



For Immediate Release:

A Postcard from Persia

**Group Exhibition of Ali Esmaeilipour, Darvish Fakh, Farsad Labbauf,
Jamshid Haghighat Shenass, & Mohsen Jamalnik**

Galerie Huit is delighted to present the exhibition *A Postcard from Persia*, bringing together works by five emerging to mid-career Iranian contemporary artists, Ali Esmaeilipour, Darvish Fakh, Jamshid Haghighat Shenass, Farsad Labbauf and Mohsen Jamalnik, who are based in four cities around the globe: Brighton, New York, Singapore and Tehran.

Event Title:	<i>A Postcard from Persia</i>
Venue:	Galerie Huit G/F & 1/F, Shop 2, SOHO 189, No. 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
Opening Reception:	16 June 2015 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Exhibition Period:	16 June – 5 August 2015
Opening Hours:	11 am – 7 pm Daily (Closed on Public holidays)

The exhibition represents an Iran viewed through the artists' individual perceptions of their native land, and draws from their personal experiences and observations of Iranian society, where religious beliefs and traditional values are deeply embedded in the country's identity.

The delicately drawn allegorical images by Jamshid Haghighat Shenass and the contemporary still life paintings of Ali Esmaeilipour point to two different worlds, one notional, and the other more familiar. The paintings recall 17th Century Northern European still lives where geometric shapes, measuring devices, and esoterica such as skulls were depicted, and symbolised Mankind's pursuit of knowledge, his mortality and place in the Universe. Haghighat Shenass' images of a tetrahedon, a cube and a bicycle with square wheels, seem to contemplate both the probable and improbable. Esmaeilipour's handmade ornaments against a backdrop of intricately embroidered fabrics reference Persia's rich cultural heritage.

Darvish Fakh's photorealist portraits of local individuals carrying out mundane tasks capture daily life in Tehran. In *Ripped Khanoom*, the torn streaks across the canvas mimic a public notice board where previous messages have been removed in haphazard fashion. Behind the neglected facade, the enigmatic gaze of a woman suggests a personal story that is as multi-layered as the surface depicted. Other paintings such as *Tehran Graffiti* recreates local graffiti depicting familiar emblems of war and posters of past rulers and in counterpoint, *Tamiz* portrays a portly older woman determinedly scrubbing a vandalised wall.

Inspired by Persian calligraphy, Farsad Labbauf's large linear figurative paintings depict the common youth, a symbol of the next generation. The reduced outline that delineates a body in possibly army

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fatigues, gradually focuses one's attention on the dense concentration of contours and colours that together form a face of a male adolescent - it is not simply a portrait of an Iranian youth but of Iran itself. In contrast to both Fakhr's and Labbauf's portraits that reflect objectively on Iranian life, informed by their visits to the country, Esmailipour's mixed media self-portraits communicate his personal journey as a foreigner; residing in Singapore for the past 15 years, the artist's assemblages gather together tokens, magazines and photographs that he has kept over the years, and thus form an overall picture of life as an expatriate. Here, the provocative cracked surfaces of *Eve, Adam and Apple* and *Calm* are reconciled with Fakhr's multi-layered portraits of local Iranians. Perhaps such visible and psychological strata proffered by both artists, who live abroad, reflect upon Iran's complex identity and the view of it from outside.

In contrast to the contemporary realism portrayed in the works by Labbauf, Fakhr, Esmailipour and Haghghat Shenaz, Mohsen Jamalini's playful murals take us on a reminiscent journey through ancient Persia, depicting the traditional Iranian iconography of calligraphy, urns, flora and fauna. Such imagery serves as a reminder that Iran is home to one of the World's great civilisations, and in the current climate of global conflict and change, its deeply rooted traditions and belief systems will endure.

The exhibition opens on the 16th June and runs through to 5th August 2015. For further information please contact: Elizabeth Lau on 852 2803 2089 or elizabethlau@galeriehuit.com.hk.

About Galerie Huit (SOHO 189)

Established in 2010, Gallery Huit was founded by Jane Chao-Lee to promote emerging and established artists in Asia. Owing to the success of its initial four years, the gallery has acquired a larger space in the newly launched building, Soho 189. The new gallery comprises two floors totalling 2549 sq feet that will provide the scope for a wider range of exhibitions and projects.

