

ASSAR  
ART  
GALLERY  
AT

CONTEMPORARY  
ISTANBUL  
2013

## BABAK ROSHANINEJAD

The political terms *Left* and *Right* were coined during the French Revolution of 1789 referring to the seating arrangement in the Estates General: those who sat on the left generally opposed the monarchy and supported the revolution, including the creation of a republic and secularization, while those on the right were supportive of the traditional institutions of the Old Regime. Ever since, the two standpoints have found various social and political instances. When a speculative perception downgrades to a political strategy, however, it loses its constructive spirit. This is when painting, one of the most symbolic means of representation, manages to cultivate social taste with its artistic, ironic and enigmatic approach by questioning social significances implicitly without suggesting any predefined and definite denotation. Roshaninejad's work has been exposed in a number of national and international exhibitions and art fairs. As well as being part of several prominent private collections, his work is in the permanent collection of The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.



*Left Face* from the *Left Face* series, oil on canvas, triptych 190x390cm overall (190x130 each panel), 2013



## MOJTABA TAJIK

Being recognized mostly for his *Boxes*, Mojtaba Tajik's paintings of shoes go beyond the subject that he paints. In his hyper-realistic compositions, Tajik uses shoes to portray varied characteristics of individuals and their social and intimate relationship. Through his painterly technique and by creating the aptitude for a subjective decoding, he emphasizes the flamboyance of the shoes and the visual power of his compositions by magnifying what he intends to expose and draws the reality of shapes for the sake of their surrealistic nature. Tajik has held several solo shows in Iran, the US and Qatar and participated in numerous national and international group exhibitions. A collection of his works was published in the book titled *Boxes* in 2007.



*Ancient Love* from the *Boxes* series, acrylic on canvas, diptych 156x205cm overall (156x105cm left panel, 150x100cm right panel), 2013



## MOHAMMAD GHAZALI

*Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes* is an ongoing project by Mohammad Ghazali that started in 2003. All photos were taken late at night from various shop windows, violating the privacy of objects after being exposed to public during the day, corresponding to similar social conditions. By minimizing each shot and placing it in a light box, the artist invites his audience to peek through the window, intrigues them to even try hear the illusionary sound of each photo and tempts them to make a story of their own by giving them a title for each picture.

In 2004, Mohammad Ghazali's work, *Self-portrait*, won him the 1st place prize at the 9th International Photography Biennial of Tehran, giving him a 3-month research opportunity at the Cite International Des Arts in Paris. Ever since his first solo show in 2002, he has participated in several national and international exhibitions and his work has been exposed at Paris Photo, Contemporary Istanbul and Art Moscow.



*Twins* from the *Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes* series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013

*Basket of Roses* from the *Closed Doors*, *Sleeping Eyes* series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013



*Vigilant* from the *Closed Doors*, *Sleeping Eyes* series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013



*Bakery from the Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013*



*Head Covered with Plastic Bag, from the Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013*





*Warriors from the Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013*



*The Lost Rider of Rene Magritte from the Closed Doors, Sleeping Eyes series, Lambda print, 6x9cm original photo, 50x70cm light box, edition 3/7, 2009-2013*



## REZA LAVASSANI

Known for his enigmatic papier-mâché sculptures and paintings, Reza Lavassani displays his visualization of subjects inspired and taken from old stories, fables, symbols and poems rooted in Persian culture. He spent years studying philosophy and mysticism, constantly wondering about the basic meanings of mythology, sociology, religion and history all of which provided him with a new understanding of time and humanity. Lavassani's visual interpretations of his idiosyncratic reading of Persian literature and poetry are articulated in minimal yet detailed compositions depicting an ancient feel expressed in a progressive language.

Lavassani has been part of numerous national and international exhibitions and art fairs. He has been the recipient of several awards including UNESCO's Noma Concourse in 1994 and 2007 and the first prize of Tehran's 4th Biennial of Sculpture and 6th Biennial of Illustration. His work has also been included in a number of publications inside and outside Iran in addition to being part of many important collections.



*Last night the shaikh went all about the city, lamp in hand,  
crying, "I am weary of beast and devil, a man is my desire."*

*They said, "He is not to be found, we too have searched." He  
answered, "He who is not to be found is my desire."*

Mowlana Jalaluddin Rumi  
Ghazal 441 - from the *Divan-i Shams-i Tabriz*



## SAMIRA ALIKHANZADEH

Focusing on concept of identity in relation to past and present, Samira Alikhanzadeh finds inspiration in the melancholic and humoristic quality of old images. In her renowned *Persian Carpet* series, she uses old photographs of women from the 1940's and 1950's who appeared uncovered in public for the first time and places them in the forefront of real carpets from the same period. By applying mirror fragments in her compositions, the experience of viewing the works take on a subjective manner as viewers see their own reflections in the paintings and their roles as objective observers turn into an experience shared with the subject.

