

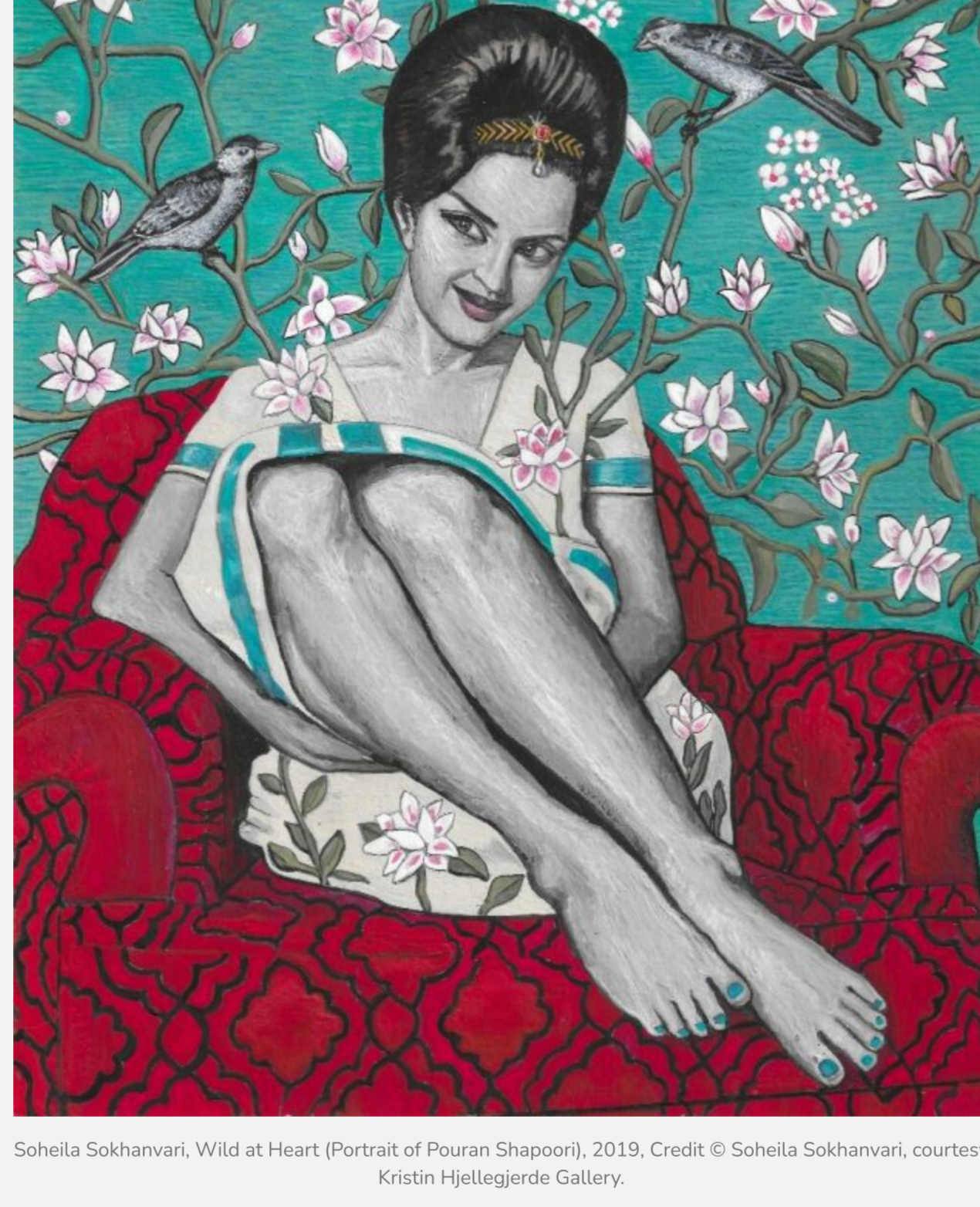
FAIRS — OCTOBER 15, 2022

REBEL, REBEL | THE CURVE, BARBICAN

— ANASTASIA NYSTEN



Soheila Sokhanvari transforms the Curve into a devotional space, populated with exquisite miniature portraits of glamorous cultural figures from Iran. The project spotlights the rarely told histories of these women, who pursued creative careers in a culture enamoured with Western style but not its freedoms.



