

**Solo Presentation of Works by Iman Raad
Dastan's Basement
Frieze Viewing Room 2020**

Dastan is pleased to announce its participation at Frieze Online Viewing Room with a solo presentation of works by Iman Raad titled "In Her Sweetest, Saddest Plight". The presentation features two main bodies of work: a series of large-scale acrylic paintings on canvas and a selection of reverse glass paintings, both presented for the first time.

Iman Raad (b. 1979, Mashhad, Iran) currently lives and works in New York City. He holds an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University. He is a resident at the Queens Museum Studio Program and an adjunct faculty at The Cooper Union School of Art. His artworks have been exhibited at numerous international art venues, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), the Flag Art Foundation (New York), Centro Cultural La Moneda (Santiago, Chile), Sargent's Daughters Gallery (New York), and have been acquired by many renowned collections like The British Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and Allentown Art Museum. In 2018, Iman Raad's large-scale mural, *Days of Bliss and Woe*, together with the embroidered banners of *Garden Nights*, were commissioned for 'The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (Brisbane, Australia), with the former acquired for Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art collection.

Iman Raad's prolific practice includes a variety of media from painting, drawing, and embroidery, to graphic design and performance lectures. His works are imbued with influences from Persian painting, Mughal painting, South-Asian truck painting, and digital glitch imagery. He combines these local references with digital image culture and contemporary subject matter to create his diverse works ranging from paintings on glass to mural-scale wall installations. Using a vivid, high-key palette, altered perspective, and repetition, he creates a riot of colour and movement that is both seductive and unsettling.

This presentation of Iman Raad's recent still-life paintings depicts combinations of oversized objects. Be it a bird or a bowl, a flower or a fruit, each object seems to be enclosed within a frame and trapped in domestic settings against a flattened background. The objects are mostly depicted in contrasting tones and distorted perspectives, revealing the artist's background in graphic design, his references to Persian Miniature, and his interest in popular prints and backdrops.

The pieces in "In Her Sweetest, Saddest Plight" also feature Iman Raad's more recent approach to representations of light and reflection. By placing objects alternately facing or against a twilight background, the artist makes shadows disappear, once again highlighting flatness as a dominant feature of his imagery. This aspect is also emphasized in his distinctive technique that employs thin layers of diluted acrylic paint on raw canvas, creating deftly punctuated tones of light across the picture's surface.

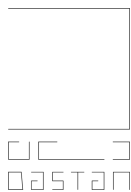
About Dastan

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.

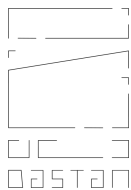
Dastan's original space, Dastan's Basement, was established in 2012 in Tehran, Iran. The Basement is dedicated to exhibiting emerging and experimental Iranian art. In October 2015, Dastan opened its first "standard" space, Dastan+2, within walking distance of the Basement to showcase works by established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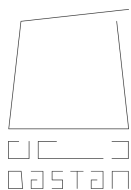
Dastan's Basement

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Tel: +98 21 22031114



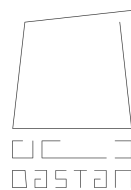
Dastan+2

2nd Floor, #8 Beedar St, Fereshte St,
Tehran, Iran
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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/2mk4xh067laiup/AABya00qWK-qG2UoiwssNwCDa?dl=0>

Iman Raad
b. 1979, Mashhad, Iran
Lives and Works in New York

Biography

Iman Raad works across a variety of media, including painting, drawing, embroidery, graphic design, and performance lectures. In these diverse works, he draws on influences such as Persian painting, Mughal painting, South-Asian Truck painting. He combines these local references with digital image culture and contemporary subject matter to create his work that ranges from small reverse paintings on glass to mural-scale wall installations. Using a vivid, high key palette, altered perspective, and repetition that mimics digital glitches, the result is a riot of colour and movement that is both seductive and unsettling. Traditionally ornamental elements such as birds and flowers and still life subject matters such as fruits and candles are recalibrated into subjects that carry narrative import and are given animate, unnatural presences. These are intertwined with social events and historical moments rendered in fantastical ways to draw in the viewer.

Raad's work has been featured in several books including The Phaidon archive of five hundred designs that matter and reviewed in media including The New York Times and Frieze Magazine. Recent exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), the Flag Art Foundation, New York, Centro Cultural La Moneda, Santiago, Chile, the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9), Brisbane, Australia, and solo shows at Sargent's Daughters Gallery, New York, and Dastan Gallery, Tehran, Iran. Public collections include The British Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), the Allentown Art Museum, Lafayette College Art Collection, Les Arts Décoratifs, Ogaki poster Museum, Zurich Poster Collection, and The Iranian Museum of Graphic Design.

