

MORNING
CALM
THROUGH
THE PERSIAN
LIGHT

OPERA GALLERY

FOREWORD

Over the last few years, Iranian Contemporary Art has been exhibited in major museums and has enjoyed dedicated departments in prestigious auction houses. Having been involved in the promotion of Iranian Art throughout the world, Opera Gallery is proud to mount the solo exhibition of one of the most renowned Iranian artists, Reza Derakshani in Korea. A painter, calligrapher, performer and musician all wrapped up in one talented individual, Derakshani is a reputed master contemporary artist on the international scene.

For his first-ever exhibition in Korea, Derakshani has produced twenty five paintings to portray his insight towards the cultural heritage and the unique landscape of the Country of Morning Calm. Previously Derakshani evokes the magnificent legacy of Iran, whereas this exhibition shows a different angle of Reza Derakshani's oeuvre; the convergence of Western contemporary art and his visual expression upon his voyage to the far land, the Country of Morning Calm. The simmering Persian light illuminates every streets of Seoul visualizing his spiritual and physical journey to Seoul. The artist's fascination towards the

tranquility of a Buddhist temple is evident in the Wish series; piles of wish stones build into a Buddha and a pagoda. In the Words series, the artist transforms calligraphy from traditional writing to contemporary art with his way to write Hangul, the Korean words into Persian light lit paintings.

Derakshani's work is impressive in its range of media and techniques, which include sculpture, painting, calligraphic art and music. With the special technique of applying heavy varnish, boiled linseed oil and glitter detaches its commercial use and gives a subtle shine to the work. Reza Derakshani's work is part of the permanent collections of the Teheran Museum of Contemporary Art, the British Museum, London, as well as the Brooklyn Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Opera Gallery Seoul is delighted to participate in celebrating Iranian Contemporary Art, and one of its prodigies, Reza Derakshani. MORNING CALM through the PERSIAN LIGHT shows the unique convergence of the artist's Iranian heritage and his poetic insight towards Korean culture and landscape.

최근 몇 년 사이 이란 컨템포러리 미술은 세계 유수의 미술관에서 전시되고 옥션 회사의 주요 부서에서 주목 받고 있습니다. 전세계적으로 이란 미술의 장려에 힘써온 오페라갤러리는 국제적 명성의 이란 작가, 레자 데락샤니의 개인전을 한국에서 주최하게 되어 자부심을 느낍니다. 화가, 서예가, 행위 예술가 동시에 음악가로 여러 분야에서 활약하고 있는 데락샤니는 세계 미술계의 중심에 있는 작가입니다.

한국 첫 개인전에서 데락샤니는 '고요한 아침의 나라', 한국의 문화 유산과 풍경을 작가 고유의 페르시아적 색채로 재조명한 작품 총 25점을 선보입니다. 주로 이란의 유구한 역사와 문화적 깊이를 환기시키는 작품을 선보였던 이전 작품과는 달리, 이번 전시는 서구 동시대 미술과 작가가 한국 여행 중에 영감을 받은 한국에 대한 강한 인상을 시각적으로 융합시켜 표현한 작품들로 구성되어 데락샤니 작품 세계의 또 다른 면모를 보여줍니다.

이란의 오묘하고 영롱한 빛이 서울 거리 곳곳을 밝혀 데락샤니의 서울 여정을 시적으로 표현하는데, 불교 사원의 평온함에 매료되어 신자들이 쌓아 올려 완성한 탑과 부처의

평화로운 모습을 담은 Wish 연작, 그리고 한글을 신비로운 빛을 발하는 회화로 표현한 Words 연작을 통해 한국의 전통을 세계적인 시각으로 새롭게 그려냈습니다.