Soheila Sokhanvari, *Wild at Heart (Portrait of Pouran Shapoori)*, 2019. Credit: © Soheila Sokhanvari, courtesy Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery.

With humour and verve, *Rebel Rebel* explores the contradictions of Iranian women's lives between 1925 and the 1979 revolution – an explosive period of both liberation and commodification that proved short lived.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Soheila Sokhanvari is a British/Iranian artist, whose multimedia work cultivates a non-uniform practice and her works deal with contemporary political landscape with a focus on pre-revolutionary Iran of 1979. She is drawn to events and traumas that linger in the collective consciousness or cause mass amnesia. In her Iranian crude oil on paper drawings, faced with political events and traumas of contemporary Iranian politics that are impossible to represent, she plays with meaning and materiality by allowing the medium to carry the political message. Crude oil as the most precious commodity of modern times implicates us all and addresses our relationship to this material be it economic, political, ecological and social. By employing crude oil, a non-art material, these drawings tell the narrative of the collective narrative through the story of the individual in relation to the mass consumer society and energy-hungry world. Where oil rich countries negotiate and battle for democracy and liberty but at a human cost.

Her miniature paintings employ the traditional technique of egg tempera on calf vellum by grinding colour pigments so in effect they are comparable to modern illuminations.

She is interested in the practice of magic realism, symbolism and allegory that allows political and social commentary through poetry, metaphor and subtext. Magic realism being the most useful tool that allows slippage in meaning that resists the totalitarian discourse of all kind. Employing calf vellum in her paintings and drawings functions as a symbolic gesture; calf representing the animal that is sacrificed in all monotheistic religions becomes the symbol of the sacrifice of the individual and the artist.

Her practice also includes using found objects from taxidermy to genuine expired passports. The concept of political, social and the individual remains the core of her concern and addresses our collective traumas and consciousness.

