

HOPE DREAMS DESIRE



HOPE DREAMS DESIRE

**Adel Younesi
Romisa Sakaki
Zahra Shafie
Ali Esmaeillou**

Young Persian Artists

**Pop-Up Show
OPEN WALLS Gallery, Stattbad Berlin**

5-15 March 2015



ADEL

The pop-up show Hope Dreams Desire showcases new, specially commissioned pieces by four representatives of Iran's new generation of artists: Adel Younesi, Romisa Sakaki, Zahra Shafie, and Ali Esmaeillou.

The exhibition is the continuation of a project which started as an art blog titled Young Persian Artists (YPA). I started writing this blog to showcase the art being made in Iran right now and profile the people behind it.

The artists I write about on the blog, as well as the ones starring in the Hope Dreams Desire exhibition, almost always receive classical artistic training. They use this training to make work with aesthetic integrity and beauty but with messages and motives that are strikingly contemporary and relevant. There is urgency in their work which is hard to ignore and an undeniable bearing on real life.

This new generation of artists have neither seen the revolution in the late-seventies nor experienced the war in the eighties. The referencing and inspirations of this generation are very different. They are the face of a new Iran which is coming of age with feverish speed.



If you look at Iranian art history prior to this new generation, the referencing has been very Persian, reflective and inward-looking. I believe this new generation, the artists I call YPA, are the opposite: Polyglot and very much outward-looking. You will be hard-pressed to find any Middle Eastern references in the aesthetics of their work at all. They are the members of a globalised internet generation whose vocabulary and visuals are energised and current.

Like the Young British Artists that came of age in the late-1980s in London, the YPAs are leaving all tradition and preconceived expectations behind in a struggle to express what is relevant to them right now.

The Hope Dreams Desire show is an effort to expose these developments to a wider audience and providing a new, more open space for the artists to tell us what it is they are looking outwards to, what it is they are hoping for and what they are currently dreaming of.

Mahsa Mergenthaler-Shamsaei

**ADEL
YOUNESI**



ADEL YOUNESI

Born 1985 in Hamedan, Iran

Adel's dreamscapes form the scenes in which his opera of characters come alive. Animals, people, cars, weapons, instruments all dance to the tune of his enigmatic conductor. His fantastical paintings reflect his thoughts on what could be in a dream but often what actually takes place in reality. Epic themes of war, religion, faith, cruelty, survival and joy.

[>> Profile: The grand conductor of a magical orchestra made of paint and dreams](#)

untitled

Oil and acrylic on canvas 190x190 cm
2015



untitled

Oil and acrylic on canvas 170x210 cm
2015



**ROMISA
SAKAKI**



ROMISA SAKAKI

Born 1987 in Tehran, Iran

Romisa's work focuses mostly on urban and societal issues but also on social relations. With her deliberate use of fluorescent colours and exaggerated outlining, she creates atmospheres of heightened tension, confusingly dystopian utopias. This lends itself nicely to the often controversial social messaging in her work.

[>> Profile: What did you do last weekend?](#)

Tehran mysterious city
Acrylic on canvas 150x180 cm
2014



Tehran mysterious city

Acrylic on canvas 70x80 cm
2014



Tehran mysterious city

Acrylic on canvas 70x80 cm
2014



Tehran mysterious city

Acrylic on canvas 70x80 cm
2014



Tehran mysterious city

Acrylic on canvas 70x80 cm
2014



**ZAHRA
SHAFIE**



ZAHRA SHAFIE

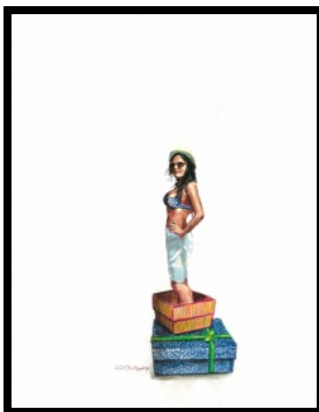
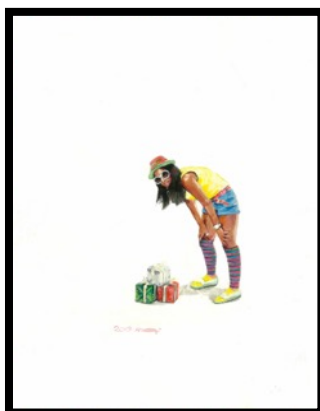
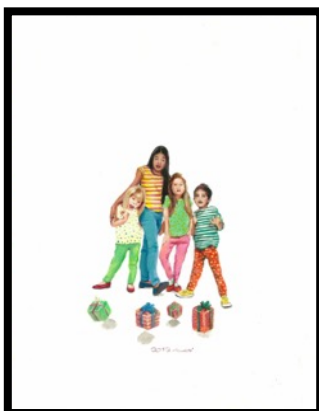
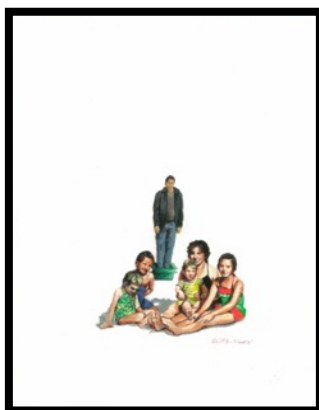
Born 1986 in Tehran, Iran

Zahra's figurative paintings are influenced by personal experiences. Often her work criticizes the status quo, be it the role of women in society, or the effects of our current world on its children. An eternal optimist, Zahra believes that even when carrying a heavy message, art must maintain its aesthetic integrity: "Beauty helps us remember the good stuff in life!"