데락샤니의 작품들이 조소부터 회화, 캘리그래피, 그리고 음악까지 다양한 매체와 기술을 통해 완성된다는 것은 인상적입니다. 광택제를 두껍게 칠하고, 꿇인 아마씨 기름과 글리터를 캔버스 위에 흩뿌리는 독특한 기법을 통해 재료의 상업성을 은은한 섬광을 표현하는 예술적 요소들로 변모시킵니다. 데락샤니의 작품은 테헤란 현대 미술관, 런던 대영박물관, 뉴욕 브루클린 미술관과 메트로폴리탄 미술관을 비롯한 세계 주요 미술관에 소장되어 있습니다.

이란의 문화 예술적 자산의 진수를 예술로 승화시키는 작가 데락샤니가 바라본 한국의 문화와 풍경에 대한 인상을 그려낸 이번 전시 "Morning Calm through the Persian Light" 에서 동서양 문화의 시각적 융합을 느껴보시기 바랍니다.

GILLES DYAN
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

GEE CHAN KWON
Chairman
Opera Gallery Seoul

VIVIAN CHOI
Director
Opera Gallery Seoul

질 디앙
오페라갤러리그룹 창시자 및 회장

권기찬
오페라갤러리서울 회장

최소현
오페라갤러리서울 지점장

DAY AND NIGHT

(Lily days & Lily nights)

Through the night,
this longing for you ripens and thickens
we dive toward insanity.

You pluck my cords,
and the song echoes across the universe.
each day, each night.

The night you made a promise:
the day of reunion,
I count up the days,
every day and every night.

EVERY COOL DAY AND EVERY BURNT NIGHT | Oil on canvas | 181.5 x 152 cm | 71.5 x 59.8 in. >







< PREVIOUS PAGE: EVERY LILY DAY AND EVERY LILY NIGHT | Oil and acrylic on canvas | 182.5 x 365 cm | 71.8 x 143.7 in.

EVERY SPRING DAY AND EVERY AUTUMN NIGHT | Oil on canvas | 127 x 305 cm | 50 x 120 in.



< No. 1



No. 3



No. 4



v No. 2



No. 5



No. 6

SERIES LILY LILY No. 1 to No. 6
Oil on canvas | 101.5 x 101.5 cm | 40 x 40 in.

