

"Weapons and Medals"

Sara Abbasian

January 8-30, 2026

דָּسְתָּאָן
dastan's
Basement

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"WEAPONS AND MEDALS"

No.6. Bidar St, Fereshteh (Fayyazi) St, Tehran.
January 8-30, 2026



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PRESS RELEASE

Dastan's Basement is pleased to announce the opening of Sara Abbasian's solo exhibition, Weapons and Medals. The exhibition will be on view from January 8 to January 30, 2026. The exhibition brings together two interconnected bodies of work which, in continuity with the artist's longstanding concerns, articulate a tense and multilayered world. The first series consists of drawings on paper produced over twelve consecutive days and nights in Tehran. During this period, the sounds of explosions and the silences that followed shaped the rhythm of the works' production. The result is a body of drawings rendered with obsessive detail, depicting flowers, infants, weapons, medals, and military uniforms; elements that have become familiar and recurrent within Abbasian's visual language.

Within this series is a subsection titled Snipers, in which rabbits replace the animals previously present in the artist's work, such as dogs and bats. Here, the symbolic significance of

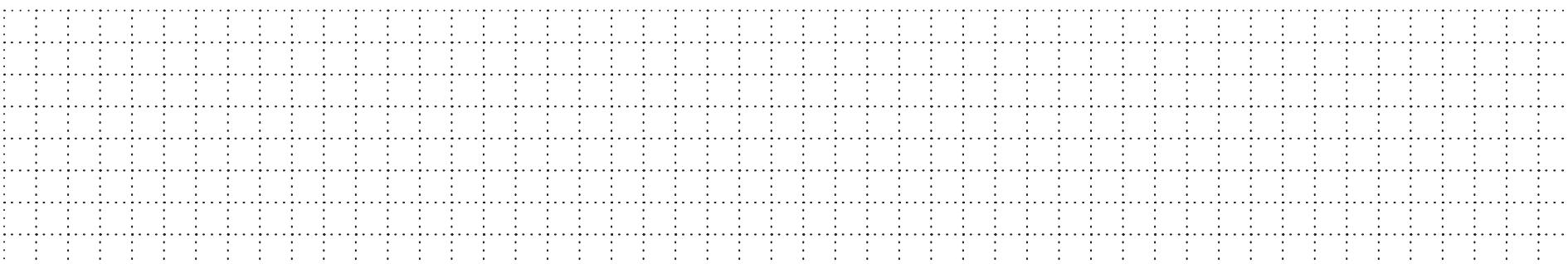
animals in Abbasian's practice comes to the fore. She regards animals as part of our collective unconscious, believing that humans respond to them instinctively with emotional and often contradictory reactions, ranging from affection to fear. Abbasian employs these instinctive responses as a means of activating layers of meaning and emotion without relying on linear narration. The designation of rabbits—fragile, cautious, and vulnerable creatures—as "snipers" introduces an inversion of meaning that prompts the viewer to reconsider concepts such as violence and victimhood.

The second series, titled Green Rifles, consists of acrylic paintings on canvas dominated by shades of green. In these works, weapons occupy an ambivalent position: they are simultaneously present and absent—concealed beneath layers of paint and covered with patterns reminiscent of military camouflage. Abbasian approaches the act of covering forms with calculated precision, even recording the number

of brushstrokes in each painting as a visual code inscribed onto the canvas. In this series, concealment itself becomes both a painterly and conceptual act—one that not only shapes the aesthetic of the work but also functions as a mode of engagement with the very notion of war: a presentation of what must be seen and, at the same time, hidden. Taken as a whole, this exhibition—like the rest of Sara Abbasian’s practice—constitutes an attempt to articulate a multilayered experience of war; one that unfolds not through linear storytelling, but through image, symbol, and painterly sensitivity.