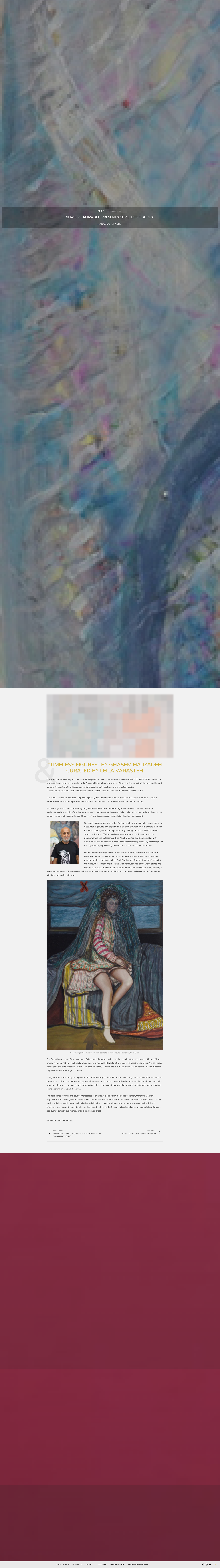
Opening hours

Daily 11am–7pm

Bank Holidays 12–7pm

Early closure on 11 & 12 October 11am – 6pm

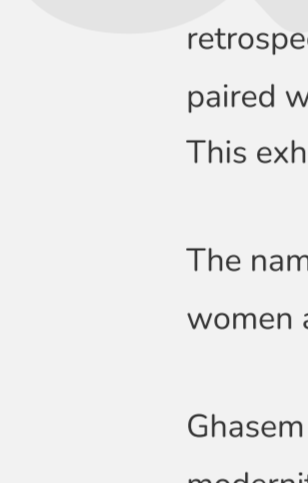
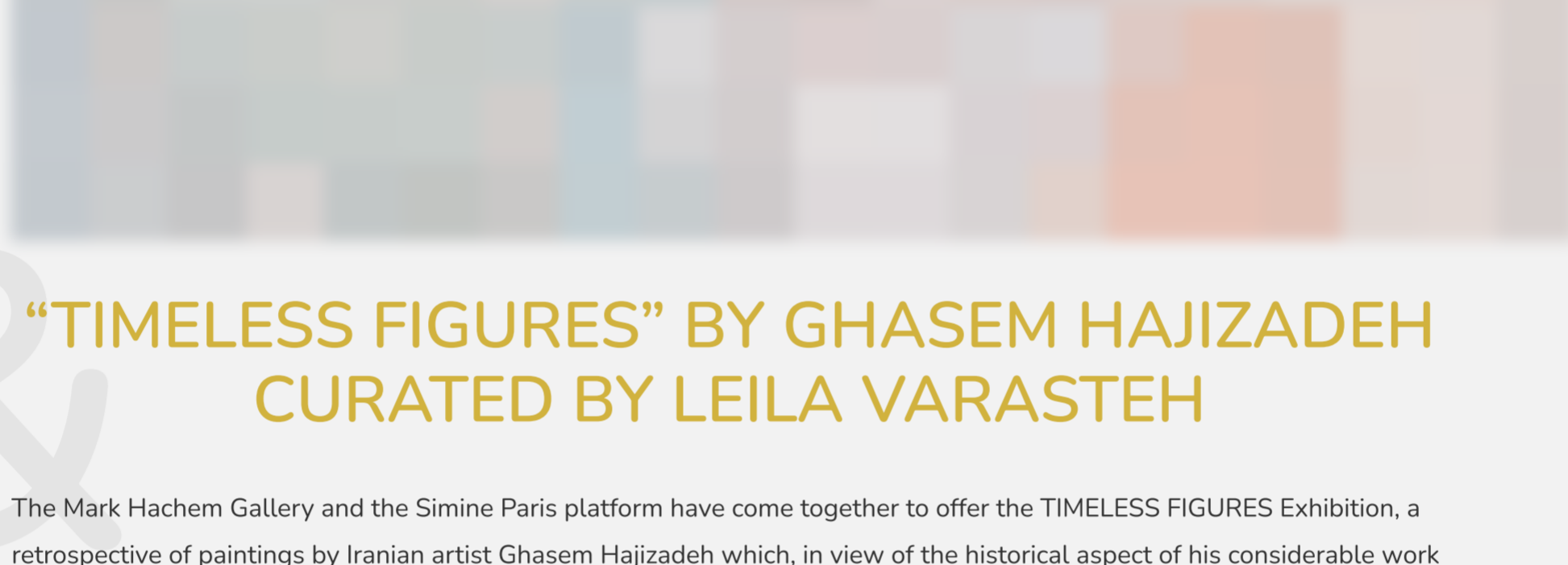
PREVIOUS ARTICLE < GHASEM HAIZADEH PRESENTS "TIMELESS FIGURES" FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION OF ANDREAS ANGELIDAKIS IN PARIS > NEXT ARTICLE



FAIRS — OCTOBER 13, 2022

GHASEM HAJIZADEH PRESENTS "TIMELESS FIGURES"

by ANASTASIA NYSTEN



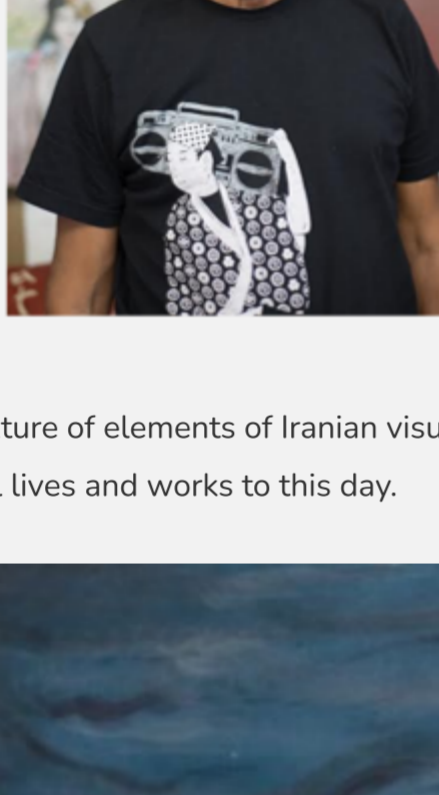
"TIMELESS FIGURES" BY GHASEM HAJIZADEH CURATED BY LEILA VARASTEH

The Mark Hachem Gallery and the Simine Paris platform have come together to offer the TIMELESS FIGURES Exhibition, a retrospective of paintings by Iranian artist Ghasem Hajizadeh which, in view of the historical aspect of his considerable work paired with the strength of his representations, touches both the Eastern and Western public.