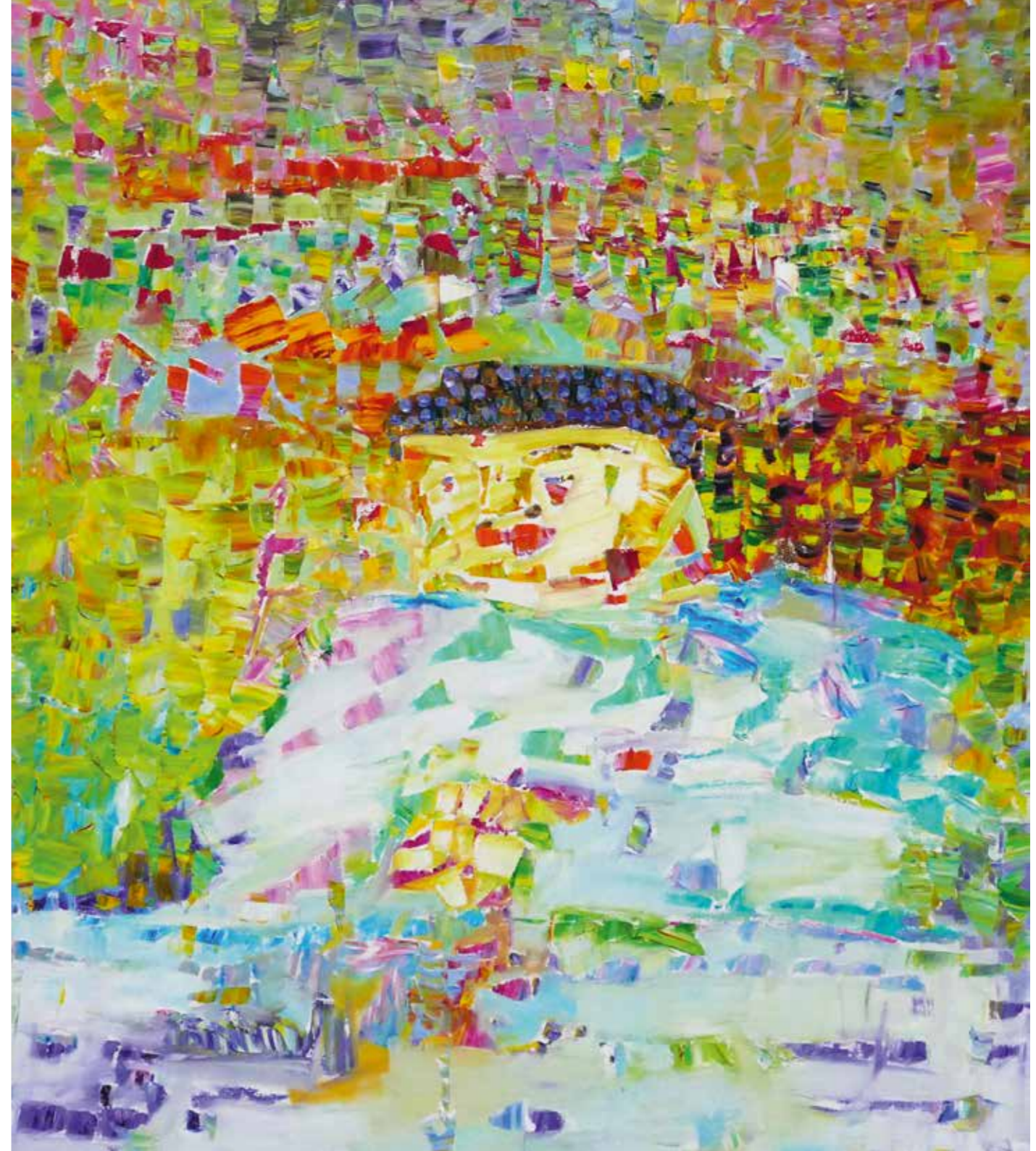
WISHES

