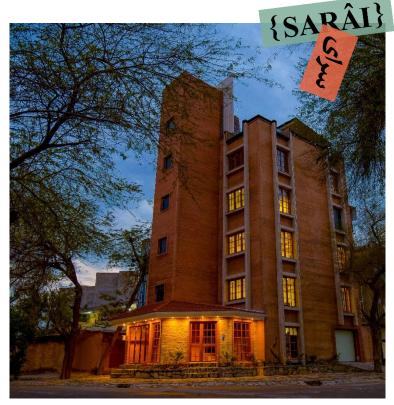
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SARAI Gallery is contemporary gallery specializing in Middle Eastern art. Founded in 2018, SARAI represents bright Gallery emerging and young regional talents including Iranian and Pakistani artists internationally, helping them achieve their potential 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, Taipei Dangdai 2023, and Art SG 2024 (announced) 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.