This exhibition presents a series of portraits in the heart of the artist's world, marked by a "Mystical Iran".

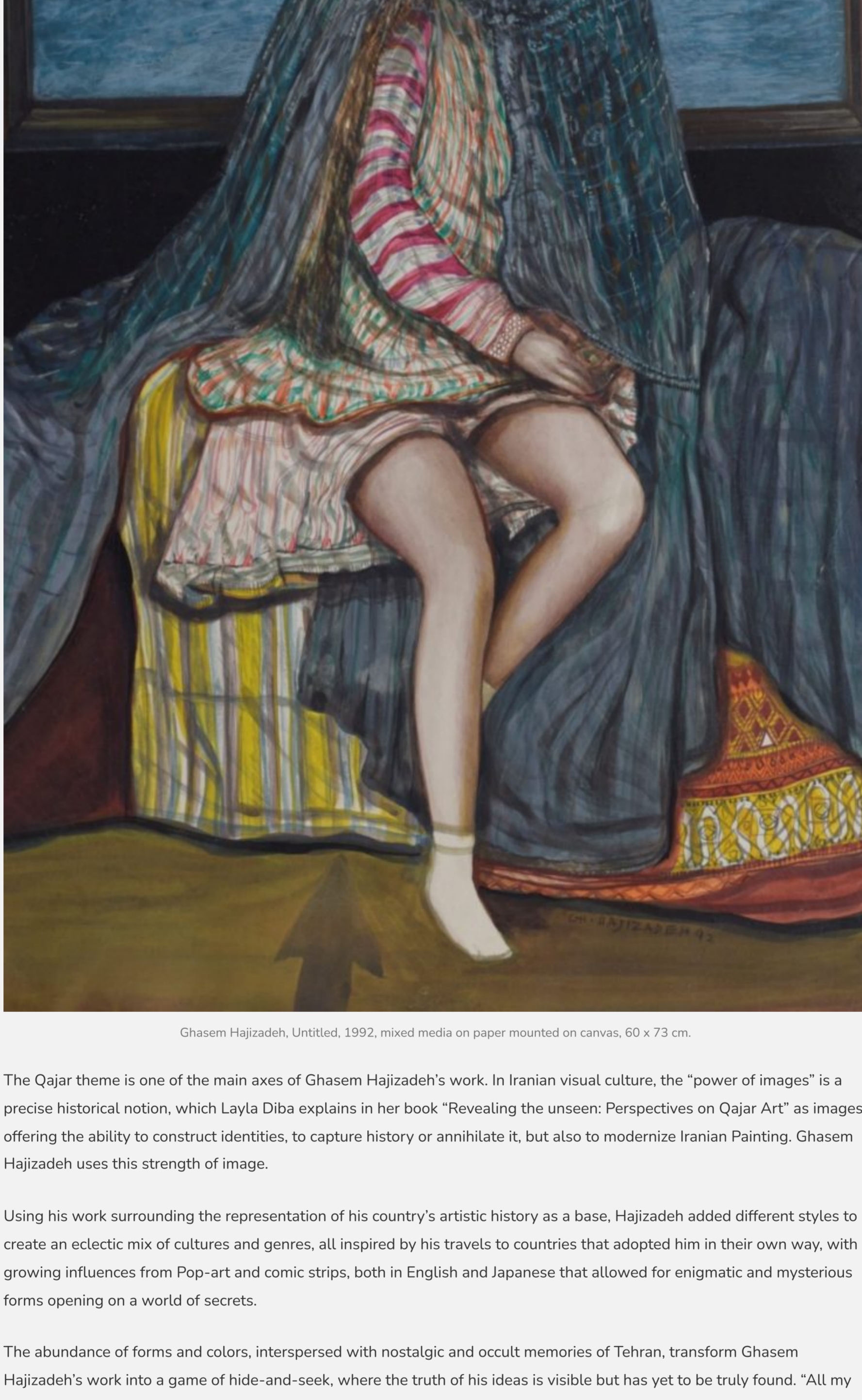
The name "TIMELESS FIGURES" suggests a journey into the timeless world of Ghasem Hajizadeh, where the figures of women and men with multiple identities are mixed. At the heart of this series is the question of identity.

