

Soheila Sokhanvari: Rebel Rebel review — fabulous women of old Iran

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FIRST NIGHT | VISUAL ART

Barbican

[Laura Freeman](#)

Thursday October 06 2022, 5.00pm, The Times



Eve (Portrait of Katayoun (Amir Ebrahimi)), 2021 and Tobeh (Portrait of Zari Khoshkam), 2020 by Soheila Sokhanvari

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★★★★☆

Short skirts, big hair, black boots, red nails. Here come the Iranian girls. Soheila Sokhanvari's *Rebel Rebel* takes the prize for most beautiful exhibition installation of the year. The Barbican's Curve gallery — a tricky space, like the back corridor of an auditorium — has been transformed by hand-painted murals patterned like a zenana screen. A great, glittering monolith marks the entrance, set with 27,000 tessellated pieces of glass. Sokhanvari applied the sparkles herself. She is nothing if not painstaking. A single painting might take her eight to twelve weeks.