

# SR

## THE SOUTHAMPTON REVIEW

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## PORTFOLIO

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### *Absence*

SOHEILA SOKHANVARI

British/Iranian artist Soheila Sokhanvari imbues every brush stroke with rebellion. Working in multiple mediums, she explores the political, the social, and the individual. She is concerned with “events and traumas that linger in the collective consciousness or cause mass amnesia,” especially those of pre-revolutionary Iran.

The paintings in this portfolio are egg tempera on calf vellum. The calf, a sacrificial animal in many religions, represents artistic and individual sacrifice. Through fantastical realism and symbolism, Sokhanvari’s art “resists the totalitarian discourse of all kinds.” Her subjects stare straight out from the painting. In *Another Birth* and *Untitled*, notice the human-shaped voids. What is absent is as glaring as what is present. Step into the allegory, accept the challenge. Meet her gaze.



**TWO SERIOUS LADIES**  
Egg tempera on calf vellum  
22.5 x 28.5 centimeters



**ANOTHER BIRTH**  
Egg tempera and Malachite on calf vellum  
23 x 32 centimeters



**THE SHELTERING SKY**

Egg tempera and Lapis Lazuli on calf vellum

23 x 30 centimeters



**COWBOY ALI**

Egg tempera on calf vellum

13.6 x 17.6 centimeters

**DARK HORSE**

Egg tempera on calf vellum  
13.6 x 17.6 centimeters

**UNTITLED**

Egg tempera and Lapis Lazuli on calf vellum  
16 x 23 centimeters