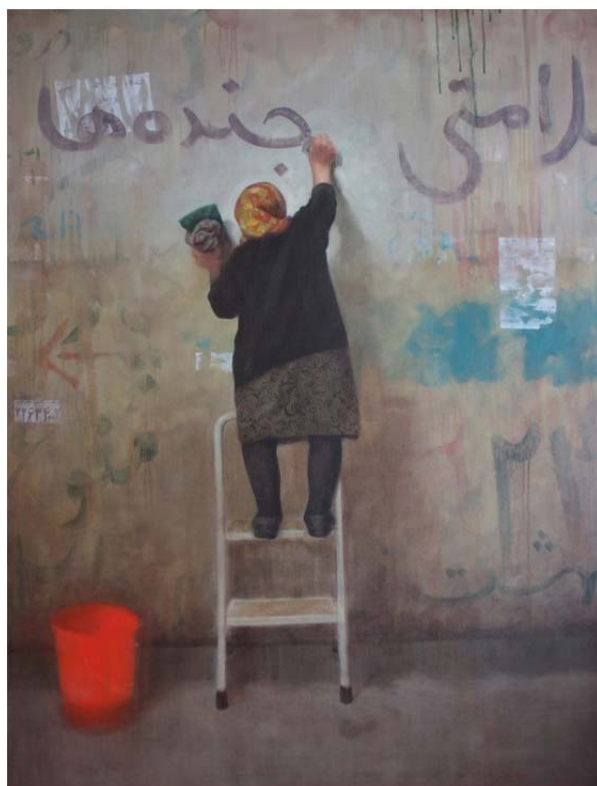
The relocation heralds a new development in the exhibition programme with the aim of showcasing important new positions in international contemporary art by a wide range of artists from across the globe. Galerie Huit will serve as a platform for such perspectives in Hong Kong.

About the Artists



Ali Esmailipour, *Everyday's life Series # 1*, 2015, 113 x 93 cm, Acrylic on linen/Gold & silver leaf on wood

Ali Esmailipour b. 1962, Khomein, Iran. Lives and works in Singapore. Esmailipour has exhibited widely abroad and his work has been acquired by the Contemporary Art Museum of Tehran and the Cultural Heritage Museum of Tehran. In 2001, he received First prize for the International Artist Magazine in Australia and in 1997, he was awarded the Artist Award at the 4th Biennial at the Contemporary Art Museum of Tehran.



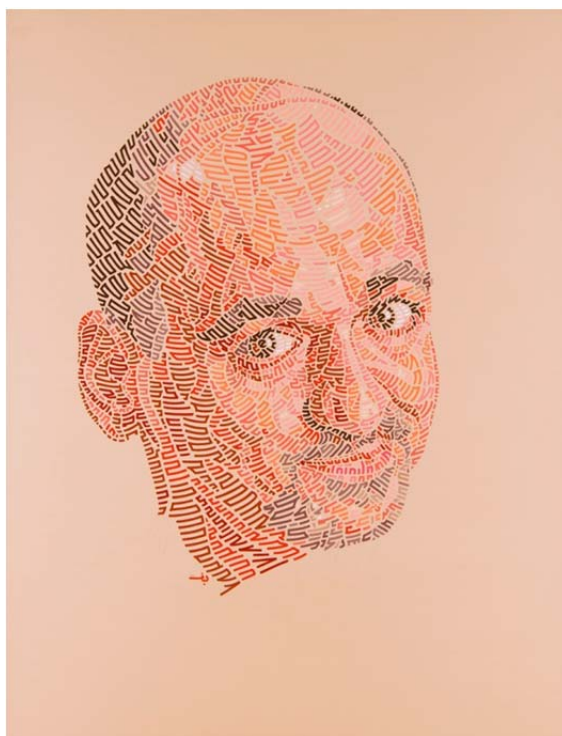
Darvish Fakhr, *Tamiz*, 2014, 139 x 180 cm, Oil on linen

Darvish Fakhr b. 1969 Newfoundland. Lives and works in Brighton, UK. Recent exhibitions include *Palimpsest*, Edge of Arabia, London 2014, *Farce*, Aun Gallery, Tehran 2013. In 2007, Fakhr was commissioned by Jerwood Gallery, London, to paint Akram Khan. The nine piece panel is now part of the permanent collection at the National Portrait Gallery, London. In 2004, he was awarded the BP Travel Award at the National Portrait Gallery, London.



Jamshid Haghghat Shenas, *Untitled*, Year TBC, 80 x 100 cm, Medium TBC

Jamshid Haghghat Shenas b.1962 Tehran, Iran. Lives and works in Tehran. Haghghat Shenas has exhibited widely abroad and was awarded Winner of the Distinguished Prize at the first international Contemporary Drawing Biennale, Dakar, Bangladesh 2003.



Farsad Labbauf, *Joseph (Smile)*, Year TBC, 228.5 x 178 cm, Oil on canvas

Farsad Labbauf b. 1965, Tehran, Iran. Lives and works in New York. Labbauf has exhibited widely abroad with work acquired by international private and public collections including Saatchi Gallery, London. Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, Museum of Contemporary Art, Esfahan, Iran, Walt Disney Corporation, Orlando, Carstens de Boer, Amsterdam, LAAL Collection, Tehran.



Mohsen Jamalinik, *Untitled 3*, 2014, 140 x 200 cm, Acrylic on canvas

Mohsen Jamalinik b. 1979, Tehran, Iran. Lives and works in Tehran. Recent exhibitions include *Sibour*, Aun Gallery Tehran, 2015 *From Persia with Love*, Nicholas Flamel, Paris, 2014, *Flowers of Freedom*, Manouchehri House & Aun Gallery, Kashan, 2014.