Farah Ossouli



https://dastan.gallery/artists/42-farah-ossouli/

BIOGRAPHY

Farah Ossouli

Ossouli was one of the first artists to appropriate miniature painting as an authentic, personal, and contemporary artistic expression to portray women's life. Ossouli's work draws on her wide-ranging background, experience, and passionate involvement in painting, photography, film, animation, graphic design, literature, and theatre.

Born in 1953 in Zanjan, Iran, she graduated from Tehran Faculty of Fine Arts in 1971, and received her B.A. from the Department of Fine Arts, at the Tehran University, in 1977. The cultural isolation after the 1979 Iranian revolution forced many artists who remained in the country to reexamine their identities. It propelled Ossouli to pioneer and revitalize miniature painting, which was one of the many genres she had studied at the art school as a painter. Ossouli's style evolved over three decades. Searching for a meaningful form of self-expression, she found it in the rich tradition and refined beauty of Persian painting, architecture, and decorative arts. The impassive look of miniature figures was well-suited to her universal themes of female and male protagonists.

She was a co-founder of the first women's art group, Dena, in 2001, which introduced three generations of Iranian women artists with different voices, both in Iran and abroad, through workshops in conjunction with traveling exhibitions.

In 2002, the Society of the Iranian Painters voted Ossouli as director and chief curator of the 2003 Tehran Painting Biennial. Since 2008 she has been the chief curator of the last two Biennial Exhibitions of the Iranian Visual Artists under 25 years old. Additionally, she advises dissertations and serves as a juror on contemporary art. Ossouli's paintings have been shown in eight solo and more than one hundred group exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, North America, and Asia. Her work is widely collected, most recently by

The Metropolitan Museum Of Art, New York, United States.



- Passage Through History 1983
- Life's Poems 1993

- Bird & Cage 2007-2009

- Khayyam 2014

- Reflection of Love 1986
- Yesterday in Today 1996 to 1999
- Wounded Virtue 2009-2014
- Still Life 2016

- Moments 1989

Hafez 2002 to 2006

- Listen do you hear the blowing of the darkness?
- 2014
- 1999-2016

- Shahnameh

My Stories 1991

- Burning Wings 2007-2009

- Lawful, Unlawful

Listen! Do you hear the blowing of the darkness?

Farah uses Iranian miniature painting to depict the violence and oppression faced by women in the Middle East and worldwide. Through integrating traditional Iranian art with Western influences, the artist aims to create a series of paintings that narrate a story of historical and contemporary violence perpetrated by rulers. The artworks juxtapose beauty with brutality, aiming to evoke a dual emotional response in the viewer and serve as a warning about the hidden realities of violence. The series is named after a line from a poem by Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad, suggesting a connection between the artist's work and Farrokhzad's exploration of societal oppression and suffering. Additionally, the artist reflects on the broader geopolitical context, suggesting that the artwork serves as a prescient commentary on the darkness and injustice prevalent in the region.



















Wounded Virtue

In the artist's creative journey, poetry holds a significant place within Persian culture, shaping their life from adolescence. The series of paintings, "Wounded Virtue," intricately weave together quotes from contemporary Iranian poets like Ahmad Shamloo and Forough Farrokhzad with references to renowned artists such as Frida Kahlo and Leonardo da Vinci. By blending Eastern and Western art, the artist aims to shed light on the state of women in conflicted regions.

The artwork delves into the contrast between external beauty and underlying violence, mirroring the artist's conflicted feelings about the gap between appearance and reality. Through the incorporation of Persian miniature style and the use of calligraphy and illuminations, the artist infuses traditional elements with new features, like contemporary poems and themed tazhib designed as weapons. Over three decades, the artist's style has evolved, drawing from the rich tradition of Persian miniatures while adding their personal touch to convey universal themes. Through "Wounded Virtue," the artist invites viewers into a dialogue about the complexities of our world and the stress and anxiety caused by witnessing unsettling events.