Ghasem Hajizadeh poetically and elegantly illustrates the Iranian woman's tug of war between her deep desire for modernity, and the weight of the thousand-year-old traditions that she carries in her being and on her body. In his work, the Iranian woman is at once modern and free, joyful and deep, extravagant and stoic, hidden and apparent.



Ghasem Hajizadeh was born in 1947 in Lahijan, Iran, and began his career there. He discovered a genuine love of painting at an early age, leading him to state "I did not become a painter, I was born a painter". Hajizadeh graduated in 1967 from the School of fine arts of Tehran and was heavily inspired by the capital and its photographers and collectors such as Kaveh Golestan and Bahman Jalali, with whom he worked and shared a passion for photography, particularly photographs of the Qajar period, representing the nobility and Iranian society of the time.

He made numerous trips to the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia. It was in New York that he discovered and appropriated the latest artistic trends and met popular artists of the time such as Andy Warhol and Kaman Diba, the Architect of the Museum of Modern Art in Tehran, who introduced him to the world of Pop Art. Pop Art thus burst into Hajizadeh's world and enriched his eclectic work, creating a mixture of elements of Iranian visual culture, surrealism, abstract art, and Pop Art. He moved to France in 1986, where he still lives and works to this day.



Ghasem Hajizadeh, Untitled, 1992, mixed media on paper mounted on canvas, 60 x 73 cm.

The Qajar theme is one of the main axes of Ghasem Hajizadeh's work. In Iranian visual culture, the "power of images" is a precise historical notion, which Layla Diba explains in her book "Revealing the unseen: Perspectives on Qajar Art" as images offering the ability to construct identities, to capture history or annihilate it, but also to modernize Iranian Painting. Ghasem Hajizadeh uses this strength of image.

Using his work surrounding the representation of his country's artistic history as a base, Hajizadeh added different styles to create an eclectic mix of cultures and genres, all inspired by his travels to countries that adopted him in their own way, with growing influences from Pop-art and comic strips, both in English and Japanese that allowed for enigmatic and mysterious forms opening on a world of secrets.

The abundance of forms and colors, interspersed with nostalgic and occult memories of Tehran, transform Ghasem Hajizadeh's work into a game of hide-and-seek, where the truth of his ideas is visible but has yet to be truly found. "All my work is a dialogue with the portrait, whether individual or collective. My portraits contain a nostalgic kind of fiction." Walking a path forged by the intensity and individuality of his work, Ghasem Hajizadeh takes us on a nostalgic and dream-like journey through the memory of an exiled Iranian artist.

Exposition until October 16.

PREVIOUS ARTICLE < WHILE THE COFFEE GROUNDS SETTLE: STORIES FROM WOMEN IN THE UAE

NEXT ARTICLE > REBEL, REBEL | THE CURVE. BARBICAN

WHILE THE COFFEE GROUNDS SETTLE: STORIES FROM WOMEN IN

THE UAE

by ANASTASIA NYSTEN

UAE EMBASSY AND DIRWAZA CURATORIAL LAB ART EXHIBITION SHOWCASES CONTEMPORARY ART FROM THE EMIRATES

Exhibition featuring works by women who are shaping the UAE's thriving arts and culture scene.

A contemporary art exhibition featuring works by female artists in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is coming to Washington, D.C.

Presented by the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C. and curated by Dirwaza Curatorial Lab, an Abu Dhabi-based creative incubator, *While the Coffee Grounds Settle: Stories from Women in the UAE* features works by a diverse group of 27 female artists from across the UAE who span nationalities, generations and artistic styles. It celebrates and honors women who have contributed immensely to the development and progress of the UAE's vibrant and diverse creative landscape, while examining how indoor social spaces, like the living room, can foster community-building among women.

