

SARÂI Gallery

Website: www.saraigallery.com

Email: info@saraigallery.com

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

Twitter: [SARAIGallery](https://twitter.com/SARAIGallery)



The Placeless Place

Mahdieh Abolhasan

Zargan Power Plant

Ahwaz, Iran

May 11, 2022

SARAI Gallery (SARADIPOUR) is pleased to announce the opening of “The Placeless Place”, a single-day, alternative-space exhibition by Mahdieh Abolhasan, one of the winners of Khor Art Initiative 2020, held on May 11, 2022, at Zargan Power Plant, as part of the Karavan Projects. The Karavan Projects aim to promote a collaborative culture within the art community, including art galleries and institutions, and also create a wider range of opportunities for art to be seen and appreciated by audiences beyond the art usual enthusiasts, in this case, the working class. We aimed to reach this particular audience by bringing Mahdieh Abolhasan’s industrial-looking art to the busy environment of the active Zargan power plant in the southern town of Ahwaz, creating a creative intervention in the workspace. Thankfully, “The Placeless Place” has been a success in this regard, as Mahdieh’s exhibition caught the attention it deserved and managed to spark new interactions with the power plant employees as the daily users of the exhibition space.

For more information about SARAI Gallery please contact:

Hasti Heydari art@saraigallery.com,

And for press inquiries:

Sajjad Emadi contact@saraigallery.com,

About SARAI Gallery

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 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 listed on Art Dubai 2020-21, The Armory Show 2021-22, KIAF 2021-22, and Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022, among others, making it one of the youngest galleries to appear on such competitive platforms, representing for the first time talented artists virtually unknown outside of their home country. SARAI Gallery was honored to win the Presents Booth Prize during the Armory Show in September 2021 and has been the sole gallery representing Middle Eastern presence in South Korean-based international art fairs for the past few years.

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SARAI Gallery's main exhibition space is located in Mahshahr, Iran, where we host shows throughout the year. Mahshahr is an ancient port city in southern Iran and Hassan Saradipour's childhood home. 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 the rich and diverse cultures and ethnicities within the region.

At SARAI Gallery, we have defined two main projects to serve our vision: Pasitigris Projects focuses on artists coming from southern cultures; and 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 London. Our LA-based office handles US and international affairs.

About The Artist

MAHDIEH ABOLHASAN (b. 1980, Iran) is a graphic designer and visual artist based in Tehran. She is a member of the renowned Iranian artist Farhad Gavzan's Drawing House and the winner of the First KHOR Art Initiative in 2020. Her works have been represented by SARAI Gallery during the Basel Art Week in 2021.

Mahdieh's main medium has been drawing for many years, and because of her interest in installations and volumetric works, she has been using paper and cardboard cutouts to create drawings. For the past couple of years, she has been working on the idea of making drawings in more than two dimensions. Mahdieh makes sculptures by gluing different surfaces stacked on top of each other and the presence of lines and papers in her works creates a nexus between sculptor and drawing. She views her works as "expanded drawings". Winner of the Khor Art Initiative 2020, her works were particularly praised by her nominating juror Katie Grinnan for their layered topographic and historic aspects and the "dynamic nature of the layers" which allowed for shifting forms and structures, creating a complex narrative. Mahdieh also engages in performance art and land art.