

POUYA AFSHAR

OUT OF CHARACTER



JANUARY 12TH - 26TH 2020

ADVOCARTSY

The SPACE by ADVOCARTSY

ADVOCARTSY is a collaborative visual arts platform specializing in Iranian contemporary art.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY:

Pouya Afshar is an alumnus from the California Institute of Arts Character Animation department and is a graduate of University of California Los Angeles Graduate Department of Film and Television focusing in Animation and Digital Media. He has exhibited his work as a visual artist throughout the United States and Middle East, including Harold M. Williams Auditorium at the Getty Center, Bovard Auditorium at University of Southern California, Royce Hall at University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Santa Monica Art studios, 18th street Art Center, Craft Contemporary Museum, and numerous galleries and art fairs around the world. Pouya has presented his research at Stanford University, Harvard University, University of Southern California, The School of Museum of Fine Arts Boston, University of California Los Angeles, and Residency Unlimited NY. He is the creator, character designer, and producer of the animated series 'Rostam in Wonderland' and the co-creator of 'IPA2PA' comics and the creator of 'TEHRAN' graphic novel. He is currently an assistant professor of art at University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Artists are the ones recording the history.

In storytelling, it is imperative to understand a character's personality and behavioral tendencies in order to capture a compelling characterization of that persona within the narrative structure. One has to live, breathe, and feel the surroundings alongside the characters he/she creates. For me, within this context, I intend to re-structure real personalities visually and create a new persona. In a way, I am distorting history by projecting these characters through a satirical lens.

I am implementing fictional characterizations of these individuals within the audience's mind regardless of the reality. My intention is to build these characters from the inside out, investing them with a past and a persona only hinted at in the history.

For the creation of these characters, I tend to concentrate more on the refinements than general aspects. I intend to re-imagine their roles within specific time periods of our contemporary culture and crystallize the clichés about them. I intend to creep up on my audience hinting at the importance of reviewing the history and how characters carry the weight of its narrative arc.

OFFICIAL EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE:

(Los Angeles, California—January 12th, 2020) Downtown Los Angeles Iranian contemporary art platform ADVOCARTSY is pleased to present OUT OF CHARACTER, an exhibition of limited edition digital drawings by artist and animator Pouya Afshar exploring some of Iran’s most influential historical figures with a whimsical twist. The public reception will be held Sunday, January 12th from 4 to 7 pm.

ADVOCARTSY is thrilled to present this diverse body of work by Pouya Afshar which exemplifies his range and depth of knowledge in history and Iranian culture as well as his masterful art of character design and storytelling.

OUT OF CHARACTER is Pouya Afshar’s second solo exhibition with ADVOCARTSY. Elegantly combining historical research with unflinchingly honest caricatures, Afshar reminds us of the power and knowledge begging to be discovered within our pasts. “Artists are the ones recording the history,” states Afshar matter of factly, a sentiment that is echoed again and again within each work.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION + THE ARTIST

OUT OF CHARACTER surveys nearly 30 unique characters from more than 300 years of Iranian history. Shahs, empresses, political figures, military commanders, and Persian mythical creatures are among those depicted in this expansive series.

Digitally drawn with a light-hearted hand, these limited edition works encourage viewers to proverbially crane their necks to garner fresh insight into the lives and personalities of previously opaque public figures. Through caricaturesque stylization, Afshar summons colorful, multi-faceted identities from the black and white pages of textbooks and seeks to undermine our traditional means of understanding the past. In doing so, history becomes more approachable, less daunting, and ultimately more engaging.

An alumnus of the California Institute of Arts Character Animation department and a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles Graduate Department of Film, Pouya Afshar currently serves as an assistant professor of art at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Afshar’s multidisciplinary background informs all the work he creates, regardless of medium. Pouya Afshar is the creator, character designer, and producer of the animated series “Rostam in Wonderland” and the co-creator of

IPA2PA comics. Most recently, Afshar wrote and illustrated a graphic novel entitled “TEHRAN,” which follows the story of a 6-year-old non-binary child living in Tehran and aims to create a platform for dialogue about gender, sexual identity, human rights, and youth well-being in Iran.