Farah Ossouli, "Eddie, Ahmad and I", Gouache on arche paper, 56x76cm, 2014



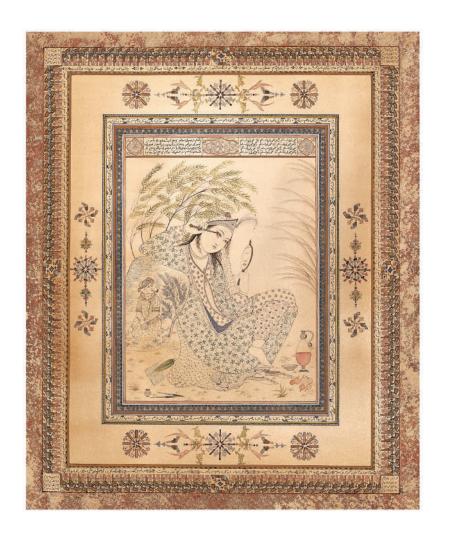


Farah Ossouli, "Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Forough and I", Gouache on arche paper, 76x56cm, 2012

Farah Ossouli, "Frida, Reza, Forough and I", Gouache on arche on paper, 76x56cm, 2012



Farah Ossouli, "Fra Angelico, Ahmad and I", Gouache on arche paper, 56x76cm, 2012





