



Yousha Bashir and Hoda Kashiha

Booth: E15

Date: 17 - 20 February 2022

Address: 9900 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles, USA

Website: <http://dastangallery/>

Instagram: [dastan.artgallery](https://www.instagram.com/dastan.artgallery)

**FRIEZE
LOS ANGELES**

Dastan Gallery's booth exhibits a duo presentation of the work of two Iranian artists characteristic of a vivid contemporary scene that questions actual artistic art practices while exploring socio-political topics related to their home country: Yousha Bashir and Hoda Kashiha.

In the work of Tehran-based Yousha Bashir (b. Iran, 1989), that spans across painting, sculpture and video, abstraction and figuration are inextricably mingled. Recalling pop culture with its historically recognizable bright colored canvases and straight-forward shapes, Bashir's series seems to evoke the early years of post-internet imagery of the mid-2000's, and as it explores the growing relationship between the digital realm and the physicality of painting. Here mechanical behaviors are at play with sensory reactions beyond the solid framework of the canvas. Interested in questioning the idea of translating or mistranslating digital representations into an actual three-dimensional work, Bashir's recent series of paintings also suggest digital collages of dystopian abstract landscapes and sometimes more figurative self-portraits, where are expressed the duality between construction and deconstruction, and the idea of suspension.

In her playful paintings that capture awkward and dark humor moments, Hoda Kashiha (b. 1986, Tehran) reflects on culturally sensitive topics such as identity, femininity and gender issues within the complex climate in her native country. Kashiha's daily observations of opposition and struggle are transformed into poetic metaphors on canvas resulting in a bold imagery that constantly shifts between reality and imagination. There she uses a common strategy used by Iranians to survive the current social and political system, incorporating for instance pop culture, emojis and comic cartoons, mixed with masterpieces taken from art history to create unique images. Considered as one of the most important emerging artists of the Iranian contemporary art scene, Kashiha's practice is a constant reflection on existence and non-existence, visibility and concealment.

Martha Kirszenbaum