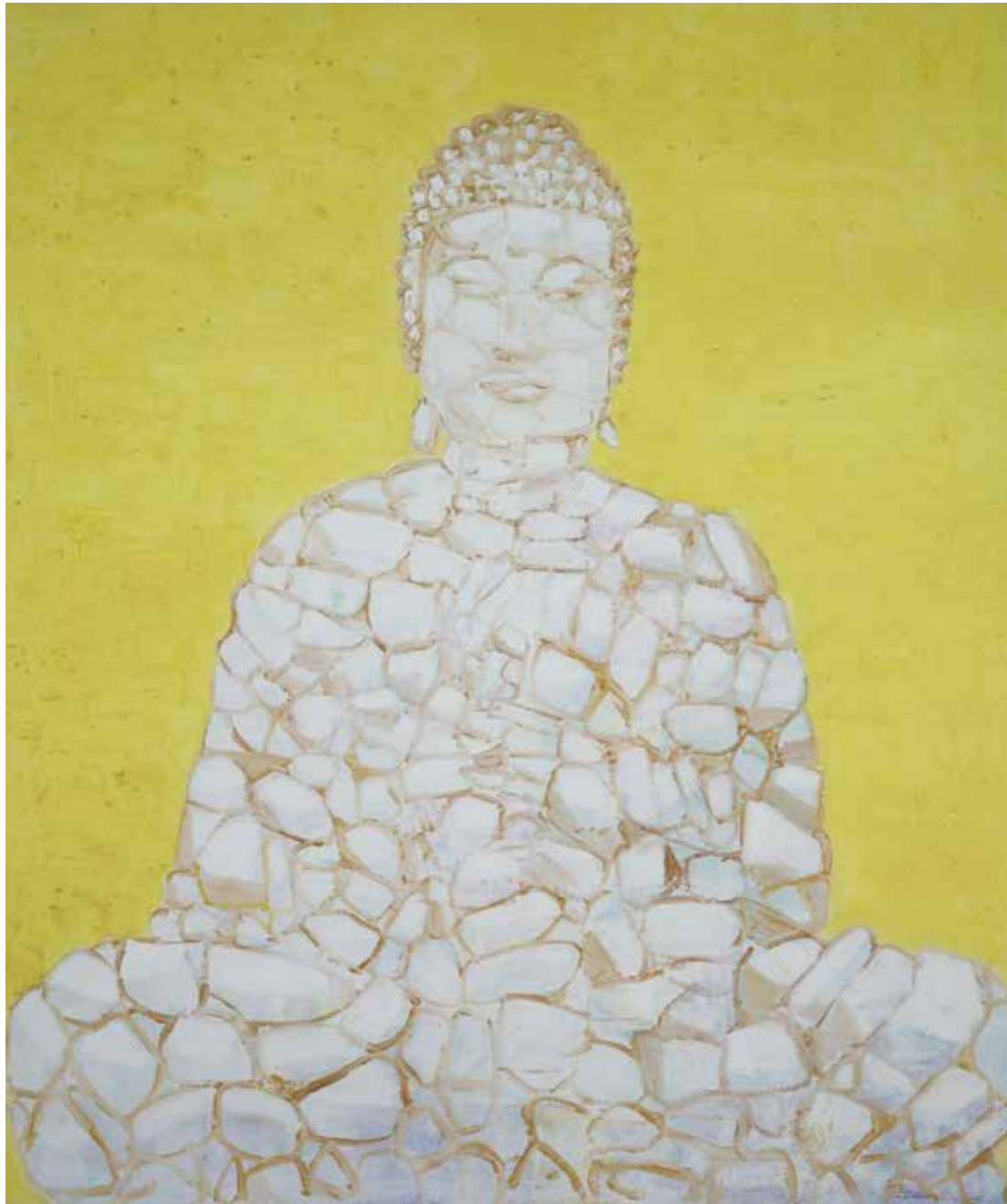
Eyes closed,
Heart open.