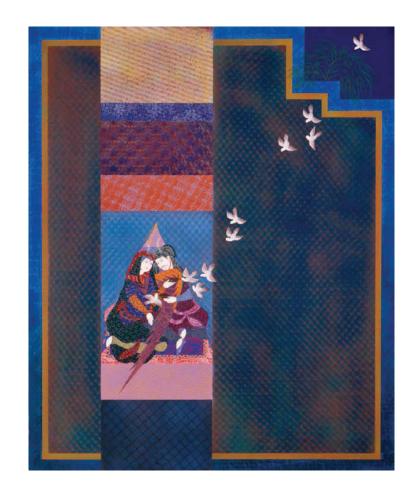


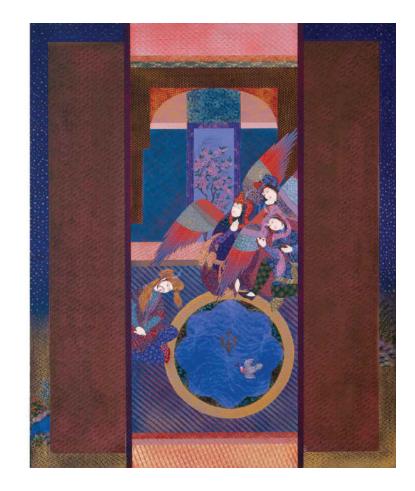


Hafez

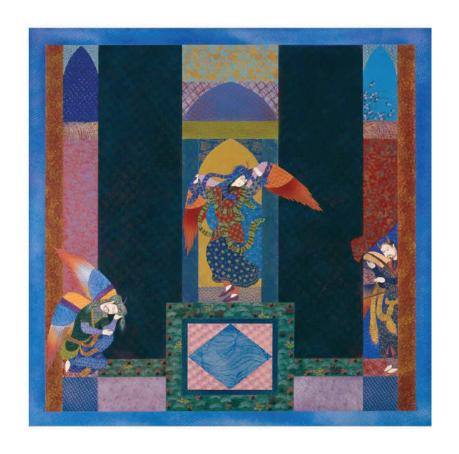




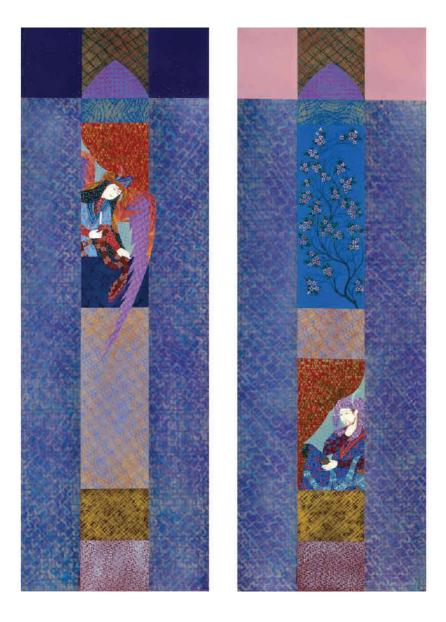




Farah Ossouli, Gouache on cardboard, 76x65cm, 2003-6







Farah Ossouli, Gouache on cardboard, two pieces, 76x25cm, 2002–5

AnillegalLaw



Farah Ossouli, Gouache on paper, 50x50cm, 2022



Farah Ossouli, Gouache on paper, 50x50cm, 2022





StillLife



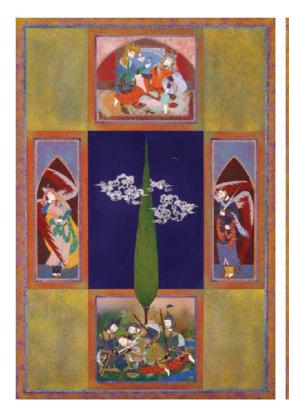


Khayyam

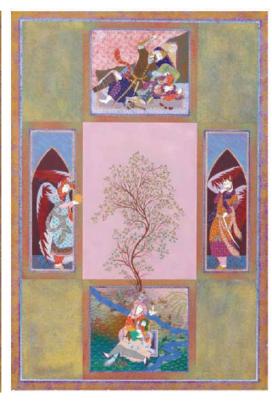




Shahname







MyStories



Farah Ossouli, "The Seven Arches", Gouche on cardboard, 150x150xm overall, 50x50 each and 100x50

Bird & Cage





Other Work

Since before the revolution, Ossouli has been a female pioneer in various fields, breaking numerous barrirers and paving the way for other women in the art world. Ossouli has also made significant contributions to the world of theater by collaborated with renowned directors and acting in various plays.



1974. "Bernarda Alba" by Garcia Lorca Directed by Mehdi Hashemi. Mowlavi Theater. Iran



1977. "Crime on Goat Island" by Ugo Betti Directed by Pari Saberi. Mowlavi Theater. Iran



1976. "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams Directed by Pedi Saberi. Mowlavi Theater. Iran



1972. Beginning of Ossouli's theater career with the Piadeh Theater Group at the Iran-America Society theater hall, featuring "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder



First female film poster designer since the Islamic revolution



First female head of the jury in visual arts competitions in Iran



2003. Director of the 6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennial. First and only female director since before the Islamic revolution



2001. Co-Founder. Dena Group for Women Artists. Iran



B. 1953. ZANJAN, IRAN

EDUCATION

1977. BA, GRAPHIC DESIGN, FACULTY OF FINE ARTS,
UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN, IRAN
1971. DIPLOMA, PAINTING, TEHRAN'S SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS,
TEHRAN, IRAN

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

SHIRAZ
2019. "MA'H O KHORSHID", SHIRIN GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2019. "FLOWING THROUGH TIME", 009821 PROJECTS, TEHRAN,

2019. "THE MOON AND THE SUN", SARV-E NAZ GALLERY,

2014. SHIRIN GALLERY NY. NEW YORK, USA

2012. PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES. RUTGERS UNIVERSITY.

NEWARK, USA

2007. IMAM ALI MUSEUM. TEHRAN, IRAN

2005. LUDWIG MUSEUM, KOBLENZ, GERMANY

1993. CLASSIC GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

1989. SEYHOUN GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023. "SOFT EDGE OF THE BLADE VOL. 2", ZAAL ART GALLERY, TORONTO, CANADA

