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## [White Shadows]

### Solo Show By Seyed Taher Mousavi

May 10 – 24, 2024

SARAI Gallery is pleased to inaugurate its collaboration with the talented artist Seyed Taher Mousavi with a solo exhibition titled “White Shadows.” The exhibition opens on May 10 and continues through May 24, 2024.

Driven by an unwavering devotion to the natural world, Mousavi’s work centers on his experiences venturing into untouched wilderness. While immersed in its pristine beauty, a concurrent sense of fear arises from the profound silence and solitude. This juxtaposition of emotions fosters a complex and intriguing experience that forms the core theme of his artistic production. The tranquility and serenity of the natural world undeniably beckon him, yet the deafening silence and absence of humanity leave him feeling vulnerable and exposed. This internal conflict, a simultaneous draw and repulsion towards the wilderness, Inspires the creation of his mesmerizing works.

Mousavi meticulously crafts compositions, weaving together elements of trees, branches, and light. The foreground of his artworks often features a tangle of branches, partially obscuring a vast open space that serves as a potent symbol of hope. Though the branches may hinder the full radiance of the light emanating from this space, its presence remains undeniable.

To capture the essence of his inspiration, the artist employs a process characterized by a dynamic interplay between observation, experimentation, and manipulation. This process commences with photographing and sketching nature during his excursions, providing a foundation for further exploration and transformation. Within the studio, a process of refinement and transformation takes hold. Photographs and sketches are revisited and elaborated upon, and colors are carefully selected to evoke his desired atmosphere. This iterative process allows for the gradual refinement of the artist’s vision, pushing the boundaries of representation towards abstraction.

This journey towards abstraction is deliberate, beginning with realistic depictions of nature but gradually introducing elements of distortion, simplification, and stylization. Through this process, the artist conveys his unique perception of the world while retaining a connection to the natural world that is the source of his inspiration.

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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 the 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, notably Art Dubai 2020-21-23-24, The Armory Show 2021-22-23 (winning the Presents Booth Prize in 2021)- 2024 (Announced), KIAF 2021-22, Abu Dhabi Art 2021-22-23, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022-23, Expo Chicago 2023-24, 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 spaces are located in Mahshahr and Tehran, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year, while under KARAVAN Projects, SARAI organizes collaborative shows with selected galleries and institutions at home and in major art capitals across the globe, including Cromwell Place, London. Our LA-based office handles US and international affairs.



**Seyed Taher Mousavi** (b. 1977, Iran)

Seyed Taher Mousavi (born in 1977 in Iran), holds a bachelor's degree in painting and a master's degree in illustration. For many years, Mousavi has been teaching painting in universities and schools. He also has a history of judging various art competitions and festivals. Over the past 30 years, he has continuously painted and displayed his works in numerous individual and group exhibitions. Throughout his career, Mousavi has created different series, all of which share a common theme: his fascination with nature.

The artist perceives nature as the sublime, evoking both wonder and fear. His exploration of nature sometimes results in paintings featuring vast and empty spaces, reminiscent of the Chinese landscape tradition. At other times, he immerses himself so deeply in the elements of nature that he presents the viewer with a tangle of tree branches, plant stems, and grasses, occasionally revealing a glimpse of the sky.

Mousavi's landscapes exist in a realm between naturalism and abstraction, simultaneously celebrating nature's beauty while acknowledging the fear that arises from its immense power.