



[In Between] Moslem Khezri

December 2 - 16, 2022

SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is pleased to present **In Between**, Moslem Khezri's latest series of paintings and drawings at SARAI Gallery. **In Between** opens on December 2 and it will continue to run until December 16, 2022.

Centered on the critical theme and globally growing phenomenon of human immigration, "In Between" depicts various scenes from the cold, giant interiors of Iran's major international airport. While airports, in general, may stand for a wide range of human experiences from the bitterness of saying goodbye to the wonder and joy of being on the threshold of new adventures, to the tedious, bland, and rushed arrays of business trips for those who often travel for work, **In Between's** vast halls have, for decades, been the final station for those who'd rather stay but whose life conditions and prospects of futures urge them to leave their home, often for good. Rendered with Khezri's signature sensitivity and virtuosity, each work offers a frozen fragment of memory that builds the intermediary experience between 'being there' and 'being gone', be it for the passengers or those who have come to bid them farewell: figures tenderly embracing each other, faces gazing from behind the glass partitions, rows of empty chairs, the pale light reflected from the frigid floors. Moslem Khezri's subtle, intimate tableaux channel universal emotions and his technique involving layers of thinned paint – applied equally in watercolors and oil paint – capture the fluidity of time and the evanescence of these tender, in-between states.

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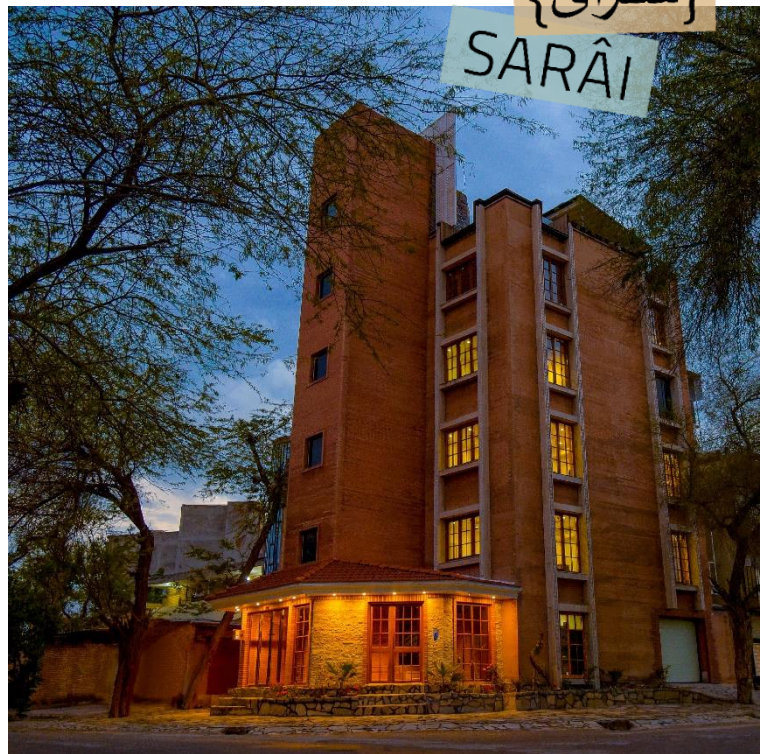


[saradipour.art](https://www.instagram.com/saradipour.art)

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SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is a contemporary gallery specializing in Middle Eastern art. Founded by Hassan Saradipour in 2018, SARAI serves as a platform to showcase emerging and established artists internationally by organizing exhibitions and joint events, and publishing works by



artists. Moreover, since 2020, our gallery has introduced Khor Art Initiative, an annual art prize for local talents, reviewed by a high-profile international jury. SARAI Gallery has been listed on Art Dubai 2020-21-23, KIAF 2021-22, Abu Dhabi art 2021-22, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022, and The Armory Show 2021-22 among others, making us one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms. SARAI became the winner of The Armory Show's Presents Booth Prize. SARAI Gallery is located in Mahshahr, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year. As an arts-and-culture establishment, we chose this location over bustling metropolises not only for maritime transport but, more importantly, because we care about engaging both artists and audiences on a local level and we believe decentralization is a key aspect in representing Iran's art as a country blessed with rich and diverse cultures and ethnicities. Furthermore, under Karavan Projects, our gallery organizes collaborative shows with top art galleries in Tehran and major art capitals around the world. Our LA-based office handles the US and international affairs.

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Moslem Khezri



Moslem Khezri (b. 1984, Iran) holds an MA in painting from Tarbiat Modares University Tehran. He has had several solo and group shows at home and abroad and his works have been the subject of growing attention beyond his home country. Moslem's work has so far been presented by SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) at Art Dubai 2020-

21, Abu Dhabi Art 2022, The Armory Show 2021, NY (where the gallery won the Presents Booth Prize of the year), Asia Now 2021, Paris, and ART BUSAN 2022, Busan, South Korea. Moslem Khezri's works are now part of the Dubai and Abu Dhabi Collections.

A southern figurative artist, Moslem Khezri often explores the interaction between the human body and space. He employs varying spectrums of natural light to delicately set the atmosphere in his works. His previous series, "We keep reviewing" is the outcome of his painterly explorations since 2016 of the Iranian all-boys educational environment, with pale, winter light playing a key role almost like a central character in each scene. Beyond mere perfection in mimesis, Moslem aims to encapsulate the inner truth hidden within otherwise mundane moments, and his images ultimately transcend time and location to become visual playfields for figures to interact with and transform their spaces. Khezri is currently focusing on immigration and immigrants, a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly common both in his home country and around the world.