



2 March 2016

This month, Iranian artist Reza Derakshani will showcase his work at the inaugural exhibition of new Mayfair gallery Sophia Contemporary.

The gallery, which has been set up to show contemporary art from the Middle East and Iran, alongside some Western art, was founded by Vassili Tsarenkov, Lali Marganiya and Lili Jassemi.

The first exhibition will present new works from a number of ongoing series, including the *Hunting*, *Pomegranate* and *Garden Party* collections.

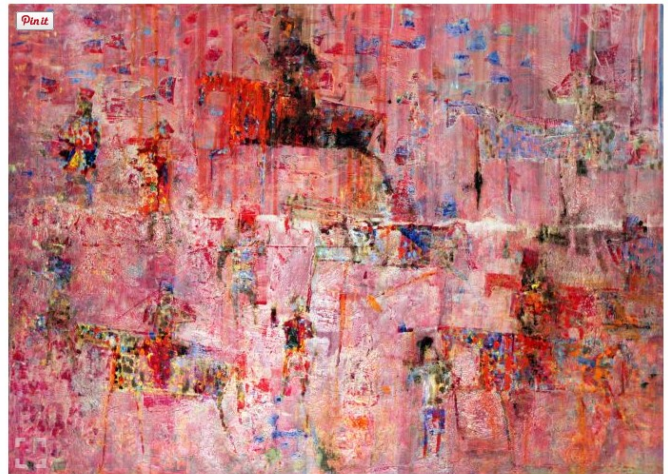
Visitors will also be treated to two never-before-seen paintings from the artist's *Calligraphy* series.

The paintings reveal how, although Derakshani's work is grounded in Iranian artistic traditions, his brushstrokes reveal the influence of the textured surfaces in Western abstract art movements – picked up while the artist was living in New York.

During his time in the Big Apple, Derakshani became engrossed in Abstract Expressionism and became a part of the revival of such painting in the USA and Europe during the 1980s, through the Neo-Expressionist style.

His work brings together nostalgic reflections on the history of his Iranian identity, juxtapositioned with his experiences as an immigrant in the USA.

This exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to see the work of an artist whose inspiration is grounded in the millenary tradition of Persian poetry expressed through his trademark vivid and expressive style of oil on canvas.



Reza Derakshani, 9 March – 23 April, Sophia Contemporary Gallery, 11 Grosvenor Street, W1K, Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm

MAYFAIR EXHIBITION REZA DERAKSHANI
SOPHIA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY IRANIAN ART HUNTING SERIES



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Hero image: Reza Derakshani, *Hunting the Night*, 2015, oil on canvas, 198 x 224 cm
(Courtesy of the artist and Sophia Contemporary)