[>> Profile: Lipstick in the Kitchen](#)

Welcome to the party of life

Acrylic on paper 28x35 cm
2013



Small yellow garden
Oil on canvas 100x150 cm
2014



Curiosity of Eve

Oil on canvas 185x135 cm
2014



Desires of Adam
Oil on canvas 185x150 cm
2014



**ALI
ESMAEILLOU**



ALI ESMAEILLOU

Born 1982 in Tehran, Iran

Through the use of metaphors and fantasy worlds, Ali explores the human condition, our complexities dependancies, desires, and the triumphs we all achieve regardless. He expresses the delicate balance that is the human psyche while always expressing a Raphaelian appreciation for the beauty of the human form. He comes to painting from architecture. His architectural heritage is clear in his painting style. Each brush stroke executed with extreme precision. Even his signature is minutely and cleverly incorporated into his tableaux. No line is excessive, no gesture without reason.

>> Profile: [Visit your dark side - you know you have one](#)

9 months greatness
Oil on canvas 130x180 cm
2014



5 minutes to reign
Oil on canvas 130x180 cm
2014



7 days simplicity
Oil on canvas 130x180 cm
2014



Live forever

Oil on canvas 130x180 cm
2014



BIOS



Adel Younesi

Born 1985 in Hamedan, Iran



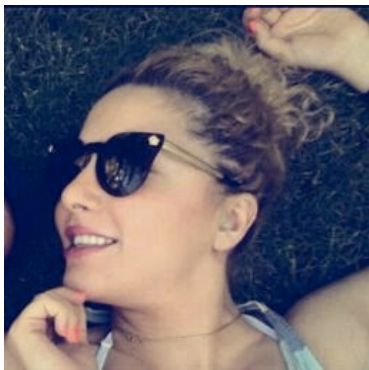
Solo exhibitions

2004 Sheys Art Gallery, Tehran
 2005 Elahe Art Gallery, Tehran
 2007 Mahe Mehr Art Gallery, Tehran
 2007 Mahe Mehr Café Gallery, Tehran
 2009 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran
 2009 Steps Art Gallery, London
 2010 Henna Art Gallery, Tehran



Group exhibitions

2006 Elahe Art Gallery, Tehran
 2007 Mahe Mehr Art Gallery, Tehran
 2009 Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran
 2010 Henna Art Gallery, Tehran
 2010 Mohsen Art Gallery, Tehran
 2010 Silk Road Art Gallery, Tehran
 2011 Melat Art Gallery, Tehran
 2012 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran
 2013 Homa Art Gallery, Tehran
 2013 Opera Art Gallery, London
 2013 Aun Art Gallery, Tehran
 2013 Etemad Art Gallery, Tehran
 2013 Dastan Art Gallery, Tehran
 2013 Sheila Art Gallery, Tehran
 2014 Matne Emrooz Art Gallery, Tehran
 2014 Sheila Art Gallery, Tehran



Romisa Sakaki

Born 1987 in Tehran, Iran

Education

2011 BA in Painting, Soore University Tehran

Group exhibitions

2010 Mohsen Art Gallery, Tehran
 2010 Azad Art Gallery, Tehran
 2010 Dar-al-fonoon Art Gallery, Kuwait
 2011 Azad Art Gallery, Tehran
 2011 Mohsen Art Gallery, Tehran
 2012 Mohsen Art Gallery, Tehran
 2014 Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran



Zahra Shafie

Born 1986 in Tehran, Iran

Education

2003 Graphic Diploma, Visual Art Conservatory Tehran
2010 BA in Painting, Shahed University of Art Tehran

Solo exhibition

2012 Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran

Group exhibitions

2008 Laleh Art Gallery, Tehran
2008 Shahed Art Gallery, Tehran
2008 Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran
2010 Silk Road Gallery, Tehran
2010 Elahe Gallery, Tehran
2010 Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran
2011 Homa Art Gallery, Tehran
2012 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran
2013 Homa Art Gallery, Tehran
2013 Etemad Art Gallery, Tehran
2013 Dastan Gallery, Tehran
2014 Sheila Art Gallery, Tehran





Ali Esmaeillou

Born 1982 in Tehran, Iran

Education

Painter and Architectural Engineer

Solo exhibitions

2009 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Los Angeles

2011 Art Center Gallery, Tehran

Group exhibitions

2003 House of Iranian Arts, Tehran

2004 Niavaran Art Center Festival, Tehran

2005 Jahannama Art Gallery, Tehran

2005 Saadabad Art Gallery, Tehran

2006 Saadabad Art Gallery, Tehran

2007 Aghili Art Gallery, Tehran

