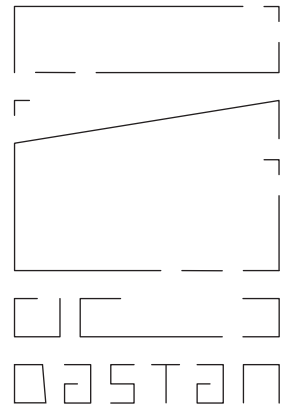


ARTISSIMA

Dastan's Basement  
Artissimia 2018  
Present Future  
Booth PF 12  
Nariman Farrokhi



## Press Release

Dastan is pleased to announce its debut participation at Artissima with a presentation of works by Nariman Farrokhi at Booth PF12, Present Future Section, Artissima 2018.

Nariman Farrokhi (b. 1983, Tehran, Iran) is a self-taught artist. He mixes what he observes with a hyperactive sense of imagination and rearrangement through the use of simple material and technique. Confined to using only written language and gestures as means of communication, Nariman Farrokhi has used actual texts in many of his past works. This approach has gradually caused him to develop his own visual alphabet, or writing system, that appear like hieroglyphs.

The current presentation, which includes an installation based on two series of works on paper, two works on canvas, and a video, is the result of a project specifically designed for Artissima 2018.

Nariman Farrokhi used to work as an inspector in the Customs Authority of Iran. The current installation is inspired by the artist's experience during the time when he would inspect every package, send samples to laboratory for further processing, store samples for future reference, check compliance with set guidelines, and approve goods for import into the country.

As the central part of the booth, a canvas filled with biscuit packagings, faces a video of the artist seemingly trying to make verbal communication with the viewer. But referring to both his interest for lower tones in music —that need not to be sensed by the ear— and efforts to convey linguistic meaning using non-verbal communication, he notes: "Why are Nariman's words, which may be a song about the other side of the biscuit packaging, so obscured?"

In the large 108-piece series of drawings, titled "Page 1 of 1", put forth in the booth, customs guidelines —which are usually put up on inspection room walls for reference— are transformed to a personal system of symbolism devised by the artist. Moreover, a hanging donut-shaped piece is wrapped in plastic, signed and sealed, back from the lab. "Page 1 of 1" shows the procedure, as well as the connections.

Sixty oil-on-paper pieces cover the opposite wall. Together as a whole as well as individually, these works create a series of interconnected narratives and imagined manifestations of objects, concepts and desires. The outermost two pieces in the lowest row depict the begging and the end of an arbitrary path the artist has created —the process.

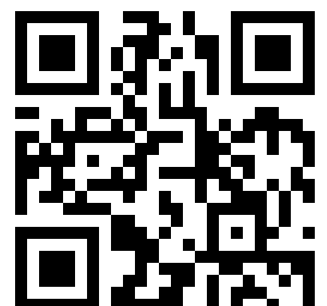
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Nariman Farrokhi. Untitled, from "Page 1 of 1" series. 2018. Marker on Notebook Paper. 22x17cm.





Nariman Farrokhi. Untitled. 2018. Oil on Paper. 33x25cm.





Nariman Farrokhi. Untitled. 2018. Oil on Paper. 33x25cm.





Installation View of Nariman Farrokhi's "Black and Yellow" Exhibition at Dastan's Basement. 2017, Tehran, Iran

## About the Artist

Nariman Farrokhi  
b. 1986, Tehran, Iran

### Solo Exhibitions

2017. "Black and Yellow". Dastan's Basement. Tehran, Iran  
2012. "Daily Wanders". Maryam Fasihi Harandi Gallery. Tehran, Iran

### Group Exhibitions

2018. "Nature at Work". Dastan:Outside. Manouchehri House. Kashan, Iran  
2017. "Update 5.0". Dastan:Outside. V-Gallery. Tehran, Iran  
2015. "Update". Dastan+2. Tehran, Iran  
2015. "Fearless". Curated by Fereydoun Ave. O Gallery. Tehran, Iran  
2014. "Inwards/Out". Curated by Sohrab Kashani. Dastan's Basement. Tehran, Iran  
2014. "Year in Review". Sam Art. Dastan:Outside Projects. Tehran, Iran  
2013. "Jungle (No. 4), Study". Dastan's Basement. Tehran, Iran

### Art Fairs

2017. Dastan's Basement. Sydney Contemporary 2017. Sydney, Australia  
2017. "Inspired by References, Clues and Favorite Things". Dastan's Basement. Curated by Fereydoun Ave.  
Art Dubai 2017. Dubai, UAE





Installation View of Nariman Farrokh's "Black and Yellow" Exhibition at Dastan's Basement. 2017, Tehran, Iran

## About Dastan

Dastan features an extensive and multi-dimensional program, focusing on the full spectrum of Iranian contemporary and modern art. Dastan's program includes Dastan's Basement, Dastan+2 and Dastan:Outside. In addition to hosting exhibitions, Dastan publishes artist books as well as monographs on Iranian art, features film screenings, performance projects and other events.

Dastan's original space, Dastan's Basement, was established in 2012 in Tehran, Iran. The Basement is dedicated to exhibiting emerging and experimental Iranian art. In October 2015, Dastan opened its first "standard" space, Dastan+2, within walking distance of the Basement to showcase works by established Iranian artists and masters.

Since the opening of its primary space, Dastan's Basement in 2012, Dastan has continuously hosted pop-up curated exhibitions around the city of Tehran under the title Dastan:Outside, including shows at Sam Art (in Sam Center Mall), V-Gallery, and Shirin Confectionary's building. The program features exhibitions that are usually site-specific and mostly involve experimental and non-traditional formats of exhibiting art. Dastan:Outside's newest temporary space, Electric Room, which was opened in June 2017 in downtown Tehran right across Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture, focuses on showcasing short-term experimental projects and occasional single-piece exhibits.

Since the opening of its primary space, Dastan's Basement, in 2012, Dastan has continuously hosted pop-up curated exhibitions around the city of Tehran under the title Dastan:Outside, including shows at Sam Art (in Sam Center Mall), V-Gallery, and Shirin Confectionary's building. The program, aimed to extend the gallery's program outside of its regular venues, features exhibitions that are usually site-specific and mostly involve experimental and non-traditional formats of exhibiting art. Dastan:Outside's most recent temporary space, Electric Room (June 2017 to September 2018) in downtown Tehran right across Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture, focuses on showcasing short-term experimental projects, research-based presentations, smaller-scale events, and occasional single-piece exhibits.