The diversity of the participating artists is reflected in the featured artworks which encompass a range of artistic mediums and themes. Among the exhibitors are digital artist Ghada Al Sayegh and installation artist Shaikha Al Ketbi whose works explore the individual subconscious. Also featured are abstract painters Dr. Najat Makki and Bénédicte Gimonet who examine the concept of social collectives in their respective works.

"Art has a special ability to connect diverse people and cultures," said Shaima Gargash, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C. "This collection of work celebrates women and the spaces that bring us together."

Uniquely positioned at the crossroads between East and West, the UAE has emerged in recent decades as a global hub for the arts. It is home to world-class museums like the Louvre Abu Dhabi, unique galleries and performance spaces at the renowned Alserkal Avenue, and leading regional art fairs like Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennial. Women are at the vanguard of the UAE's burgeoning cultural scene, leading a majority of the country's art institutions.

"This exhibition celebrates the role of women as one that is essential to the building blocks of any nation or society. It also seeks to highlight the nature of exchange, community and growth by bringing the intimate space of the living room to the foreground of the conversation," added Munira Al Sayegh, founder of Dirwaza Curatorial Lab and independent curator.

Till October 14, 2022

Admission: Free

Location: Fathom Gallery in Georgetown

1351 Wisconsin Ave NW,
Washington DC, 20007

PREVIOUS ARTICLE: SOWING LOVE IN THE LAND BY ANACHAR BASBOUS | GHASEM HAJZADEH PRESENTS "TIMELESS FIGURES" | NEXT ARTICLE

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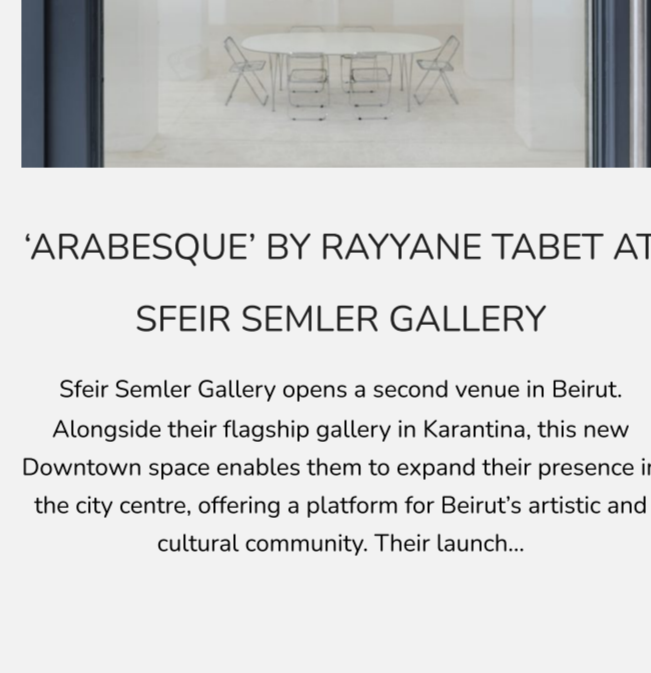
SELECTIONS is a platform for the arts, focusing on the Arab World.

Selections editorial presents a quarterly print magazine and weekly online publication with high quality content on all subjects related to Art and Culture. Full of world-leading artworks, exquisite brand imagery, original, creative illustrations and insightful writers articles.

Selections Viewing Rooms presents carefully curated online art shows aiming not only to shed light on contemporary art executed by living artists, but also for viewers to buy contemporary fine art, prints & multiples, photography, street art and collectibles.

Discover the previous and current shows here: Cultural Narratives foundation is an extensive collection that is traveling the world by leading established and emerging talents aiming to reflect the culture of the region in their works.

RANDOM READS



'ARABESQUE' BY RAYYANE TABET AT SFEIR SEMLER GALLERY

Sfeir Semler Gallery opens a second venue in Beirut. Alongside their flagship gallery in Karantina, this new Downtown space enables them to expand their presence in the city centre, offering a platform for Beirut's artistic and cultural community. Their launch...

AUGUST 2022

02.10.2022
AUG 2022

SELECTED WORKS - HABIL AHANI

03.10.2022
AUG 2022

LOBI LOBI - ROBO LAND - COMIC CRAZE VOL. 3

04.10.2022
AUG 2022

THE RETURN

SOCIAL