Sensation of a rainbow,
Made of precious stones.

Eyes closed,
Heart open.
Wishes come through.

RAINBOW WISHES | Oil on canvas | 181.5 x 127 cm | 71.5 x 50 in. >





GOLD WISHES | Oil and gold paste on canvas | 182.5 x 152 cm | 71.8 x 59.8 in.



GREEN WISHES | Oil on canvas | 152 x 152 cm | 59.8 x 59.8 in.

WORDS

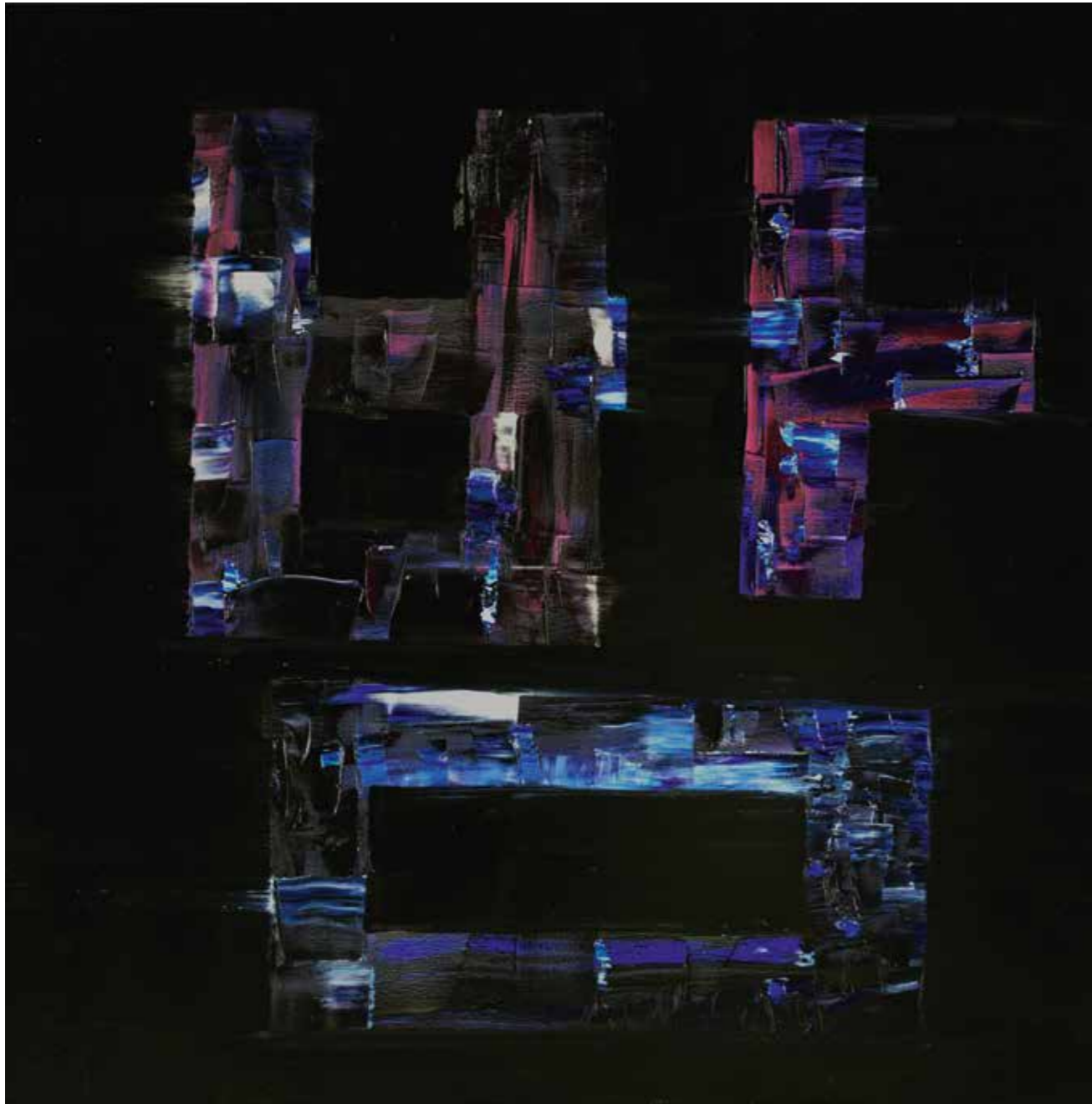
Words carry light because they know,
Words paint life,
In silence.
Words say: love is colorful,
In silence.
cheerful blocks of pink and yellow,
Flying rose petals in the spring,
In silence.

Love is red,
Red is pink,
Pink is blue ,
and the light shines through,
it is all yellow,
day is white,
day is the light
and soars into the night,
Days unite the nights,
once the indigo ocean whispers.

secrets of luminous sight,
Wisdom shines in the dark.
Words bear wisdom,
Words carry the light,
In silence.
In silence.

LOVE | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in. >





NIGHT | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.



DAY | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.

WISDOM | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in. >





DARK | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.



LIGHT | Oil on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.

GPS SEOUL

Voyage to a far land.
Through the time tunnel,
Riding the ancient ray of light,
In quest of enlightenment.

Voyage to a far land,
In command of the universe,
hunting the color and hounding
the scent.

Voyage to a far land.
revelation,
Beauty,
Enlightenment,
Serenity.

GPS SEOUL No.1 | Oil and glitter on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in. >