2023. "EVENT: IRANIAN CONTEMPORARY ART AND SHIFTING

REALITIES", BAVAN GALLERY, LONDON, UK

2023. GROUP EXHIBITION, +2, TEHRAN, IRAN

2023. "REALISM", NO. 9 CORK STREET, PRESENTED BY DASTAN

GALLERY, LONDON, UK

2022. "THE FIRST FERTILE ELEMENT", A GALLERY, TEHRAN, $\,$

IRAN

2022. "SEASON OF FLOWER", TAALAAR SPACE, TEHRAN

2022. "RESIZE", ARTIBITION GALLERY, TEHRAN

2022. "MOHAMMAD SIYAH-QALAM AWARD - FEATURED

IRAN

ARTISTS", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN **INNSBRUCK** 2020. "SHABTAB (7)", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2022. "A NOSTALGIC GLIMPSE", X HOMA, TEHRAN 2022. "WHOM - ONLINE VIEWING", INJA GALLERY, TEHRAN, 2020. "ME", HAAN GALLERY, SHIRAZ, IRAN 2020. "ME", EMROOZ GALLERY, ISFAHAN IRAN 2020. "MASTERS OF IRANIAN ART", NEGAH GALLERY, TEHRAN, 2022. "THE FIRST FERTILE ELEMENT", A GALLERY, TEHRAN, **IRAN** IRAN 2022. "SOFT EDGE OF THE BLADE", DASTAN OUTSIDE 2019. "MS & MR. ARTIST", FARMANFARMA GALLERY, TEHRAN, PROJECTS, LONDON, UK IRAN 2022. "SEASON OF FLOWER", TAALAAR SPACE, TEHRAN, IRAN 2019. "ME", KABOOD ATELIER ART GALLERY, TABRIZ 2022. "RESIZE", ARTIBITION GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2019. "LIMITED EDITIONS -1", 009821 PROJECTS, TEHRAN, 2022. "PAINTING SHOW", NEGAR ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN IRAN 2019. "COLLECTOR 3", ARTIBITION, TEHRAN, IRAN 2022. "MOHAMMAD SIYAH-QALAM AWARD - FEATURED ARTISTS", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2019. "2018 COLLECTION SELLING", HAAN GALLERY, SHIRAZ 2018. "SHABTAB 3", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2022. "A NOSTALGIC GLIMPSE", X HOMA, TEHRAN, IRAN 2018. "PAINTING SHOW", WHITE LINE GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2021. "SANCTUARY", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2021. "IRAJ'S CONTINUANCE", IRAJ ZAND FOUNDATION, 2018. "MOSSAVAR-NAME". DASTAN'S BASEMENT AND +2. TEHRAN, IRAN TEHRAN, IRAN 2021. "GAZE", LIAM GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2018. "GOOD MORNING... GOOD NIGHT", CURATED BY TARLAN RAFIEE, THE PALAZZO DUCALE DI 2021. "BIRDS", SOO CONTEMPORARY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2020. "SPITING PLATO RE ARCHITECTURE", INJA-GALLERY, MANTOVA, MANTOVA, ITALY 2018. "GOOD MORNING... GOOD NIGHT", CURATED BY TARLAN TEHRAN, IRAN RAFIEE, MONFERRATO, CASALE 2020. "SOLACE OF LOVERS", TIROLER LANDESMUSEEN,

MONFERRATO, ITALY 2018. "FREE SALE", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2018. "6TH INTERNATIONAL ART FOR PEACE FESTIVAL", PARDIS MELLAT, TEHRAN, IRAN 2017. "SHABTAB 2", AZAD ART GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2017 GROUP PAINTING SHOW, "MOTIF OF HORSE" IN CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN PAINTING, PARDIS MELLAT GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2013. "WOMEN REDRAWING THE WORLD STAGE", SOHO 20 GALLERY, USA 2012. "THE ELEPHANT IN THE DARK", DEVI ART FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI 2012. "NEW PERSPECTIVE IN CONTEMPORARY MINIATURES", GALLERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND ZURICH 2010. MONALISA COLLECTION, MONALISAX10@10., 10 GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2010. "VAN GOGH'S EAR", SECOND CUT, 10 GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2010. "THE WORLD WHERE TO I ADHERE", SILK ROAD GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN 2010. "TEHRAN - NEW YORK, ENCYCLOPEDIA IRANICA", LTMH **GALLERY, NEW YORK**

2010. "A CONTEMPORARY VIEW OF WOMEN READING", A SHOW IN HONOR OF THE PUBLICATION "FORBIDDEN FRUIT", THE FORBES GALLERIES, NEW YORK CITY, USA 2009. "MASQUES OF SHAHAZAD EVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION OF THREE GENERATIONS OF IRANIAN WOMEN ARTISTS", LONDON, UK 2007. "REPRESENTATION OF PERSIAN PAINTING IN CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS IN IRAN", IMAM ALI MUSEUM, TEHRAN, IRAN 2006. PLAACIO A BOLSA PORTO 2006. MUSEU DA AGUA LISBOA, PORTUGAL 2006. "EAST OF IMAGINATION", TEHRAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, TEHRAN, IRAN 2006. "DONNE DIALOGO INTEGRAZIANE", SAN LEUCIO CASERTA, ITALY 2005. "IRANIAN IMAGINATION", SABA CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC CENTER, TEHRAN, IRAN 2005 DENA. LUDWIG MUSEUM, KOBLENZ, GERMANY 2003. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM 2003. BLANCHE GALLERY, BRUSSELS 2003. "A SPIRITUAL VISION", TEHRAN MUSEUM OF