Iman Raad (b. 1979, Mashhad, Iran) lives and works in New York City. He is currently a resident at the Queens Museum Studio Program and an adjunct faculty at The Cooper Union School of Art. Raad holds an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University and a BE in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Education

2017 MFA in Painting and Printmaking, Yale University School of Art

2002 BE in Mechanical Engineering, University of Sistan & Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 Tongue Tied, Sargent's Daughters Gallery, New York, NY

2016 A Show of Forty Drawings and So, Dastan Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2010 Baq-e Batil, Graphic works, Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art, Isfahan, Iran 2008 Graveyard, Graphic works, Rezvan Gallery, Mashhad, Iran

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 Arte Contemporáneo: Asia, Australia y el Pacífico, Centro Cultural La Moneda, Santiago, Chile

2018 The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Arts, Brisbane, Australia

2018 Standing Still, Lying Down, As If, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI 2018 Paint School, Flag Art Foundation, New York, NY

2018 Topography of a Terrestrial Paradise, Et Al etc, San Francisco, CA

2018 Outthere, Filo Sofi Arts, New York, NY

2018 Windows, Next to Nothing Gallery, New York, NY

2017 New Release Gallery, New York, NY

2015 In the Beginning was the word, Iranian Museum of Graphic Design, Tehran, Iran

2014 Recalling the Future, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London, UK

2013 Writings on the Wall, JAMM Art Foundation, Kuwait City, Kuwait

2012 Right-to-Left, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

2012 What lies beneath (Edition II), IVDE Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2011 How I Learned to Stop Fearing and Love the Exotic Art, JAMM Art Foundation, Kuwait City, Kuwait

2011 What lies beneath, IVDE Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2010 Look, don't Judge, Athens and Ithaca, Greece

2010 All Gold of the World, Group poster exhibition, Moscow, Russia
2008 Conference of the Birds, Flawless Gallery, London, UK
2007 Gwangju Design Biennial 2007, Gwangju, Korea
2006 New Visual Culture of Modern Iran, de Balie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2005 Iranian Poster Exhibition, Ogaki poster museum, Ogaki, Japan
2005 Bloem van het Oosten, Moderne Iraanse en Arabische affiches, Dutch Poster Museum, Hoorn, The Netherlands

ARTIST TALKS AND PANELS

2020 Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
2020 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
2020 Bennington College, Bennington, VT
2019 Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
2018 Two-Headed Imagomancy, The Cooper Union, New York, NY 2017 Lafayette College, Easton, PA

2017 Endicott College, Beverly, MA
2016 Two-Headed Imagomancy, Foote School, New Haven, CT
2016 Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene, NH
2014 Two-Headed Imagomancy, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
2014 Two-Headed Imagomancy, ALGA Seattle events, Seattle, WA
2013 Right-to-Left, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, Germany.
2012 Iranian Graphic Design and Contemporary Visuality, 9th Biennial conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies, Istanbul, Turkey.

REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS

Stuart Layt, Brisbane Times (Interview), 13 April 2019 Michael Stamm (Interview), Precog, 2018
William Jess Laird (Interview), Image Culture, 2018 Interview, It's Nice That, 30 August 2017
Will Heinrich, The New York Times, 31 March 2017 Diana Shi, Vice, 19 March 2017
Joseph R. Wolin, Time out New York, 12 April 2017 John Haber, Haberarts, 2017
Mehrnoosh Alimadadi, Tandis (Persian), June 2016
Hamed Yousefi, Tamasha, BBC Persian TV (Persian), 2015 Mohamad Izadi, Neshan 31 (Persian), Summer 2014
Zahra Alizadeh (interview), Jam-e Jam Daily (Persian), 2008

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

2019 Public Art for Public Schools commision, Queens, NY
2018-20 Residency at Queens Museum Studio Program, Queens, NY
2017 Paint School, Shandaken Projects, New York, NY
2017 Residency at Lafayette's Experimental Printmaking Institute, Easton, PA
2011 Iranian Graphic Designers Society (IGDS) Annual Prize, Tehran, Iran
2010 Iranian Graphic Designers Society (IGDS) Annual Prize, Tehran, Iran
2009 First prize Trnava Poster Triennial, Trnava, Slovakia
2007 IGDS Diploma, 9th Tehran International Poster Biennial Tehran, Iran

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2021 (Forthcoming) Public Art for Public Schools, NYC School Construction Authority and Percent for Art, Queens
2020 (Forthcoming) Regrowth Degrowth, Public mural project, Heerlen, the Netherlands
2018 Red Bull Arts public art, Red Bull Arts Detroit and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), Detroit, MI
2013 Vorne Fahn, Kunst im Untergrund, NGBK, Berlin, Germany

COLLECTIONS

British Museum, London, UK

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA Queensland Art Gallery

Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia

Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA

Lafayette College Art Collection, Easton, PA

Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art, Isfahan, Iran

Les Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

Ogaki poster Museum, Ogaki, Japan

Zurich Poster Collection, Zurich, Switzerland

Iranian Museum of Graphic Design, Tehran, Iran