No. 2

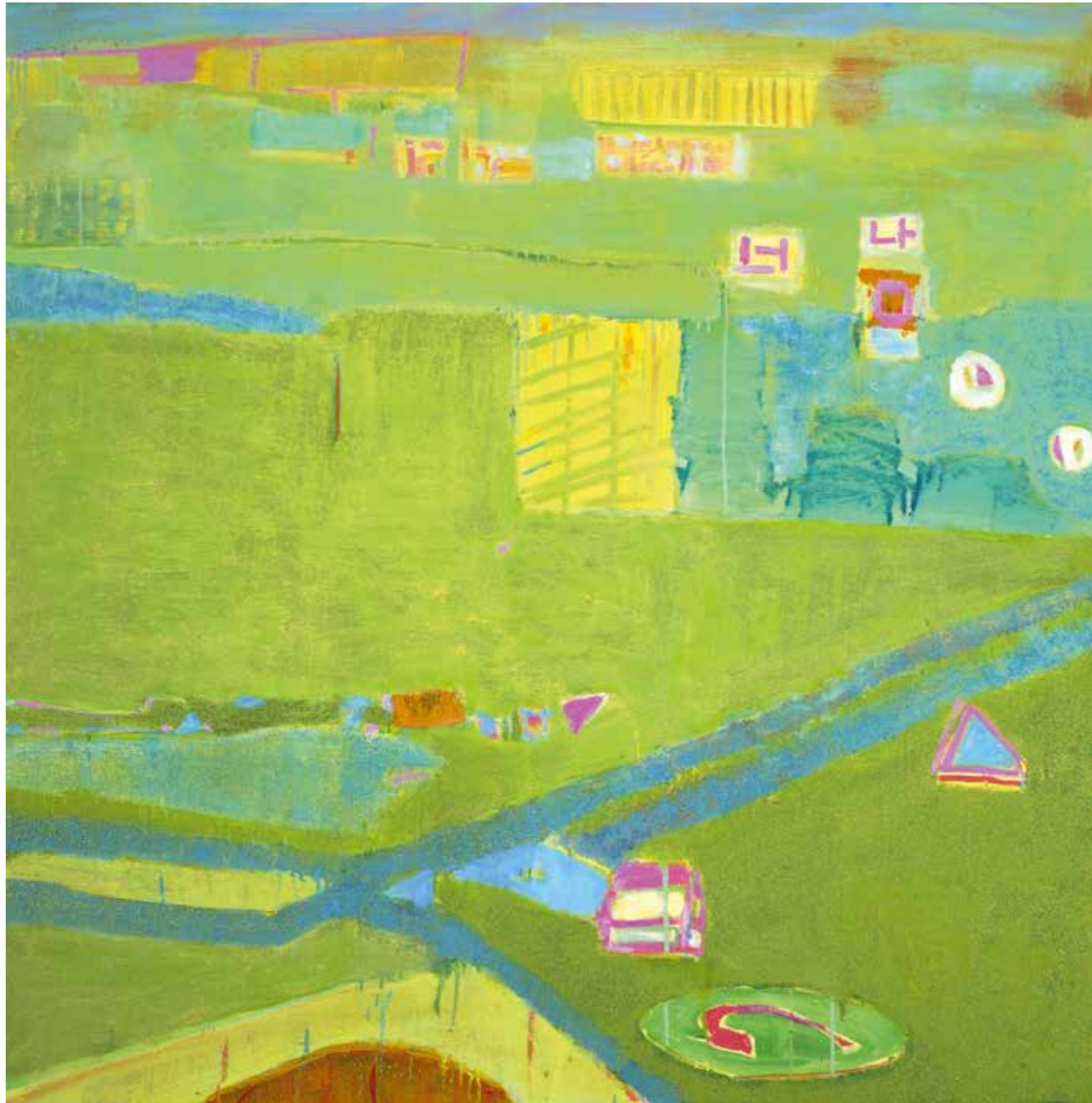


No. 3 ^



No. 4 >

SERIES GPS SEOUL No. 2 to No. 4
Oil and glitter on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.



GPS SEOUL No 5 | Oil and glitter on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.



GPS SEOUL No 6 | Oil and glitter on canvas | 122 x 122 cm | 48 x 48 in.



