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THE SPACE BY ADVOCARTSY Presents group exhibition
THE WORLD IS MY HOME
May 20-June 10



Opening and Public Reception on Sunday, May 20, 4-7 p.m.

Exhibition highlights contributions of Iranian diaspora artists and fosters understanding of new Iranian cultural identity

(Los Angeles, California—April 30, 2018) Downtown Los Angeles' newest art gallery, THE SPACE by [ADVOCARTSY](http://ADVOCARTSY.com), created to raise awareness of and engagement within Iranian contemporary art, presents the exhibition *The World Is My Home* featuring four artists of the Iranian diaspora—Afsoon, Roya Farassat, Shahram Karimi, and Dana Nehdaran. The public reception is on May 20, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The exhibition is inspired by *In Between*, the two-exhibition series of contemporary Iranian art that Karimi curated at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, New Jersey. With Iranian artists receiving increasing attention over the last decade, Karimi felt now is the time to “ask ourselves what distinctive characteristics modern Iranian art presents in relation to Iran's abundant cultural heritage and what are the contributions of artist who live outside of Iran?”

ADVOCARTSY founder Roshi Rahmana was compelled to continue on the West Coast the dialogue started by *In Between*, and the result is *The World Is My Home*. “I am continually trying to expand the understanding of what Iranian contemporary art means as a realm of expression,” says Rahmana. “This exhibition further explores work by contemporary Iranian artists who are

contributing significantly to this discussion through their unique experiences and are in turn, re-defining Iranian cultural identity.”



Running concurrently with LACMA’s anticipated exhibition *In the Fields of Empty Days: The Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art*, *The World Is My Home* is a strong voice in the topical conversation on contemporary Iranian art.

While their work looks dramatically different, all four artists work in 2D—on paper, canvas, and fabric—and are united by their ideas of authenticity and spontaneous gestures.



About the Artists

Afsoon: Born in Iran, and now based in London, Afsoon combines collage, photography, painting and text inspired by her nomadic lifestyle in which the East merges with the West to create something that is at once familiar and foreign. Afsoon has been exhibited in the United States,

Europe and the Middle East. She is included in LACMA's upcoming exhibition *In The Fields of Empty Days: The Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art*, and her work is in the permanent collections of LACMA, The British Museum and the Berger/YSL Collection, among others.

Roya Farassat: Born in Tehran, Iran, and now based in New York City, Farassat's work is largely influenced by culture and tradition while embracing a distorted sense of reality. The themes of female identity, isolation, violence and oppression animate her work. Roya Farassat is a painter and sculptor with a BFA from Parsons School of Design. She has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions at universities, galleries, and museums including The Albin Polasek Museum, The Ormond Memorial Art Museum, The Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, The Queens Museum, The Taubman Museum, The Edward Hopper House, Miami Art Fair, Dubai Art Fair and Jamm Contemporary art Auction in Kuwait. Farassat's exhibitions have been reviewed by *The New York Times*, *Art Radar*, *Hyperallergic* and most recently by *The Boston Globe* for her works from the series, "Menagerie".

Shahram Kamimi: Born in Shiraz, Iran, and now dividing his time between Germany and New York City, Karimi's paintings portray the contemporary bicultural Iranian's dilemma—seeking historical and personal identity by wedding their personal past with contemporary form. Fellow New York-based Iranian artist Shirin Neshat wrote of Kamimi: "In an era when Globalism has become an integral aspect of the post modern man's experience. Shahram Karimi, living in Germany, truly represents such trans-cultural currents and realities in the context of contemporary art. His aspirations are at once rooted in his personal cultural history such as the traditional Persian miniature paintings, his subsequent life in exile and exposure to the history of abstract, minimal and conceptual art of the West. Karimi has arrived at a unique form which combines both aspects of seemingly diverse cultures in an artistic language which transcends the boundaries of such localities."

Dana Nahdaran: Born in Chaharbagh, Iran, and now based in New York City, Nehdaran is interested in the material history of iron. Oxidation allows him to create images that fade into the canvas: unstable surfaces that betray a deeply personal relationship to the images of the past. Upon his arrival in New York, Dana noticed he was surrounded by old rebar, beams, storm-water covers and other ironwork that is the backbone of the city. Titled *Fe 26* (the chemical symbol and atomic number for iron), his new body of work is created in a dialog with his new surroundings. The basic element shows the history of the creation of the paintings and references its larger geographical context. Nehdaran utilizes classical painting techniques to focus on the tension between past and present. Nehdaran received his BA in painting from Soureh Art University in Shiraz in 2007.

General information:

Exhibition dates: May 20-June 10

Public opening on Sunday, May 20, 4-7 p.m.

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, noon-5 p.m.

Address: 9th and San Pedro Building, 924 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, 90015

Parking: Behind the San Pedro Building

ABOUT THE SPACE AT ADVOCARTSY:

Opened in October 2017, this art space is a permanent extension of ADVOCARTSY's Art Brief exhibition series launched in 2015, a contemporary fine arts platform that aims to raise awareness of and engagement with Iranian contemporary art. ADVOCARTSY uses THE SPACE to host diverse fine art events, educational programs, exhibitions and other events, with a wide range of collaborations, both nationally and internationally as a nexus for artists, critics, curators, and collectors.

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.

About ADVOCARTSY:

ADVOCARTSY, a collaborative fine arts platform that addresses and engages with Iranian Contemporary Arts both nationally and internationally. ADVOCARTSY produces diverse art events, projects and exhibitions with curators of various disciplines and galleries to further community engagement. For more information, please visit: www.advocartsy.com

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

Instagram: @Advocartsy

Images:

Angels, SHAHRAM KARIMI, mixed media on fabric | 41 x 41 in

Swing to Heaven, AFsoon, watercolor and paper collage on Arches paper | 9 x 12 in

Below the thickened Clouds, ROYA FARASSAT, acrylic and oil on paper | 30 x 22 in

Fe26, DANA NEHDARAN, oil and iron powder on linen | 60 in