

Sophia Contemporary

**Reza Derakshani: The Breeze at Dawn**

9 March – 23 April 2016



Left: Blue Hunting, 2015, oil on canvas, 152 x 183 cm. Right: Hunting the Night, 2015, oil on canvas, 198 x 224 cm  
Both: courtesy of the artist and Sophia Contemporary Gallery

Sophia Contemporary Gallery presents Reza Derakshani's new works from a number of on-going series, including the Hunting, Pomegranate and Garden Party series among others, as well as paintings from the new Calligraphy and Blue series, which have never previously been exhibited. 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. 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.

## Sophia Contemporary

### About the Artist

Reza Derakshani (b. 1952 in Sangsar, Iran) is a painter, poet, musician and performance artist. He is known both in the Middle East and in the West as one of the most important contemporary Iranian artists. He left Iran in 1983 following the Islamic Revolution and lived in New York, Italy and Dubai, UAE. He now lives in Austin, USA, where in parallel to his career within visual arts, he collaborated with legendary musicians such as John Densmore, the drummer of the Doors, releasing two critically acclaimed albums. His work features in numerous public art collections including the British Museum, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Derakshani also performed as a musician in museums and festivals such as the Brooklyn Museum and the Montreux Jazz Festival among others.

### Upcoming Museum Exhibitions

**26 May -** Retrospective, The State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia  
**- 26 July 2016**

**20 August -** Selected Works, Kunstammlungen, Chemnitz, Germany  
**16 October 2016**

### About Sophia Contemporary Gallery

Sophia Contemporary Gallery is an international art gallery based in London showcasing contemporary art from the Middle East and Iran alongside contemporary Western art. Founded by Vassili Tsarenkov, Lali Marganiya and Lili Jassemi, the gallery is opening after many research trips to the Middle East and represents some of the most established contemporary artists from the region. In addition, the gallery is pioneering a new generation of emerging artists from the Middle East and Iran with a view to provide them with a platform on the international stage. The gallery roster also includes emerging and established artists from the USA and Europe, promoting a creative dialogue between the art of the Middle East and Western art.

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### Exhibition Details

**Title:** Reza Derakshani  
**Address:** Sophia Contemporary Gallery, 11 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QB, UK  
**Website:** [www.sophiacontemporary.com](http://www.sophiacontemporary.com)  
**Dates:** 9 March – 23 April 2016  
**Private View:** 6 – 9 pm, 8 March 2016  
**Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, Saturday 11am to 5pm  
**Admission:** Free  
**Travel:** Green Park, Bond Street or Oxford Circus Tube Station  
**Twitter:** @SophiaCGallery  
**Facebook:** SophiaContemporaryGallery  
**Instagram:** SophiaContemporaryGallery

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