CONTEMPORARY ART, TEHRAN, IRAN	1999. HOMAYOUNI GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2002. ROYAL MIRAGE, DUBAI	1999. FARAMARZI GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2002. PARS MEHRY GALLERY, MARYLAND	1999. "WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DAY", BARG GALLERY,
2002. DECOURTENAY GALLERY, MONS	TEHRAN, IRAN
2001. UNITED NATIONS BUILDING, GENEVA	1999. "TOTAL ART", CONTEMPORARY PERSIAN PAINTING,
2001. NEW YORK LIBRARY, NEW YORK	DUBAI
2001. AMBER GALLERY, EAST-WEST FOUNDATION, LEIDEN	1998. NIL GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2001. "DIX FEMMES PAINTERS D'IRAN" (ENGLISH: TEN IRANIAN	1998. CULTURAL CENTER, BEIRUT, BEIRUT
WOMEN PAINTERS), HOTEL DE VILLE	1997. LA MAISON DE I'IRAN, PARIS
ST.GILLES, BRUSSELS	1997. ISTANBUL CULTURAL CENTER, ISTANBUL
2001. "A BREEZE FROM THE GARDENS OF PERSIA, NEW ART	1997. HAFT SAMAR GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
FROM IRAN", MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL	1996. EB-E-SINA CULTURAL CENTER, TEHRAN, IRAN
CENTER, WASHINGTON DC, NEW YORK, BELLEVILLE ILLINOIS,	1996. AURUM GALLERY, BASEL
LOS ANGELES, ATLANTA, TEXAS, FLORIDA	1995. DARYABEIGI GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2001 CURATOR OF WOMEN GROUP SHOW (DIALOGUE AMONG	1994. SAAD ABAD CULTURAL CENTER, TEHRAN, IRAN
CIVILIZATIONS), EJLAS BUILDING,	1994. HAKIM NEZAMI GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
TEHRAN, IRAN	1994. BAMDAD GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
2000. LARNAKA, CYPRUS	1991. IRANIAN STUDIES CENTER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW
2000. IRANIAN ARTISTS' FORUM, TEHRAN, IRAN	YORK
2000. "THE SILENT BRUSH", ARTIST INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1991. IRANIAN STUDIES CENTER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER, WASHINGTON DC	1991. CLASSIC GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN
1999. YAHIA GALLERY, TUNIS, TUNISIA	1991. AZADI CULTURAL CENTER, TEHRAN, IRAN

