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[Enclosure]

Abbas Nasle Shamloo

May 5 - 19, 2023

SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is pleased to present *Enclosure*, Iranian artist Abbas Nasle Shamloo's latest series of landscape paintings at SARAI Gallery. *Enclosure* opens on May 5 and it will continue to run until May 19, 2023.

Abbas Nasle Shamloo (b. 1983) has been known for his particular approach towards the longstanding genre of landscape art; quiet, somber urban and natural landscapes surrounding small, lonely animal or human figures who appear stranded and vulnerable. Gradually, the human figures began to vanish from his landscapes, their presence only echoed in dark, derelict man-made structures and certain framed views, giving a sense of viewing the scene through someone's eyes from behind a window (*Beyond Alienation*), and vast, shadow-less vistas full of bare trees and over-grown vegetation suggest the grim absence of sunlight (*The Land of No Sun*). More significantly, these seemingly representational landscapes are born out of the artist's imagination and built upon many layers of additions and removals. His work is ultimately about constant tactile and mental aesthetic search both for form and meaning at the heart of nature as a boundless source for inspiration and learning.

An enclosure ("qoroq" in Farsi) refers to a piece of land to which access is exclusive only to a few people, such as royalty, and closed to others. *Enclosure* is a visual probe into nature as an autonomous system and the constant interplay of various - sometimes even contrasting - forces within the natural environment such as birth and death, growing and decaying, soft and rough, light and heavy, and how these constant evolutions give birth to endless new possibilities of shapes and compositions. In the artist's own words, "It is difficult to walk the line between existence and non-existence, life and death, inside and outside. The present series is an attempt to discover that in-between state." As a painter, Nasle Shamloo once again enters this in-between realm with openness and flexibility, his forms moving freely between realism and abstraction, sometimes verging on vast still-life compositions of natural objects. He believes that his painterly approach of many layers of building and destroying images is akin to "the fascinating essence of nature itself."

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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 young regional talents including Iranian and Pakistani 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 artists, reviewed



by a high-profile international jury. SARAI Gallery has been participating in top art fairs around the world including Art Dubai 2020-21 and 2023 (Announced), The Armory Show 2021-22 (winning the Presents Booth Prize in 2021), KIAF 2021-22, Abu Dhabi Art 2022, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022, Expo Chicago 2023 (Announced), and Art Brussels 2023 (Announced) among others, making it one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms. SARAI Gallery's main exhibition space is located in Mahshahr, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year, while under Karavan Projects, SARAI organizes collaborative shows with selected galleries and institutions at home, particularly in Tehran, as well as in major art capitals across the globe including Cromwell Place, London. Our LA-based office handles US and international affairs.

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Abbas Nasle Shamloo

Abbas Nasle Shamloo (b. 1983, Iran) is a painter and art educator who holds an MA in painting from Tehran University. He was the selected artist at the 4th Contemporary Iranian Drawing Festival, in 2010, and Baharestan Annual Urban Arts Festival, in 2018 and 2019. Nasle Shamloo's work has been represented by SARAI Gallery at top art fairs around the world including ASIA NOW 2021 and KIAF SEOUL 2022. He was also part of a dual exhibition called "Let There Be Noor" in 2022 at Cromwell Place, London.

Abbas Nasle Shamloo's nature evokes a perpetual sense of loss, loneliness, and alienation. His urban landscapes, quiet playgrounds, and somber scenery often depict minuscule solitary figures and wandering animals predestined to fail in finding any solace or shelter either in their built or natural environments. Shamloo's visions are nurtured by long observations and sometimes photography, yet he ultimately prefers to work from memory. His use of acrylics and ink among other media provides him with the immediacy and versatility required for his imagination to pour out freely onto papers and canvases.