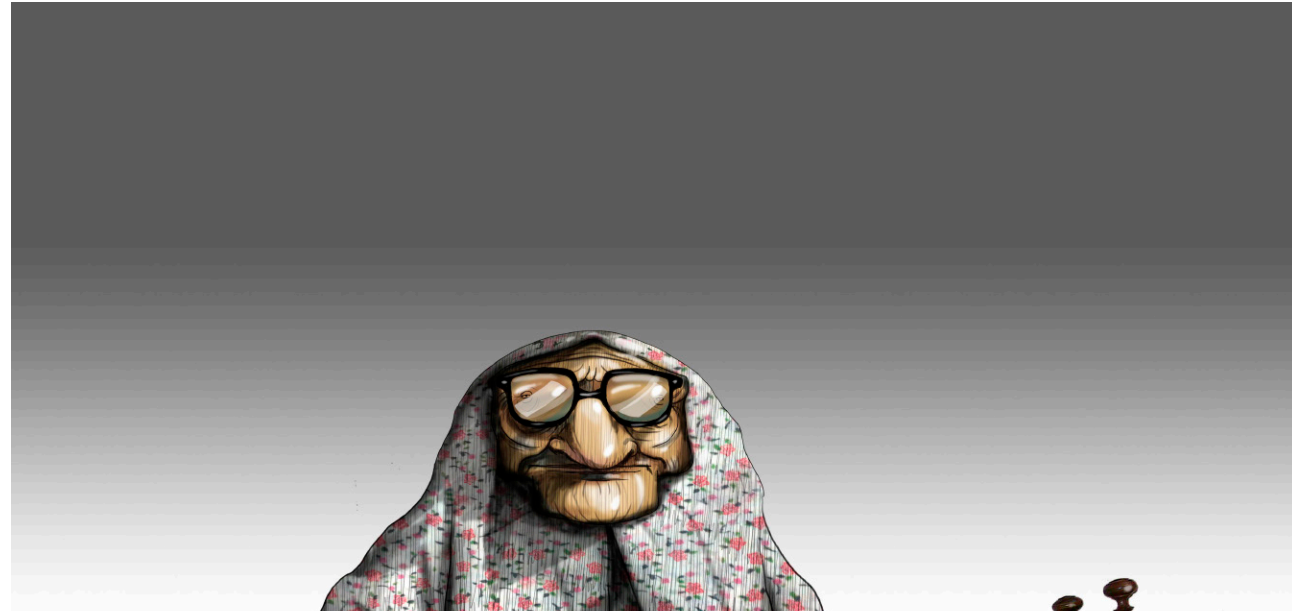
As an artist whose diverse practice ranges from illustration to animation to oil painting, the common thread within Pouya Afshar’s expansive body of work is storytelling. Journeying from works that depict specific individuals within Iranian history to works that draw on famed Persian mythology and literature, OUT OF CHARACTER invites viewers to consider how the past has influenced the present and further, how the present influences our understanding of the past.

ABOUT THE SPACE BY ADVOCARTSY:

