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Iranian-American Artist Reza Derakshani's Show In London



Courtesy of Sophia Contemporary, London

Reza Derakshani. Hunting Gold, Red and Blue. 2016. Oil on canvas. 178x203cm

30
January
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Sophia Contemporary showcases their second exhibition of Derakshani's unique approach to historical appropriation and colourful abstraction through 'Hunting the Light', running until 10 March

In a continuation of Reza Derakshani's fusion of Iranian artistic tradition with Western contemporary techniques, *Hunting the Light* features 12 new works within his existing series *Hunting*, *Garden Party* and *Shirin and Khosrow*. A combination of cultures and time periods, Derakshani's work serves as nostalgic reflections on his Iranian identity, Persian history, migration, displacement and modernity. "Rather than being a departure from the first exhibition, *Hunting the Light* is very much a continuation or a sequel to the first show," says Vassili Tsarenkov, **Sophia Contemporary** co-founding director. "In this exhibition Reza further delves into the themes and techniques that he has tirelessly been exploring throughout his career. The artist for instance returns to his themes of predilection from the *Shahnameh* such as *Shirin and Khosrow* whilst continuing to explore Persian miniature painting and Western abstraction."

Visitors will be able to explore four previously unseen works from the series *Hunting*, which draws from Persian manuscript painting depictions of scenes in the Royal Court of the Shah and are represented in oil and expressive brushstrokes on large canvases. *Garden Party* features imagery related to idyllic Persian gardens - considered a metaphor for heaven and the afterlife in Persian culture - with four fresh works in the series's textural style. The final series on display, *Shirin and Khosrow*, is rooted in a 10th-century romantic tragedy in the *Shahnameh* that has been cited as early inspiration for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Four new works will address the story's role as a bridge between Eastern and Western cultural production in Derakshani's trademark embracement of vivid hues.

Sophiacontemporary.com

BY

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