Sara Abbasian (b. 1982, Tehran, Iran) holds a degree in painting from Payam Noor University in Tehran. Her work has consistently focused on the visual representation of war and its fundamental contradictions—between life and death, hope and despair, heroism and catastrophe. She began her professional practice in the mid-2000s, holding her first solo

exhibition in 2006 at Niavarani Café Gallery. Her most recent solo exhibition, *Straw Dogs* (2023), was presented at O Gallery. Abbasian has previously held several solo exhibitions at Mohsen Gallery, including *Cluter 5* (2021), *White Rose* (2018), *Epidemic* (2017), *Indestructible Gravity* (2016), *The Night-Blind Do Not Spare Each Other* (2015), *Untitled* (2015), *Defenseless* (2014), and *Talkhzad* (2014). Other solo exhibitions include *Untitled* (2010) in Zurich and *War* (2007), staged in an abandoned building on Dibaji Street in Tehran. Her work has also been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including *Asia Now* (Paris, 2021), *Art Dubai* (Dubai, 2018), *Scope Basel* (Lucerne, 2015), *Contemporary Istanbul* (Istanbul, 2012), and the *Athens Video Art Festival* at the Technopolis Museum (Athens, 2008). Her works have additionally been included in the *Luciano Benetton Collection* and published in *Imago Mundi* (2013).





Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 100x70 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 104x128 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 80x70 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 80x70 cm





Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2024
Pencil on paper. 70x70 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9





Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm

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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



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Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



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Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



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Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2025
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm