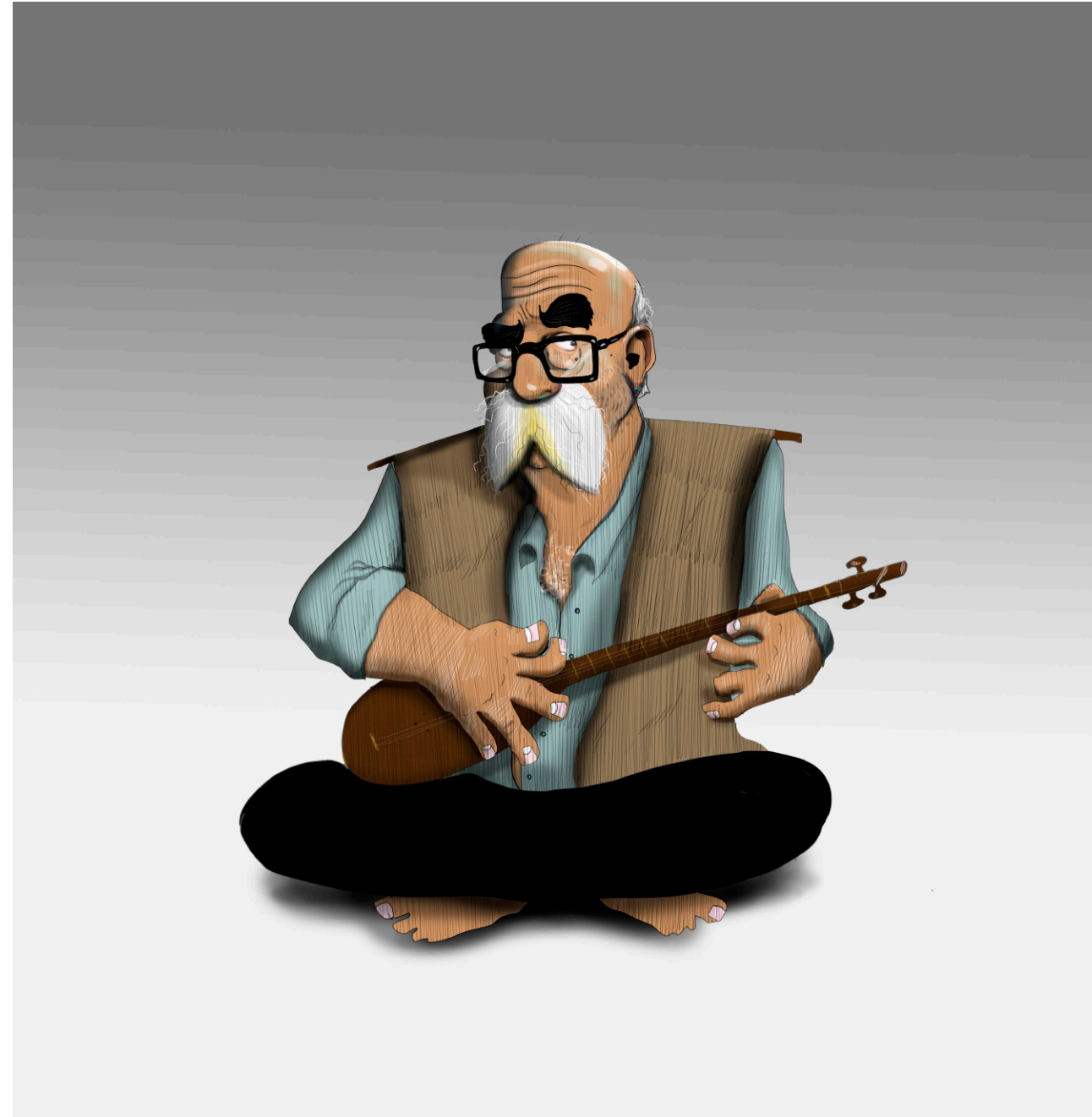
The SPACE by ADVOCARTSY was launched in October 2017 as the permanent Los Angeles gallery space of ADVOCARTSY to further its mission of promoting Iranian Contemporary Art and as an extension of ADVOCARTSY’s ART BRIEF series, launched in Los Angeles in 2015. The 1,800-square-foot-space is ideally situated in the heart of Downtown LA’s Fashion District, minutes from the rapidly expanding arts district.



*Iranian Constitutional Revolution (Mashrooteh Irani),
(1/5+3AP),
2019,
Digital Print on Eco Canvas,
24 x 54 in*



Haji Khanum (5/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Kaa Dara (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in

Shahr-E-Ghesseh
(1/5+3AP),
2019,
Digital Print on Eco Canvas,
29 x 54 in







Shah Abbas, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 37 in



Shah Esmayil, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 36 in



Amir Kabir & Mahd-e-Olia, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 36 x 36 in



Lotf Ali Khan, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 36 x 50 in



Naser and Banoo, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 8 x 11 in



Naser Ol-Doleh, (3/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 24 x 18 in



Abdol-Vahab Nezam Ol-Molk, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 43 x 36 in



Etemad, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 43 x 36 in



Sedigheh Dolatabadi, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 20 x 18 in