Alikhanzadeh has taken part in over 30 exhibitions and art fairs all across the globe since 1995. In addition to her works being part of important private collections worldwide, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) acquired two works from her *Persian Carpet* series in 2010.



*No 8 from the Persian Carpet series,*  
Digital print on Perspex,  
Acrylic, Ravar rug and mirror fragments mounted on canvas,  
Diptych 190x200cm overall (190x100cm each panel), unique, 2013





## Babak Roshaninejad

1977 Hamedan, Iran **Selected Solo Exhibitions** 2012 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 The Steps Gallery, London, UK 2008 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2005 Iranian Artists' Forum, Tehran, Iran **Selected Group Exhibitions** 2013 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2012 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Assar Art Gallery, 101: Oil and Its Aftermath, Tehran, Iran 2008 Saba Cultural Center, Art Expo, Tehran, Iran 2007 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2007 Mah-e-Mehr Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2001 Niavaran Palace, Tehran, Iran **Art Fairs** 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2012 Art Moscow, Moscow, Russia 2011 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2011 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE 2010 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2010 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE **Public Collections** 2009 The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art **Books** 2010 Sleeping in Street, Nazar Publication 2010 From the Unexpectedness of Culture, Saales Publication 2009 Art and Minority Discourse, Soureh Publication 2008 Art and Hidden Mechanism (Selected Essays, 2001-2007), Saales Publication **Short Films** 2006 "One Way Street," director 2000 "One Accident, One Script", director



## Mojtaba Tajik

1966 Tehran, Iran **Membership** Iranian Society of Painters **Solo Exhibitions** 2012 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2010 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Nader Gallery, New York, NY, USA 2008 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2006 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2005 Bissan Gallery, Doha, Qatar 2003 Nader Gallery, New York, NY, USA 2001 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1998 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1996 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1995 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran **Selected Group Exhibitions** 2013 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2012 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2010 Sin Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait 2007 The Artists' Forum, Tehran, Iran 2007 Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2007 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2006 XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE 2006 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2006 Farmani Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA 2004 Kavir Gallery, Rafsanjan, Iran 2003 Al Bidda Gallery, Doha, Qatar 2003 6th Painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran 2002 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2001 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2000 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2000 5th Painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran 1999 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1997 4th Painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran 1997 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1995 3rd Painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran **Art Fairs** 2011 Contemporary Istanbul's side exhibit in collaboration with Assar 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey



## MOHAMMAD GHAZALI

1980 Tehran, Iran **Education** 2004 BA, Photography, Azad University, Tehran, Iran **Solo Exhibitions** 2013 Tehran Inclined to the Right, Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2011 Where the Heads of the Renowned Rest, Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2008 The Red Ribbon, Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2007 Taking Notes, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2005 Sommer 2004, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2004 Black Cell with Conduit, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2002 A Forgetful Return, Daryabeigi Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran **Group Exhibitions** 2013 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2012 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2010 Portraits 13x18, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Revealing Truths: Contemporary Iranian Art Photography, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, Kuwait 2009 101: Oil and its Aftermath, Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2008 Closed Doors, Eyes Shut, Niavaran Artistic Creations Foundation, Tehran, Iran 2007 Untitled (slide show), Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2007 ULIS Fotofest, Istanbul, Turkey 2007 Taking Notes, the 1st Photography Expo, Tehran, Iran 2006-2008 Ey Iran! Contemporary Iranian Photography, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia 2006 The 10th Biennial of Photography, Saba Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran 2006 If There Were Water (slide show), Iranian Artists' Forum, Tehran, Iran 2004 Self Portraits, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2004 With These Hands . . . , Tehran Art Expo, Vahdat Hall, Tehran, Iran 2004 The 9th Biennial of Photography, Saba Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran 2004 With These Hands . . . , New Art Exhibition, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran 2004 Iranian Springs, FNAC, Paris, France **Art Fairs** 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2010 Contemporary Istanbul, Assar Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey 2009 Paris Photo, Assar Art Gallery, Paris, France 2004 Paris Photo, Silk Road Gallery, Paris, France **Awards** 2004 1st Place Prize, the 9th Biennial of Photography (a 3-month research opportunity at Cité International des Arts, Paris, France)



