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## [Nasar]

### Solo Show By Narges Fadakar

May 31 – June 14, 2024

SARAI Gallery is pleased to present its inaugural collaboration with the talented artist Narges Fadakar. Her captivating series, “Nasar,” will be on display from May 31st to June 14th, 2024, at SARAI’s location in Tehran.

Following a deep immersion in Iranian miniature painting during her undergraduate studies, Fadakar’s artistic approach took a contemporary turn. However, the enduring influence of her training eventually led her back to her roots, prompting her to integrate the past and present. This introspective exploration resulted in a captivating body of work, drawing inspiration from renowned historical miniatures meticulously chosen for their depiction of buildings and their narratives collectively centered on women’s experiences.

In her artwork, she creates a dialogue between the historical narratives and her personal artistic interpretation, weaving a powerful commentary on the passage of time and the feminine spirit. While retaining the original composition and spatial arrangements, she intentionally leaves out people, birds, and vibrant flowers and portrays once-lively trees as dry. The buildings, although structurally unchanged, exude a sense of abandonment. This deliberate contrast evokes the fading echoes of the women who once inhabited these spaces, leaving only whispers of their stories.

Fadakar subtly integrates contemporary details, transforming ornate, two-dimensional buildings into monolithic, three-dimensional concrete forms to imbue the original miniatures with the experiences and surroundings of her contemporary world.

Fadakar’s material choices further enhance her artistic expression. She uses dry pigments to create a matte finish in her works, toning down the colors and giving them a dusty, earthy quality, and also adds finer details reminiscent of lithography. She integrates this with the creative process of incorporating techniques like erasing, washing, and sanding, which are elements of her contemporary painting process, allowing unexpected developments to emerge.

For more information about SARAI Gallery please contact:

Hasti Heydari [art@saraigallery.com](mailto:art@saraigallery.com)

And for press inquiries:

Sajjad Emadi [contact@saraigallery.com](mailto:contact@saraigallery.com)

Instagram handles:

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

[@narges\\_fadakar](https://www.instagram.com/narges_fadakar)

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SARAI Gallery is a contemporary gallery specializing in Middle Eastern art. Founded in 2018, SARAI Gallery represents bright emerging and young regional talents including Iranian and Pakistani artists internationally, helping them achieve their potential both in recognition and value by organizing exhibitions and joint events, and publishing works by artists. Moreover, since 2020, SARAI has introduced the 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, notably Art Dubai 2020-21-23-24, The Armory Show 2021-22-23 (winning the Presents Booth Prize in 2021)- 2024 (Announced), KIAF 2021-22, Abu Dhabi Art 2021-22-23, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022-23, Expo Chicago 2023-24, Art Brussels 2023 and Taipei Dangdai 2023 among others, making it one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms. SARAI Gallery's main exhibition spaces are located in Mahshahr and Tehran, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year, while under KARAVAN Projects, SARAI organizes collaborative shows with selected galleries and institutions at home and in major art capitals across the globe, including Cromwell Place, London. Our LA-based office handles US and international affairs.



**Narges Fadakar** (b. 1983, Iran)

Narges Fadakar, born in 1983, holds a BA in Persian painting and has completed a master's degree in painting from Tarbiat Modares University. Alongside her academic studies, she also received instruction in Western painting skills from the renowned Iranian female artist, Masoumeh Mozaffari.

Drawing on her experiences in Persian miniature painting, Fadakar aims to bridge the gap between the past and the present by offering a fresh interpretation of the traditional Persian visual language. In her recent series, she takes famous Persian miniatures and removes the figures, revealing hidden aspects of the paintings through a contemporary lens. To infuse an old picture with a modern touch, she combines traditional miniature techniques with contemporary methods, such as printing, the use of dry pigments, and manipulating the painting surface through wiping and scratching.