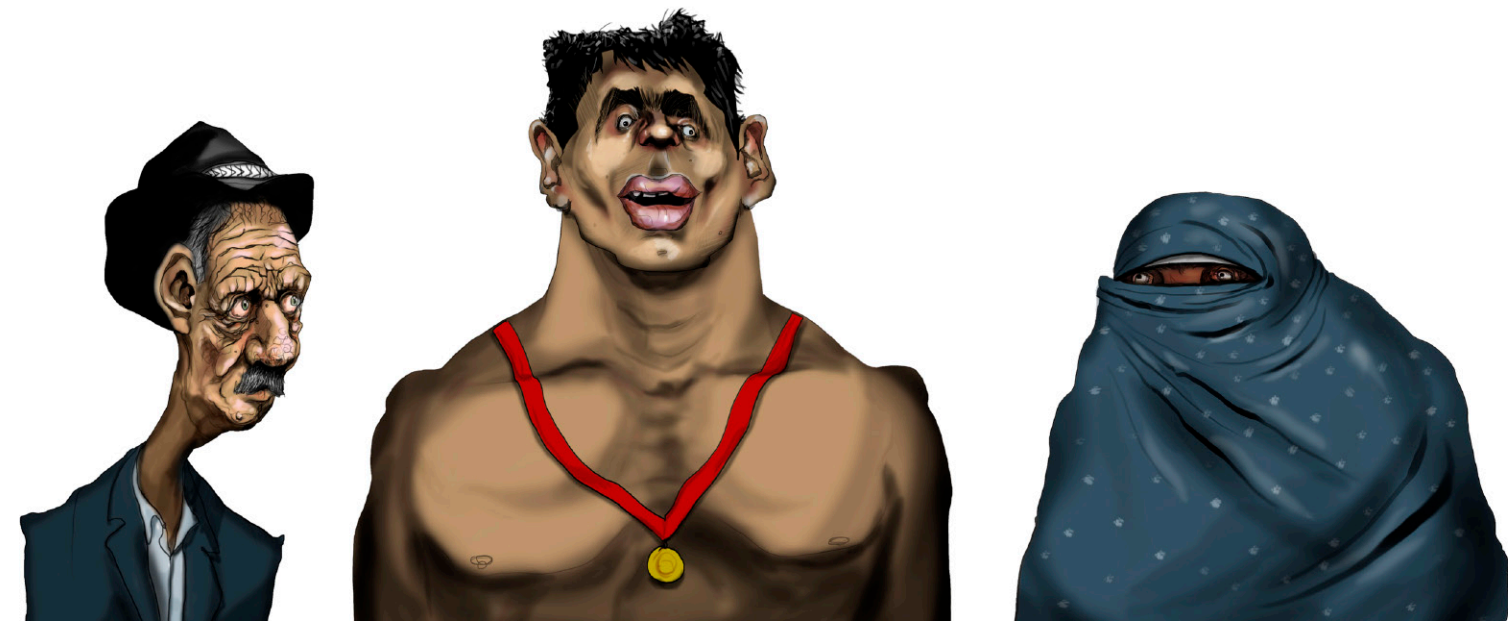
Anxious Man, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Farokh Laghaa, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 16.5 x 13 in



Shah Sultan Hossein, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 35 in



Mazandaran's Leopard (Palang-eMazandaran), (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 16 x 44 in



Farmers, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 8.5 x 11 in



Ahmad Shah, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Mokhber Ol-Doleh, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 43 x 36 in



Fathali, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Mohammad Ali Shah, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Mahmoud Ghaznavi, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 37 in



Karim Khan Zand, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 34 in



Mostofi, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 18 x 18 in



Bibi Astar, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 20 x 18 in



Najm Ol-Saltaneh, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 20 x 18 in



Mozafar-Ol-Din Shah, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Paper, 13 x 13 in



Nader Shah Afshar, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 32 in



Shah Tahmasp, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 50 x 34 in



Hossein Pasha Khan, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 27 x 21 in



Ali Gholi Khan Sardar Assad, (1/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 24 x 18 in



Zahir-ol-Doleh, (3/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco Canvas, 22 x 18 in



Anis, (2/5+3AP), 2019, Digital Print on Eco-Canvas, 22 x 18 in



Assassins
(1/5+3AP),
2019,
Digital Print on Eco Canvas,
18 x 42 in

