

ADVOCARTSY Presents: **The Conference of the Birds**
a Solo Exhibition by **Mohammad Barrangi**

Opening Saturday, November 14th, 2020
at The SPACE by ADVOCARTSY
924 S. San Pedro St. Los Angeles, CA. 90015.

advanced appointment required
Maximum 6 Guests to a Party

contact info@advocartsy.com to schedule your appointment



Masked Peacock, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 11.75 x 16.75 in,

ADVOCARTSY Los Angeles presents The Conference of the Birds, opening November 14th (Los Angeles, California-- November 14th, 2020)

Downtown Los Angeles Iranian contemporary art platform ADVOCARTSY is pleased to present The Conference of the Birds, an exhibition of modern printmaking techniques on handmade paper by Iranian U.K. based artist Mohammad Barrangi. The exhibition explores the epic Iranian mythical poem, *Manṭiq-ūṭ-Ṭayr*, or Conference of the Birds, by Attar of Nishapur. This is the artist's first solo exhibition with ADVOCARTSY and in the United States. Starting Friday, November 16th, the exhibition will be available for viewing by appointment as well as online through our virtual gallery.

ADVOCARTSY is thrilled to present this captivating body of work by Mohammad Barrangi. The artist's successful merger of contemporary and ancient attributes transport the viewer to a timeless state, combining elements of the past, present, and future seamlessly in his masterful yet whimsical compositions.



Untitled no. 52, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 8.25 x 11.5 in

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION + THE ARTIST

The legend of The Conference of the Birds takes the form of an allegorical epic poem where a flock of birds are led by the wisest amongst them to journey through the seven valleys to seek Simorgh, the legendary figure they hope will serve as their sovereign. In the story, each bird represents a human fault which prevents man from reaching enlightenment. The journey is a treacherous one, claiming the lives of many along the way. Despite this, thirty birds make it to the abode of Simorgh, only to realize that they themselves are collectively the Simorgh. In Persian, Simorgh means “thirty” (si) “birds” (morgh). Through this adventure, they eventually come to understand that the majesty of enlightenment is like that of the sun, it can only be observed when reflected in the mirror, meaning that anyone who seeks it will also behold his or her own image.

Born in the city of Rasht in northern Iran, Barrangi studied art in vocational school and university. Barrangi has exhibited widely across Europe and Asia, collecting various prizes along the way, and most recently placed two works in the permanent collection of the British Museum. In 2017, the artist came to the Art House in Wakefield, UK under the Studio of Sanctuary residency program. Barrangi moved to London in 2019 to continue his studies at The Royal Drawing Academy.

The story of The Conference of the Birds is a universal one, it is a tale that any individual can find themselves in, but one that especially resonates with artist Mohammad Barrangi. Having left his homeland of Iran nearly 3 years ago, Barrangi feels a deep connection to the concept of migration, “something that birds and sometimes humans must do in order to survive.” Through his work, Barrangi reimagines traditional Persian folklore, imbuing each work with a modern energy that expands beyond mythology, echoing across various cultures and generations.

Barrangi's distinct process consists of both modern and traditional methods, always beginning with the fabrication of his uniquely handcrafted paper. He then scours his digitized library of ink nib illustrations and vintage photographs to create compositions he will transfer onto the parchment, always experimenting until he sees what is in his mind reflected on the page. Barrangi uses photocopies and inkjet prints to create his layered works, employing simple technologies to transfer and to alter the scale of his images. Once this step is complete, the artist begins the meditative process of rubbing away the top layer of fibers to reveal the fairytale-like image underneath, a surprisingly elegant process captured in a variety of videos taken of Barrangi in his studio. Finally, the artist accents each work with traditional Iranian calligraphy—historically one of the most revered art forms in Persian culture.

The soft power of Barrangi's art mesmerizes the eye and grips the soul. At first glance, many assume they are viewing ancient artifacts of a bygone era when in reality, the artist began seriously making work in the last decade. By synthesizing elements of Persian calligraphy, storytelling, and his own unique sense of humor, the artist creates works that encompass a range of disparate visual motifs that build a bridge connecting different eras and cultures. His delicate works on paper simultaneously convey a sense of opulence and humility, while his large-scale murals realize these mythical beasts in all their otherworldly glory. Suspended in action or battle, the characters brought forth from the mind of the artist remind us of the perpetual motion, the constant migration, every living creature will experience throughout their life.

About ADVOCARTSY:

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/advocartsy/>

Instagram: @Advocartsy

www.ADVOCARTSY.com

ABOUT THE SPACE AT 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 and LA's newest museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.