

Solo Presentation of Works by Mehdi Ghadyanloo
Dastan's Basement
The Armory Show 2020
Booth P16

More Information: <https://dastan.gallery/exhibitions/315/overview/>

Dastan is pleased to announce its participation at the Armory Show with a presentation of works by Mehdi Ghadyanloo at Booth P16. The current presentation will consist of a series of works on canvas.

Mehdi Ghadyanloo (b. 1981, Tehran, Iran) is a graduate of Painting (BA, University of Tehran, 2005) and Film Making (MA, Tarbiat Modares University, 2007), currently living and working in London, UK. He is one of Iran's most renowned public artists, best known for his more than 100 large scale trompe l'oeil-style gigantic murals. He is also the first Iranian artist to be commissioned in both Iran and the US after the revolution in 1979. In addition to his public art pieces, he makes paintings on canvas and uses print making techniques. He creates surreal images using limited visual elements, often exploring the contemporary life in Iran.

Ghadyanloo's works have been exhibited at numerous international galleries, including Galleri Golsa, Oslo and Howard Griffin Gallery, London. In 2016, he completed a large mural for the Rose Kennedy Greenway project in Boston, US. His most recent public art project was a 186 square meter triptych painting titled "Finding Hope" that was shown at the World Economic Forum 2019 in Davos, Switzerland.

While with his works, he presents an autobiographical view that portrays his personal childhood landscapes and recollections of Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), he explores the contemporary life and his direct experience of the world he is living in. Ghadyanloo's most recent works show everyday objects such as a slide that he comes across to as he takes his kids to the local playground and explore the physical presence of reality. As the artist explains: "these works make reference to memories of living in small and dimly lit cubic rooms to which his family would find refuge during the war".

Ghadyanloo's trompe l'oeil style make these small cubic rooms come up as three-dimensional lifelike presentations of a carnivalesque scene, at first appearing as staged photography. While upon a second look, almost immediately, the painted reality is revealed through the presence of an uncanny element, an unlikely source of light or a recourse to the outside world of the room through an aperture. His realistic rendering techniques allows for what is normally separated to reunite; the coexistence of everyday physicality and dreamlike imagery. The inside-out world of Ghadyanloo's paintings provide a dualistic presentation of unlikely elements confined together in a closed space, neatly framed but not completely sealed. These elements almost always include their opposites within themselves; lights are fraught with shadows, enclosures are unfettered by lines of flight, and fear is accompanied by hope. Hope in Ghadyanloo's paintings, interact with the "closed" matter-of-factness of the cubic rooms, surpassing their actuality and making room for future opportunities. As much as hope as a future-directed form of anticipation provides new forms of access to reality, Ghadyanloo's paintings are suggestive of new possibilities for active relation to a reality which is positively expectant of what is yet to come.

About Dastan

Dastan (est. 2012, Tehran, Iran) 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.

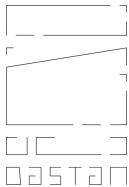
Dastan's original space, Dastan's Basement, was established in 2012 in Tehran, Iran. The Basement is dedicated to exhibiting emerging and experimental Iranian art. In October 2015, Dastan opened its first "standard" space, Dastan+2, within walking distance of the Basement to showcase works by established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

Since the opening of its primary space, Dastan's Basement, 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 the old building of Shirin Confectionary. 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, was opened in June 2017 in downtown Tehran right across The Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture. This 50-projects-in-50-weeks setup was hosted in an approximately 30sqm room. Each presentation focused on concepts such as site-specificity, experimentation, and new approaches in artistic production, showcasing small experimental and research-based projects, including performance, exhibitions, small-scale events, and occasional single-piece exhibits. Electric Room's projects were predominantly defined by each artist's use of its spatial potentialities.

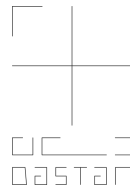


Dastan
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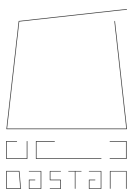
Dastan's Basement

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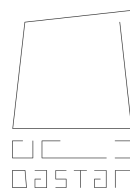
Dastan+2

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V-Gallery (A Dastan:Outside Project)

Qalamchi Dead End, Felestin St. North,
Opposite Faculty of Art & Architecture,
Tehran, Iran



Electric Room (A Dastan:Outside Project)

Qalamchi Dead End, Felestin St. North,
Opposite Faculty of Art & Architecture,
Tehran, Iran

Please click on the following link to obtain vector files of Dastan logos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2mk4xh067laiiup/AABya00qWK-qG2UoiwssNwCDa?dl=0>