1991. AFRAND GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

1989. PAFAR GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

1989. AZIN GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

1988. CULTURAL CENTER, KIVE, UKRAINE

1987. SEYHOUN GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

1978. KHANEH AFTAB GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN

MEMBERSHIPS

2001. SOCIETY OF IRANIAN PAINTERS

2001. DENA GROUP

ART RESIDENCIES

2023. ABU DHABI ART, REPRESENTED BY DASTAN GALLERY,

ABU DHABI, UAE

2023. ART TORONTO, REPRESENTED BY ZAAL ART GALLERY,

TORONTO, CANADA

2023. FRIEZE LONDON, REPRESENTED BY DASTAN'S GALLERY,

LONDON, UK

2023. FRIEZE NEW YORK, REPRESENTED BY DASTAN'S

GALLERY, NEW YORK, USA

2023. ART DUBAI, PRESENTED BY DASTAN GALLERY, DUBAI,

UAE

2018. "MOSSAVAR-NAME". ART DUBAI. GROUP

PRESENTATION. DUBAI, UAE

2016. ART DUBAI. GROUP PRESENTATION. DUBAI, UAE

PUBLICATIONS

SONMEZ, N (2023). FARAH OSSOULI BURNING WINGS: LAST

FOUR DECADES. SKIRA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1981-1987. MO'ASER STUDIO. TEHRAN, IRAN

1972-1977. DESIGN STUDIO. TEHRAN, IRAN

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM (V&A), LONDON, UK

MATHAF: ARAB MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, DOHA, QATAR

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, UK

ART GALLERY WA, PERTH, AUSTRALIA

THE DUCAL PALACE MUSEUM OF MANTUA, ITALY

FARJAM COLLECTION, DUBAI, UAE

KERMAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, IRAN

TIROLER LANDESMUSEUM FERDINANDEUM, INNSBRUCK,

AUSTRIA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA), USA

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, USA

DEVIART FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI, INDIA

TROPEN MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

LUDWIG MUSEUM, KOBLENZ, GERMANY

TEHRAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, TEHRAN, IRAN

IMAGO MUNDI: LUCIANO BENETTON COLLECTION, TREVISO

AND VENICE, ITALY

IMAM ALI MUSEUM, TEHRAN, IRAN

PASARGAD BANK, TEHRAN, IRAN

QURAN MUSEUM, TEHRAN, IRAN

EXECUTIVE AND CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

2021. POLICY COUNCIL & SELECTION COMMITTEE & JURY,

MOHAMMAD SIAH GHALAM PRIZE, AZAD

ART GALLERY.

2021. BOARD OF POLICY COUNCIL, THE CONCEALED OVER THE

REVEALED, TEHRAN MUSEUM OF

CONTEMPORARY ART, IRAN.

2021. SELECTION COMMITTEE AND JURY, MONET PRIZE,

TEHRAN, IRAN.

2021. VERSUS BIENNALE, TEHRAN, IRAN.

2020. SELECTION COMMITTEE AND JURY, SHAHNAMEH

FERDOWSI PAINTING BIENNALE, MASHHAD,

IRAN.

2019. CURATOR, IRANIAN FEMALE FILM FESTIVAL, KOBLENZ,

GERMANY.

2017. CURATOR, IRANIAN FEMALE FILM FESTIVAL, KOBLENZ,

GERMANY.

2016. 24TH YOUTH NATIONAL FESTIVAL FOR VISUAL ARTS,

TABRIZ, IRAN.

2015. HEAD OF THE JURY AND MEMBER OF THE SELECTION

COMMITTEE, JOKAL FESTIVAL, TEHRAN.

2012. HEAD OF THE JURY. DAMUNFAR VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL.

MELLAT GALLERY. TEHRAN, IRAN.

2010. HEAD OF THE JURY OF VISUAL ART FESTIVAL, MELLAT

GALLERY, TEHRAN, IRAN.

2010. NOMINATOR OF MAGIC OF PERSIA.

2009. JURY AND MEMBER OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FAJR

2009. FESTIVAL OF VISUAL ARTS. TEHRAN MUSEUM OF

CONTEMPORARY ART. TEHRAN, IRAN.

2008. NOMINATOR OF MAGIC OF PERSIA CONTEMPORARY ART PRIZE, LONDON, ENGLAND.

2007. CURATOR OF IRANIAN ART FESTIVAL QANAT AL QASBA, SHARJAH, UAE.

2007. CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXHIBITION: REPRESENTATION OF PERSIAN PAINTING IN CONT.

PAINTING IN IRAN-IMAM ALI ARTS MUSEUM, TEHRAN.

2006. MEMBER OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTH BIENNIAL OF PERSIAN PAINTING,

TEHRAN.

2006. MEMBER OF JURY IN JOY AND ECSTASY PAINTING WORKSHOP, TEHRAN.

2006. JURY AND MEMBER OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE IRAN ART FESTIVAL, IRAN.

2005. MEMBER OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF KORAN EXHIBITION, TEHRAN.

2004. JURY AND MEMBER OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF ESFAHAN'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION,

ESFAHAN.

2003. CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 6TH PAINTING BIENNIAL OF TEHRAN, TEHRAN.

2002-2005. MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF

THE TEHRAN MUSEUM OF

CONTEMPORARY ART, TEHRAN.

2001. CURATOR OF WOMEN GROUP EXHIBITION (DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS), EJLAS BUILDING,

TEHRAN.

2001. CO-FOUNDER, DENA GROUP FOR WOMEN ARTISTS, TEHRAN.

1998. JURY OF "MANIFESTATION OF FEELINGS" EXHIBITION, NIAVARAN CULTURAL CENTER, TEHRAN.