HUNTING THE LIGHT, 2012 | Mixed media on canvas | 200 x 240 cm | 78.7 x 94.4 in. >

B I O G R A P H Y

Painter, musician and performance artist Reza Derakshani was born in Sangsar, in the northeast of Iran in 1952. He grew up in a great black tent on the top of a mountain, among horses and fields of blue and yellow wild flowers. Reza developed from the study of constellations of light created by the moonlight shining through tiny holes in the tent to the study of mathematics in high school, and visual arts in Tehran and the USA. As registers of Reza Derakshani's expansive store of creativity, the originality of his artistic vision, and the musical energy of his paintings, the visual-musical interplay can also be tapped in order to locate his art within the parameters of a cultural mentalité that is historically and deeply Persian, although not uniquely so. Derakshani's life work is impressive in its range of media and techniques, his passionate unleashing of creative energies through multiple venues of artistic expression including sculpture and calligraphic arts, and, significantly, music. Equally rich and provocative are Derakshani's explorations of the conceptual and philosophical preoccupations of his time and place.

Following his first solo exhibition at the renowned Ghandriz Gallery in Tehran at the tender age of nineteen, Reza Derakshani has held more than 50 solo shows, group shows, performances and numerous Art Fairs, among other things. In 2010 the Hunting Gold, 150 x 480 cm was exhibited at the Hope! exhibition in France alongside works by Hirst, Murakami and others. His 60 faces from the series Identity Crisis was displayed at the Chelsea Art Museum NYC which was featured in NY Times on August 2009. Most recently, his solo painting show at the Armory NYC and his extremely

anticipated Retrospective at the SPM in Dubai added to his international adventure. Furthermore, Derakshani has been showcased in numerous publications such as the NY Times, Canvas Art Magazine, ArtSpeak NYC, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Art Experience NYC, Contemporary Practice, National UAE, Masquerade Magazine, Gulf News, ABC TV, BBC Radio, NPR, WNYC, KPFC LA, L'Unita Italy to name a few. The long and circuitous road of Derakshani's artistic and geographic migration eventually found him in New York City, where he settled and worked for sixteen years. He later moved to Italy, eventually returning to Tehran for seven years before leaving his homeland once again in 2010.

He currently lives and works between Dubai and the USA.



STUDIES

BA Visual, Art Tehran University, Iran
Art Centre, California, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013** Reza Derakshani, Opera Gallery Monaco, Monaco
2012 Reza Derakshani: Silence of the Night, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
Reza Derakshani: Everyday & Every Night, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
The Armony Show 2012, Leila Heller Gallery and JAMM Art, New York, USA
2011 Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, Lebanon
Circus of Life, Dar Al Funoon Gallery and JAMM Art, Kuwait City, Kuwait
2010 Cramer Art Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
Reza Derakshani, Osborne Samuel Gallery, London, UK
Reza Derakshani, Dar Al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Voice and Circus, AB Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
2009 Circus of Life, AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
Paintings, Galerie Nikki Diana Marquardt, Paris, France
Khosrow and Shireen series, Dar Al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Migration, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

- 2008** Beyond the Darkness, Khak Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2007 Reza Derakshani Exhibit, Seyhoun Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Nocturn, from Khosrow & Shirin series, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2005 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2003 Reza Derakshani, Caterina Pazzi Art Promotion, Rome, Italy
Niavaran Palace Cultural Centre, Tehran, Iran
Reza Derakshani, small works on paper, Tarahan Azad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2002 Retrospective, Khane e Honarmandan, Tehran, Iran
1995 Montclair State University, Montclair, USA
1994 Galleria il Punto di Svolta, Rome, Italy
Anzio City Hall, Anzio, Italy
1993 Lawson Gallery, Seattle, USA
1992 Nour Foundation Gallery, New York, USA
1977 Iran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
1976 Tehran University Gallery, Tehran, Iran
1974 Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, Iran
1971 Ghandriz Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran

COLLECTIONS

Metropolitan Museum, New York
Leon Black, New York
Sting and Trudie Styler, London
Sheikha Paola Al-Sabah, Kuwait
Taymour Grohn collection, New York
Farjam collection, Dubai

Mr and Mrs Naqvi collection, Dubai
The Royal Family of Abu Dhabi
Mr. Salsali collection at SPM, Dubai
British Museum, London