Sara Abbasian. "Untitled". 2023
Pencil on paper. 70x50 cm

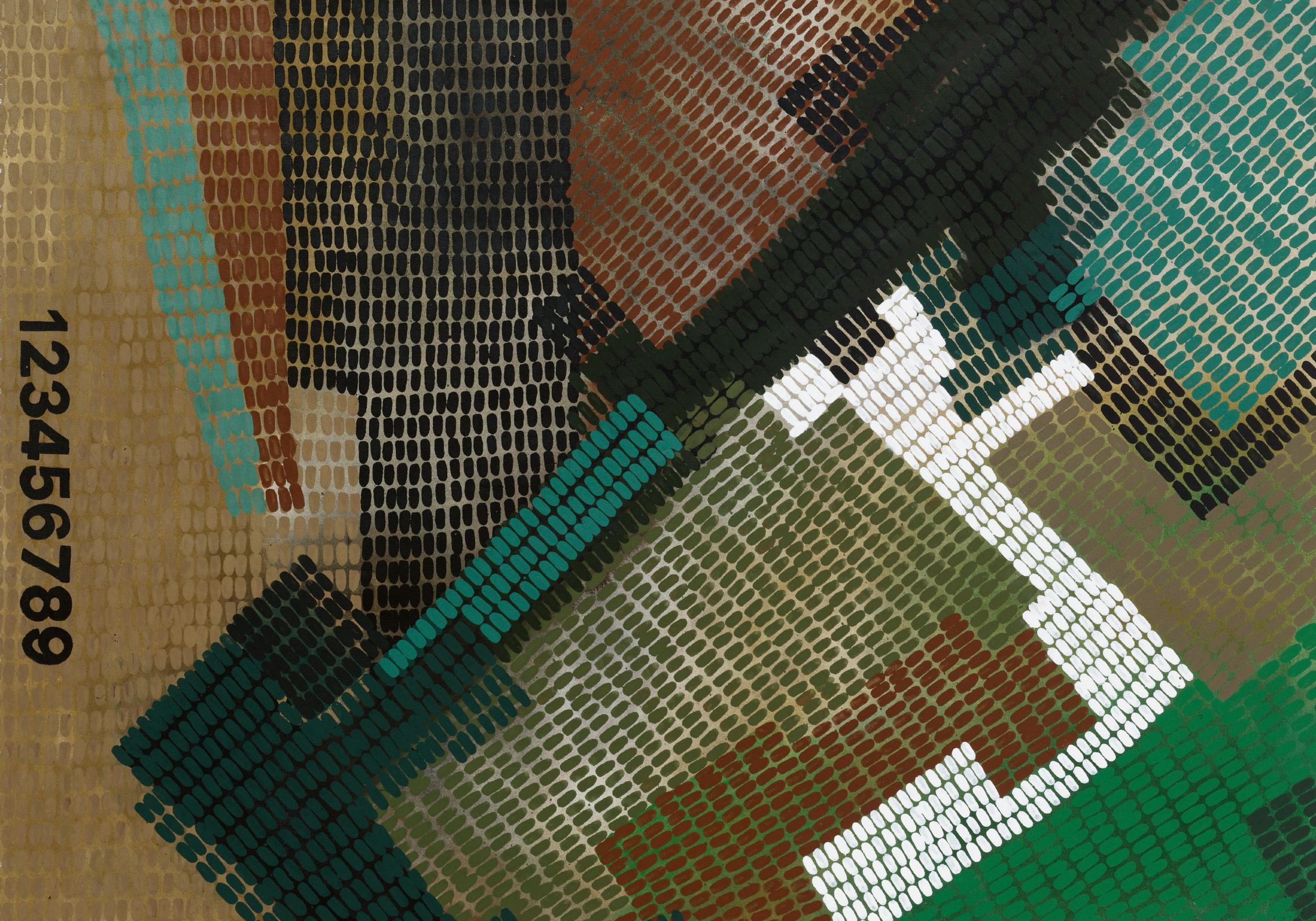


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Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x154 cm

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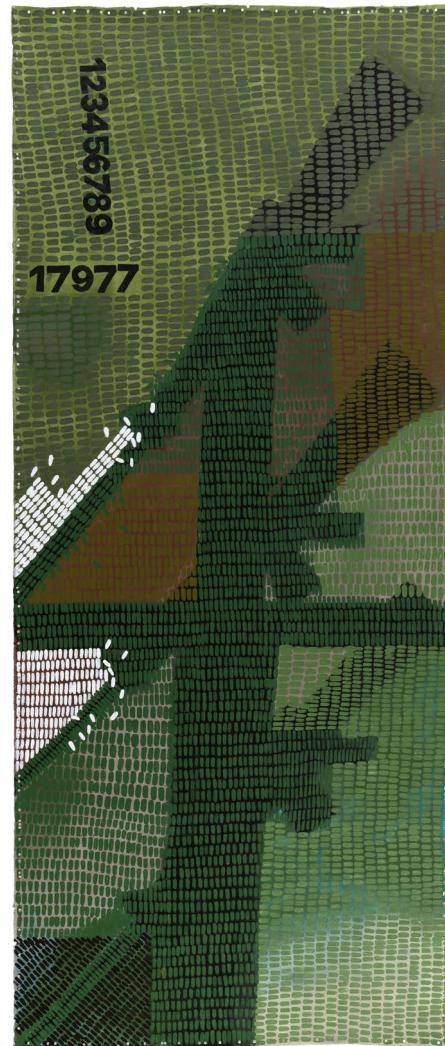
Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x104 cm



Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x154 cm

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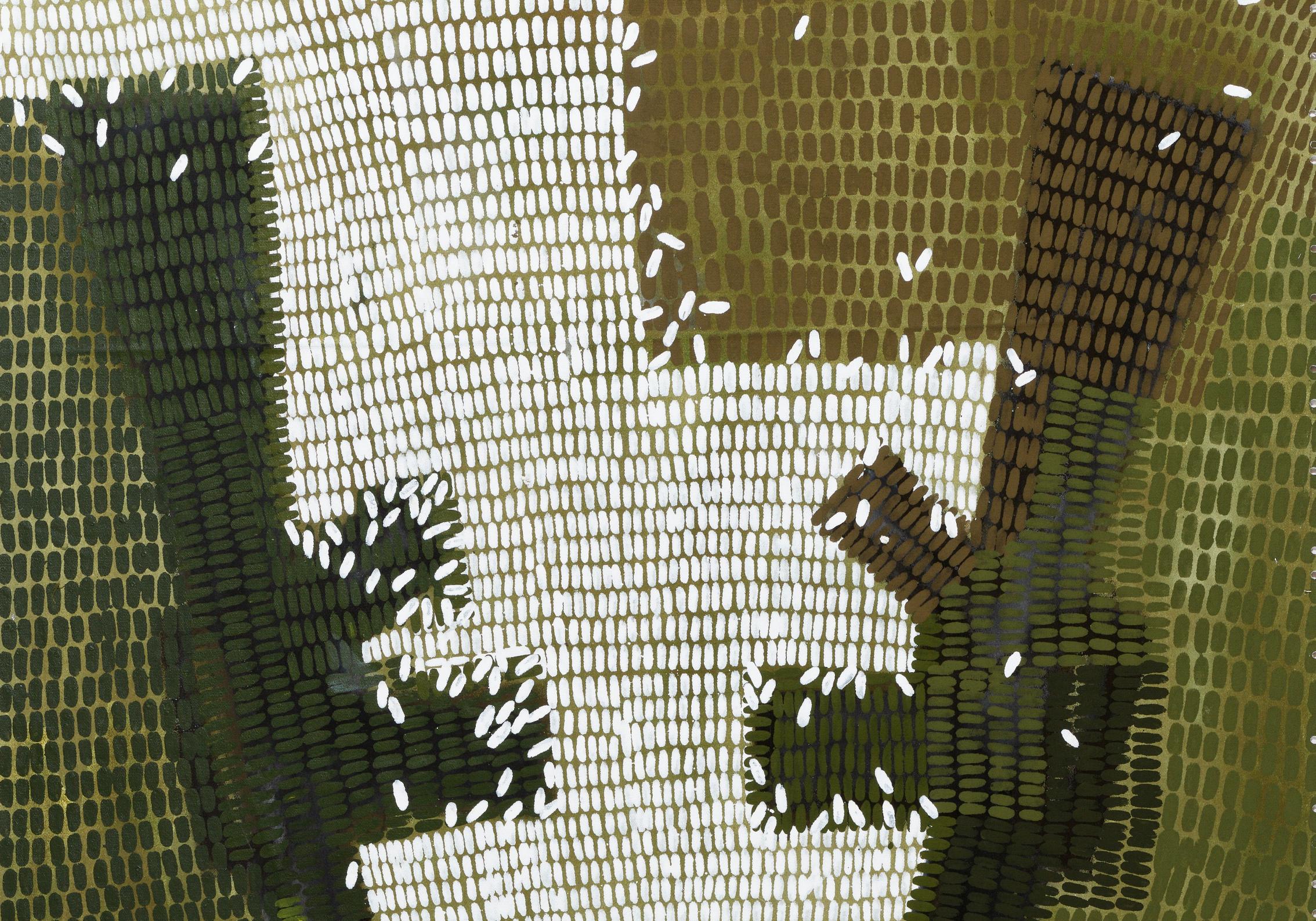
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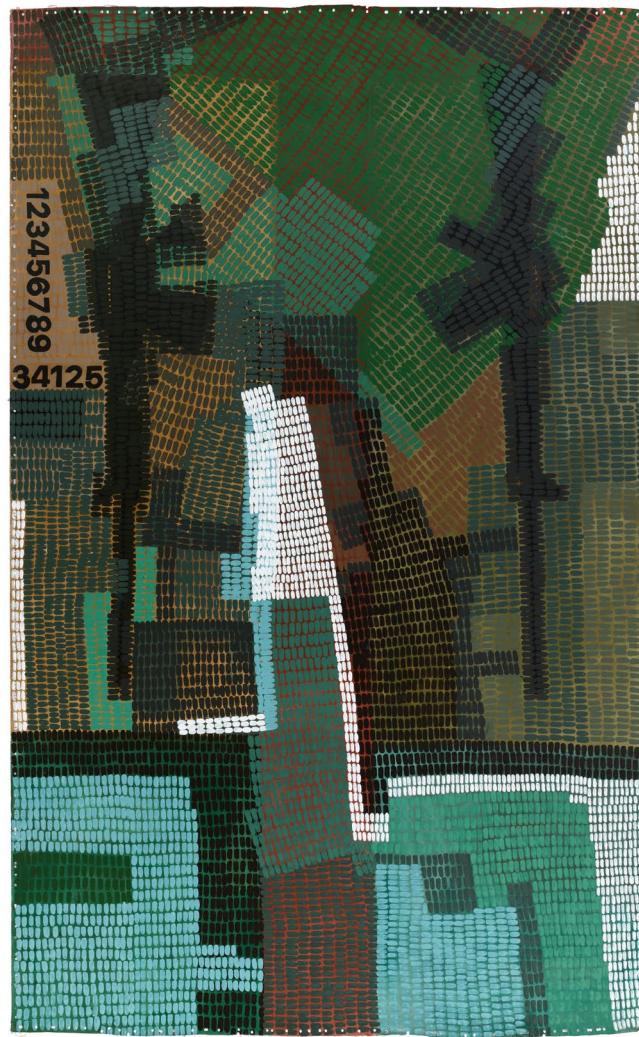


Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x104 cm



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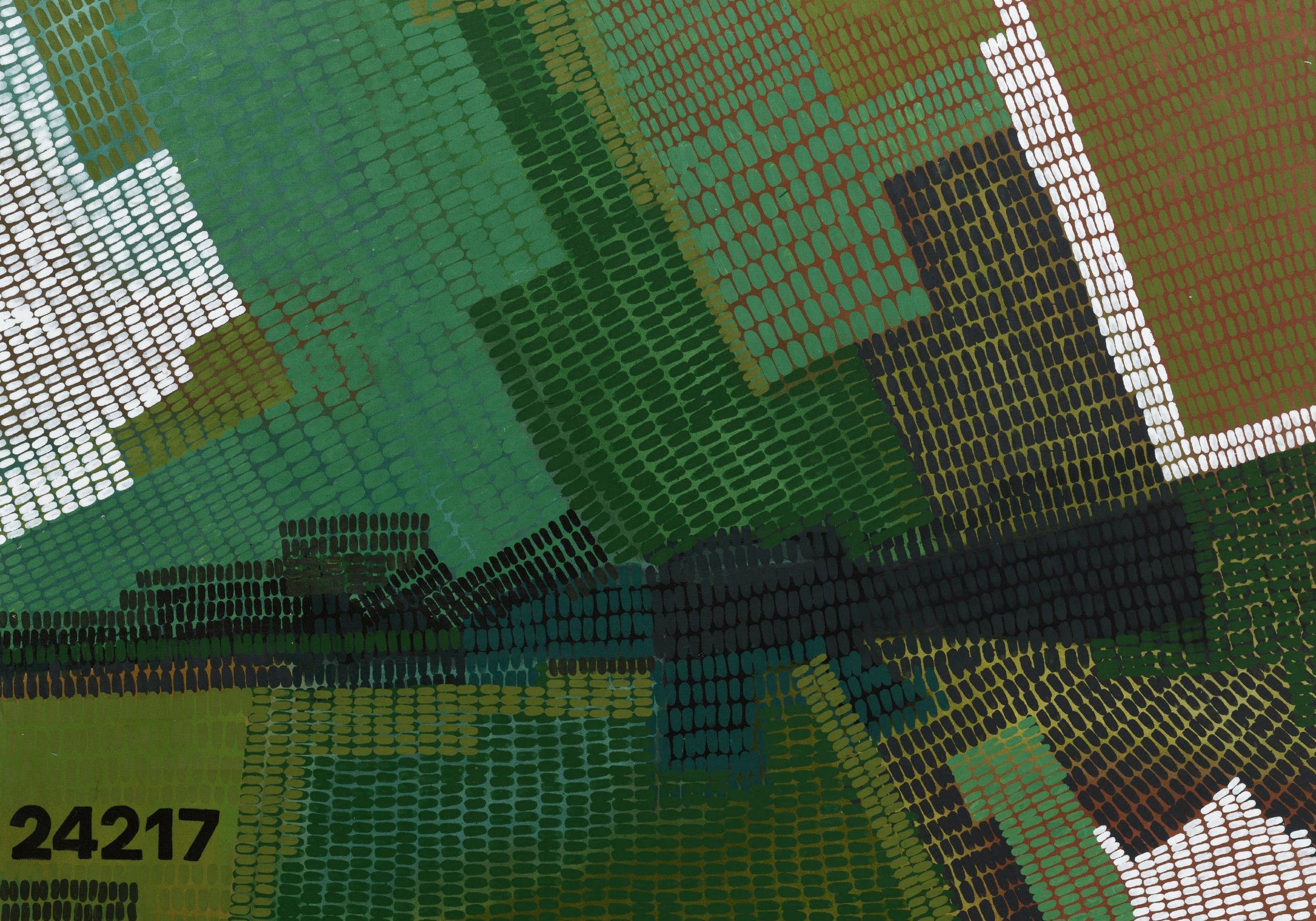




Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x154 cm



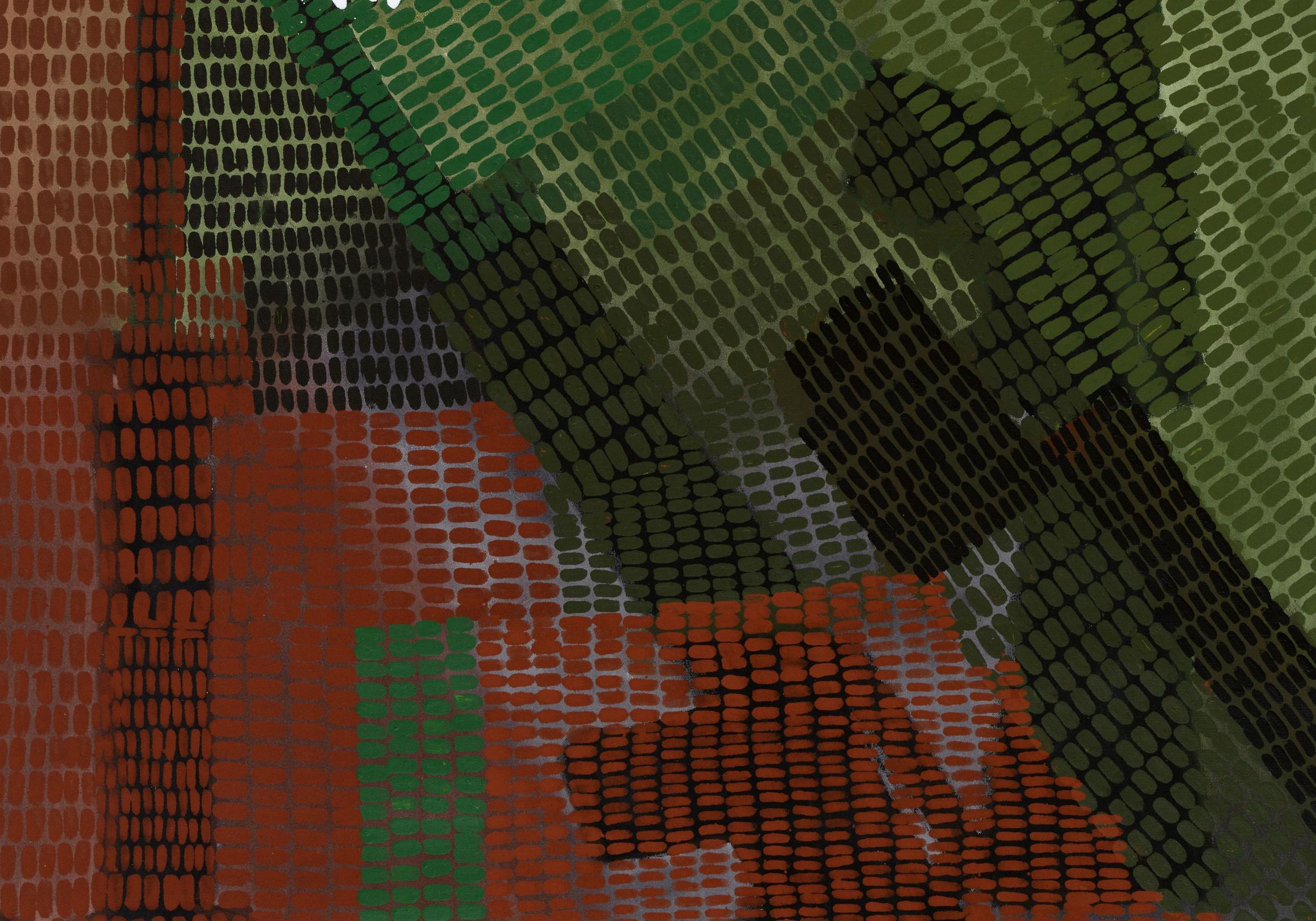
Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
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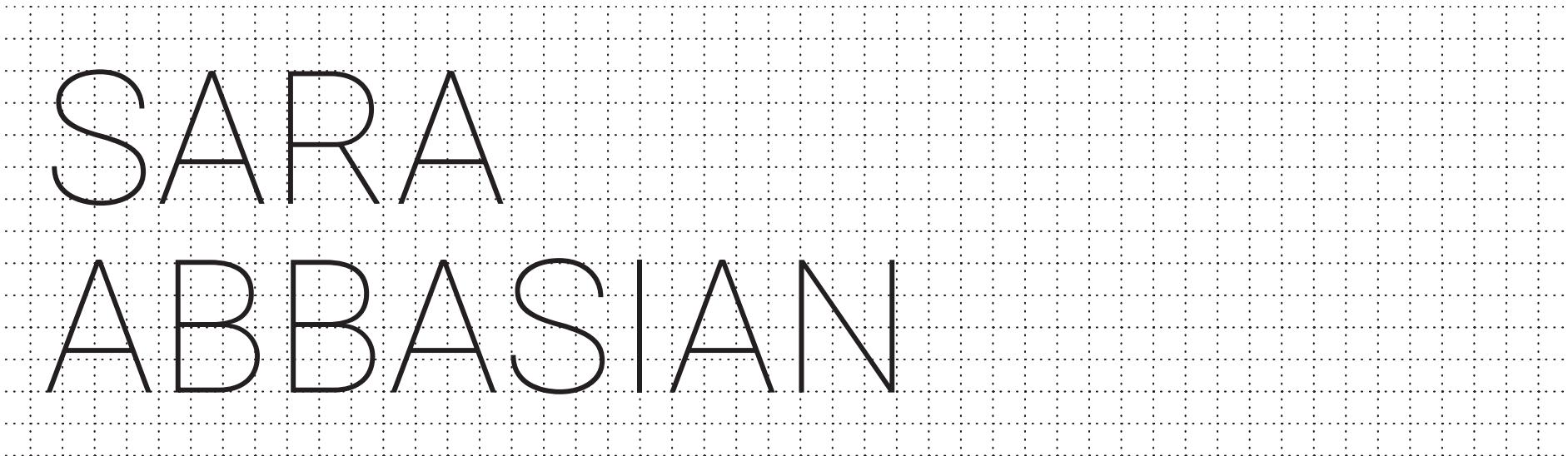


