

Reza Derakshani

Opening on 9 March 2016 in London's Mayfair, Sophia Contemporary is a new gallery showcasing contemporary art of the Middle East and Iran alongside contemporary Western art. Founded by Vassili Tsarenkov, Lali Marganiya and Lili Jassemi, the gallery's inaugural exhibition showcases a series of new paintings by the artist Reza Derakshani, one of the most celebrated living Iranian artists.

Derakshani will present 15 new works from his ongoing *Hunting* series, which he first began in 2007. Whilst Derakshani's practice is grounded in Iranian artistic traditions, his dynamic brushstrokes reveal the influence of the textured surfaces from Western abstract art movements. The fusion of Eastern artistic traditions and contemporary art movements from the West create an idiosyncratic oeuvre at the confluence of civilizations.

The artist became engrossed in Abstract Expressionism while living in New York and was soon associated with the revival of painting in the USA and Europe in the 1980s through the Neo-Expressionist style. Whilst being loosely affiliated to the movement and evolving in New York artistic circles with fellow artists and friends Francesco Clemente, Shirin Neshat, Alessandro and Cy Twombly, the experience of emigration led Derakshani to reconnect with his Iranian roots. After experimenting with pure abstraction, the artist devised his personal artistic style blending abstract and figurative elements. This synthesis materialises beyond the visual impact of the works, notably in the socio-political themes that Derakshani explores. In this exhibition he brings together nostalgic reflections on the history of his Iranian identity with contested notions of migration, displacement and modernity.

Renowned for his bold and dynamic use of colour, in the *Hunting* series the artist layers an abstract landscape with the recognisable motif of horse riding hunters. The figurative subject matter is reminiscent of the rich artistic traditions of Persian miniature painting and calligraphy, while the abstract use of vibrant colours reveals the artist's spiritual inspiration grounded in the millenary tradition of Persian poetry. The new paintings in the series continue in the trademark vivid and expressive style of his earlier works and are executed in oil on canvas.

Exhibition Details

Title: *Reza Derakshani*

Address: 11 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QB, UK

Website: www.sophiacontemporary.com

Dates: 9 March – 23 April 2016

Private View: 6pm, 8 March 2016

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm

Admission: Free

Travel: Green Park, Bond Street or Oxford Circus Tube Station



PRINT



EMAIL

EVENT STARTS

Wednesday 9 March, 2016

EVENT ENDS

Saturday 23 April, 2016

VENUE

Sophia Contemporary Gallery

VENUE ADDRESS

11 Grosvenor Street

LOCATION

London, London

WEBSITE

[View website](#)

CATEGORY

Exhibitions

LOCATION