ART FAIRS

2012 Scope Basel
2010-11-12 Abu Dhabi
2010-11-12 Dubai Art Fair
2011 Basel Miami
2011 Istanbul Art Fair

B I O G R A P H Y



Reza Derakshani | Retrospective, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE, 2013

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013** Art of Iran, Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2012** The Rule and its Exception, Debora Colton Gallery, Houston, USA
Letters in Motion, Dar Al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2011** Group exhibition, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2010** Made in Iran, Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Opera Gallery in Muscat, Opera Gallery Dubai, Muscat, UAE
Summer group exhibition, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
Tehran-New York, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
Mona Lisa 10 x 10, Gallery 10, Tehran, Iran
Hope!, Palais des Arts et Festivals, Dinard, France
Peace!, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
East meets West on the East end, Leila Heller Gallery, New York
- 2009** Painting, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
L'Iran sans frontière, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, France
Guns and Roses, Eleven Howland Ltd, London, UK
Selseleh/Zelzeleh: Movers & Shakers in Contemporary Iranian Art, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
Routes II, Waterhouse and Dodd, London, UK
Khosrow and Shireen series, Dar Al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
1001 Colors, Contemporary Art from Iran, Canvas New York Art, New York, USA
Three Artists, Basement, Dubai, UAE

- 2008** Just Paper, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
Hope, Focus Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Khak Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2005** Painting, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2004** Painting, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2003** Assie Mennegini Gallery, Rome, Italy
- 1979** Lorry Dunn's Gallery, Long Beach, USA
- 1977** Thumb Gallery, London, UK

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2013** Reza Derakshani: Retrospective, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
- 2011** Show Off!, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
- 2009** Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA
- 2008** The Colour of Love, Farhangsara Cultural Centre, Tehran, Iran
- 2004** Gardens of Iran, Ancient Wisdom - NewVision, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran
- 2003** 6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennial, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

화가이자 뮤지션, 그리고 행위예술가이기도 한 레자 데락샤니는 1952년 이란의 북동쪽에 위치한 도시 상사르에서 태어났다. 데락샤니는 유년시절 산 꼭대기에 있는 텐트에서 살면서 야생의 꽃과 말들로 둘러싸인 아름다운 자연환경 속에서 자랐다. 어렸을 적 텐트 속 작은 구멍 사이로 들어오는 달빛을 관찰하며 별자리에 대해 탐구하던 그의 호기심은 고등학교로 들어와 수학 탐구로 이어졌고, 후에는 테헤란 대학과 캘리포니아 아트센터에서 시각 예술을 공부하였다.

역사가 깊은 페르시아인의 문화적 사고방식의 틀 속에서 피어난 데락샤니의 예술 세계는 광범위한 창의력 저장소라 할 수 있는 그의 예술적인 안목의 독창성과 작품에서 나타나는 음악적 에너지 그리고 시각예술과 음악의 상호작용에서 그 특징을 찾아볼 수 있다.

데락샤니의 예술은 멈추지 않는 열정적인 에너지를 조각, 캘리그래피, 음악과 같은 다수의 예술적 수단을 여러 가지 매체와 테크닉을 통하여 표현하였다는 점에서 굉장히 인상적이며 시대와 장소에 대한 철학적 연구와 개념적 탐구 또한 작품 속에 녹아낸다는 점에서 그의 예술은 풍부하고 도발적이다.

데락샤니는 19살의 어린 나이에 명성 있는 테헤란의 Ghandriz Gallery에서의 첫 개인전을 시작으로 현재까지 50회가 넘는 개인전과 그룹전, 다수의 아트페어 및 공연에 참여하였다. 그는 오랜 예술적, 지리적 방황 끝에 뉴욕에 정착하여 16년 동안 지내다 이탈리아로 이주하였고 다시 고향인 테헤란으로 돌아가 7년여를 보냈지만 2010년 다시 그곳을 떠났다. 작가는 현재 두바이와 미국을 오가며 거주하고 작업하고 있다.



Reza Derakshani's studio

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