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Sara Abbasian. Untitled from "Green Weapons" series. 2025
Acrylic on canvas. 247x104 cm



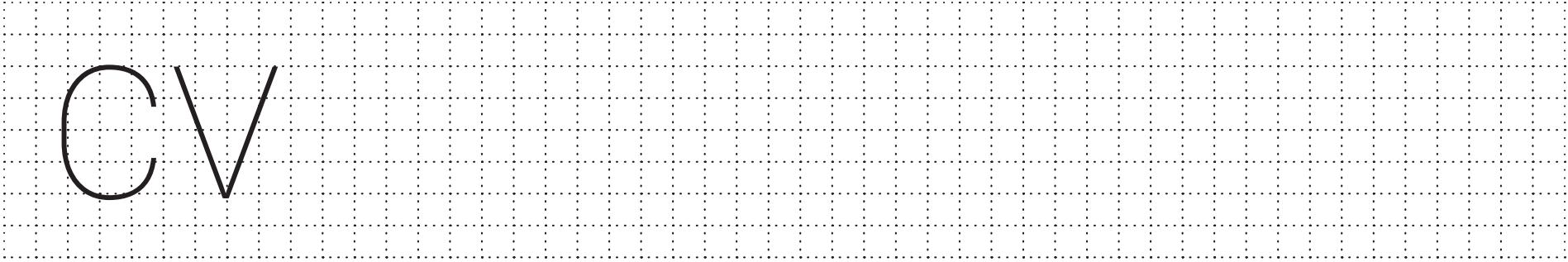


SARA ABBASIAN

Sara Abbasian (September 6, 1982, Tehran, Iran) has a BFA in Painting. Themes of violence, corruption, war, and disease can be found in many of her works, referring to inhumane behavior of the contemporary man. She uses different media, such as drawing, painting, and installation. She has held fifteen solo shows and her works have been included in more than thirty group shows in Iran and abroad, including Athens Digital Arts Festival, 2008; Luciano Benetton and Imago Mundi Collection, Venice, 2015; Art Dubai, 2018; and ASIA NOW, 2021. Sara Abbasian lives and works in Tehran.



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CV

Sara Abbasian

Born in 1982, Tehran, Iran

Education

2014 B.A. in Painting, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran

Solo Exhibitions

2024 "Straw Dogs", O Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2021 "Cluster 5", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2019 "White Rose", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2017 "Epidemy", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2016 "Imperishable Gravity", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2015 "The Night-blind Do Not Show Mercy to Each Other", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2015 "Untitled", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2013 "Defenseless", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2012 "The Bitter Born", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2010 "1388", Tajrish St., Tehran, Iran

2010 "Untitled", AB Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland

2010 "Human Being and Animal", Fatemi St., Tehran, Iran

2007 "War", Dibagi St., Tehran, Iran
2006 "Bicycle", Nivaran Café Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2006 "Television", Fatemi St., Tehran, Iran

Group Exhibitions

2025 "Artists' Emergency Aid", O Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2024 "Point of View", E1 Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2022 "Dangerous Beauty", Art & Library Burgas , Curated by Stephan Stoyanov , Burgas, Bulgaria
2021 "A Selection from La'I-Tehran Collection", Curated by Fereydoun Ave, Malek Foundation, Tabriz, Iran
2018 "Modern - Contemporary" Bijan Saffari and Contemporary Artists, A Dastan: Outside Projects at V-Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2018 "Factory 01", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2016 "Fearless", Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2015 "Luciano Benetton Collection", Imago Mundi Art, Venice, Italy
2015 "Made in Iran", AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
2014 "Art for Peace", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2014 "Seven Artists for a New Day", Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2013 "Iran Art Now", Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York City, New York, USA
2012 "Iranscope", Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2012 "Small Artworks", Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2012 "Contemporary Iranian Artists", 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2011 "My Super Hero", Moronoking Gallery, Los Angeles, California, USA
2011 "My Super Hero", Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2010 "Sanctum", Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2010 "Untitled" Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2010 "Black or white?", Verso Gallery, Turin, Italy
2009 "Untitled", Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2009 "Untitled", Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2009 "In the Mood for Paper", F2 Gallery, Beijing, China
2009 "Three Artists", Basement Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2009 "5 Artist + 3 Dimensions", XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2008 "Untitled", Darband St, Tehran, Iran
2007 "Contemporary Iranian Artists" Dar- Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
2007 "Collected Memories", Art Space Gallery, (New Trends in Iranian Painting), London, UK
2007 "Untitled", Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2007 "Untitled", Azad Art Gallery, Tehran,Iran

Art Fairs

2021 Asia Now, Mohsen Gallery, Paris, France
2018 "Teer Art Fair", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2018 "Art Dubai", Mohsen Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2015 "SCOPE Bazel", AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
2012 "Contemporary Istanbul", Mohsen Gallery Istanbul, Turkey

Festivals

2008 "Athens Video Art Festival", Technopolis of Athens, Athens, Greece
2008 "Iranian Contemporary Drawing Festival", Imam Ali Religious Arts Museum, Tehran, Iran

Auctions

2024 "The 22rd Annual Tehran Auction", Tehran, Iran
2016 "The 23rd Annual Watermill Center Summer Benefit and Auction", New York City, New York, USA



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