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[Interplay]

Solo Show By Shima Faridani

June 28 to July 12, 2024

SARAI Gallery is pleased to present “Interplay,” an exhibition showcasing Shima Faridani’s latest works that marks her second collaboration with the gallery. The exhibition is on view from Friday, June 28 to July 12, 2024, at the gallery’s location in Tehran.

Faridani weaves a dreamscape where the lines between reality and imagination blur. Creatures from her past series return, now inhabiting their own realm and interacting with their environment. Though strange and unfamiliar, a warm and expressive color palette imbues them with tangibility.

This collection builds upon her past work but with a newfound focus on technical mastery. Shifting from watercolor to oil paint, she leverages zoomed photographs to spark her imagination. This approach unlocks fresh possibilities for creating these unique “space-places” and propels her artistry forward.

The paintings reward close examination, revealing intricate details waiting to be discovered. Yet, they take on an abstract quality, where composition and overall harmony reign supreme when viewed from afar. This captivating duality is a testament to Faridani’s skillful execution.

Further enriching the experience, Faridani presents wall-mounted papier-mâché sculptures that interact with the surrounding space like elements in her paintings. This collection marks a transition, opening a new artistic chapter for her.

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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.



Shima Faridani (b. 1982, Iran)

Shima Faridani (b. 1982, Iran) is an artist based in Tehran. She received her BA in Painting from Islamic Azad University Art and Architecture, Tehran in 2008. She was the 2nd Prize winner in the Painting section of the “International Young Artists Competition”, at the University of Westminster, London, in 2009, and more recently, in 2019, she won the 2nd Prize in “A Study of the Evolution of Contemporary Iranian art”, Freya Espinas Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran. Shima Faridani was also among the shortlisted artists at the Khor Art Initiative 2021.

Faridani’s favorite medium is watercolor and she envisions fantastical ecosystems of intricate details, reminding the viewer of benign versions of visions by Hieronymous Bosch. The exploration of the intuitive nature of objects and the establishment of novel pictorial relationships between them allows the artist to venture into lands that are more based on introspection than external observation. Faridani’s works have been represented by SARAI at Art Dubai 2024, Untitled Art Miami Beach 2023, ART BUSAN 2022 and KIAF PLUS 2022, the major Korean art fair’s first NFT edition.