Mehdi Ghadyanloo
b. 1981, Tehran, Iran
Lives and Works in London

Biography

After growing up near the agricultural fields in the suburbs of Tehran, Ghadyanloo studied at Tehran University's College of Fine Arts and graduated with a BA in 2005. Subsequently, he earned an MA in film studies from Tehran's Teachers College (Tarbiyat-e Modarres). Known primarily for his gigantic trompe l'oeil-style murals in central Tehran, Ghadyanloo also creates paintings, with surreal and minimalistic themes. Through his works, Ghadyanloo opens a window into the mood of life in Iran today. At the same time, he provides an autobiographical perspective, portraying the landscapes of his youth, his memories of Iran-Iraq war (1980–1988), and his life experience in the Islamic Republic. Although at times sombre and even suggestive of a failed utopia, Ghadyanloo's work conveys hope that change can be effected, and it speaks with joy of what remains glorious in gloomy times.

In addition to a great variety of print making techniques, sculpture and his works on canvas, Mehdi Ghadyanloo is also considered one of Iran's leading public artists. Between 2004 and 2011, he painted over 100 gigantic murals throughout Iran's capital, after answering an open call from the Municipality of Tehran's Beautification Bureau. In 2016 he became the first Iranian artist to be commissioned in both Iran and the US since the revolution in 1979, when he completed a massive mural for the Rose Kennedy Greenway project in Boston, US.

Education

2004 – 2007 MA Animation

2000 – 2004 BA Painting

Exhibitions

2019. Portals of Light, Galleri Golsa, Oslo

2017. Remembering the Oblivion, Rod Bianco, Oslo

2017. Spaces of Hope, Howard Griffin Gallery, London

2015. Perception, Howard Griffin Gallery, London

2014. Mirage of Redemption, Gallery GEO, Bergen

Public art Projects

2019. 'Finding Hope' –Davos, Switzerland

186 square meter commission triptych painting, for Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum 2019 in Davos to be installed permanently in The Congress Center and is in the World Economic Forum Collection.

2018. 'The Fraud and Hope' – Linz, Austria

600 square meter Commissioned by the OK Center for Contemporary Art in Linz, Austria, part of the curated program.

2016. 'Spaces Of Hope' Mural, Public commission for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Dewey Square Park, Boston, USA.

2016. 'Orange Destiny', Commission of the Institute for the Humanities at University Of Michigan Thayer Building, USA

2015. 'We didn't start the game', Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, London, UK

2015. 'Cycle of Life', Commission for Crossrail in Newham, London, UK

2015. A Castle and its Proprietors, Dulwich Museum, Dulwich, London, UK

2004–2011. Municipality of Tehran's Beautification Bureau, created over 100 large-scale public art murals around the city of Tehran

Selected Press

Forbes: How Iranian Artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo Brings 'Hope' to the World Economic Forum 2019

Artsy: Remembering the Oblivion: Mapping the Sublime in the work of Mehdi Ghadyanloo Sotheby's: The Otherworldly Art of Mehdi Ghadyanloo

Harpers Bazaar Arabia: Artist Known As Iran's Banksy Raises Hope Through Art ArtAsiaPacific: Mehdi Ghadyanloo: Spaces of hope–Issue 103 (May/Jun 2017) Newsweek: Iranian artist brings eerie dreamscapes to the US
USnews: The Art of Detent
Associated Press: Stairway to heaven: Iranian artist's wall mural turns heads Artnet: Surreal Murals Enliven the Streets of Tehran
BBC: Wall painting from Tehran to London
The Boston Globe: Brilliant new Greenway mural is a trompe l'oeil triumph CNN: Iranian artist beautifies Tehran
Dezeen: Mehdi Ghadyanloo's surrealist utopian paintings
The Guardian: Flying cars, magic portals, levitating giraffes
Huffington Post: Iranian Artist has covered over 100 Of Tehran's walls in Surreal Street Art
It's Nice That: Mehdi Ghadyanloo – "A Magritte Of Our Times"
Juxtapoz: Mehdi Ghadyanloo "Spaces Of Hope" in Boston
Newsweek: Iranian artist brings eerie dreamscapes to the US
Wallpaper* Magazine: Double take: Mehdi Ghadyanloo uses the art of illusion to reveal truths

Selected Lectures

World Economic Forum, Switzerland 2018 – Public Art: Spaces of Hope
World Economic Forum, China 2017 – Public Art: Spaces of Hope
New York University, USA 2016 – A Conversation with Mehdi Ghadyanloo
Atlantic Council, USA 2016 – Public Art in Tehran: Painting One Wall at a Time
University of Michigan USA 2016 – Iranian artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo in conversation
Stanford University, USA 2016 – Art, Social Space and Public Discourse in Iran
University of California, USA 2016 – The City of Hope: Contemporary Art and Mural Making in Tehran