## Samira Alikhanzadeh

1967 Tehran, Iran **Education** 1998 MA, Painting, Azad University, Art and Architecture School, Tehran, Iran 1996 BA, Painting, Azad University, Art and Architecture School, Tehran, Iran **Solo Exhibitions** 2014 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2012 Artspace London, London, UK 2011 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2008 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2005 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2004 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2001 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1999 Golestan Gallery, Tehran, Iran **Selected Group Exhibitions** 2012 In Betweenness, Mah-e Mehr Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2012 No Subject . . . !, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE 2012 The Elephant in the Dark, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India 2010 I Am Not Half the Man I Used to Be, Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait 2010 Yek, do, se (1, 2, 3): Three Contemporary Iranian Artists, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA 2010 Recent Self Portraits, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2010 Iran Inside Out, Farjam Collection, DIFC, Dubai, UAE 2010 AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland 2009 Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait 2009 Routes II, Waterhouse and Dodd, London, UK 2009 Off the Loom: The Persian Carpet in Contemporary Iranian Art, Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Self Portraits, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2009 Masques of Shahrazad, Mall Gallery, London, UK 2008 Planting New Roots, Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait 200732 Oskou, Students of Aydin Aghdashloo, Iranian Artists' Forum, Tehran, Iran 2007 Broken Promises, Forbidden Dreams, Iran Heritage Foundation, London, U.K 2007 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2007 Wishes and Dreams, Iran's new Generation Emerges, Meridian International Center, Washington DC, USA 2007 Self Portrait, Society of Iranian Painters, Iranian Artists' Forum, Tehran, Iran 2003 The Esfahan Museum of Contemporary Arts, Guest Artist of the Dena Group, Iran 2001 New Experiences, Iranian Artists' Forum, Society of Iranian Painters, Tehran, Iran 2001 Contemporary Iranian Art Exhibition, Atatürk Cultural Center, Istanbul, Turkey 2001 Contemporary Iranian Art Exhibition, Modern Art Gallery, Ankara, Turkey 2001 Contemporary Iranian Drawing Exhibition, Barg Gallery, Tehran, Iran 2000 The Fifth Painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tehran, Iran 1999 Contemporary Iranian Drawing Exhibition, Barg Gallery, Tehran, Iran 1995 The Third painting Biennial, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tehran, Iran **Art Fairs** 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey 2012 Art Moscow, Russia 2011 Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey 2011 Contemporary Munich, Munich, Germany 2011 Art Scope, Basel, Switzerland 2010 Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey 2010 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE 2009 Paris Photo, Paris, France 2008 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE **Public Collections** 2010 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA



## Reza Lavassani

1962 Tehran, Iran **Education** 1991 BA, Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran, Iran 1981 High School Diploma in Graphic Design, Tehran, Iran **Membership** Member of the Iranian Society of Painters **Solo Exhibitions** 2011 Assar Art Gallery, sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2007 Assar Art Gallery, painting exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2006 Tarahan-e Azad Gallery, installation exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2005 Mah Art Gallery, painting and sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2004 Assar Art Gallery, painting and sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2003 Elaheh Gallery, hand printing and sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2003 Iranian Artists' Forum, hand printing and sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2002 Arya Gallery, sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2001 Tarahan-e Azad Gallery, hand printing exhibition, Tehran, Iran 2000 Barg Gallery, painting exhibition, Tehran, Iran 1998 Barg Gallery, painting and sculpture exhibition, Tehran, Iran 1994 Arya Gallery, painting exhibition, Tehran, Iran **Selected Group Exhibitions** 2008 Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, "Planting New roots", Kuwait 2007 International House of Art for Children, Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava, Slovakia 1994-2007 Noma Concourse, Tokyo, Japan 2006 The 12th Asian Art Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2006 University of Fine Arts, Mexico 2006 The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Fourth Biennial of Sculpture, Tehran, Iran 2005 International House of Art for Children, Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava, Slovakia 2000 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Second Biennial of Sculpture, Tehran, Iran 2000 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts the Sixth Biennial of Graphic Design, Tehran, Iran 1999 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Sixth International Biennial of Illustration, Tehran, Iran 1993 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Third International Biennial of Illustration, Tehran, Iran 1993 2nd International Flower and Plant Exhibition Tehran, Iran **Art Fairs** 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2013 Scope Basel, Basel, Switzerland 2011 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey 2011 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE 2010 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE **Awards** 2007 Noma Concourse, Tokyo, Japan 2007 Exhibition of Rumi's Stories, Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran 2006 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Fourth Biennial of Sculpture, Tehran, Iran 1999 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Sixth International Biennial of Illustration, Tehran, Iran 1993 2nd International Flower and Plant Exhibition Tehran, Iran 1994 Noma Concourse, Tokyo, Japan **Other Activities** 2006 Works printed in the book "Contemporary Graphic Design in Iran" in Netherlands 2006 Works printed in Vroom Journal: The journal of drawn and handmade illustration, UK 1995-1996 Works printed in The UNESCO calendar



## **Contemporary Istanbul 2013**

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