

Reza Derakshani
Born in 1952 - Iranian

Reza Derakshani is painter, poet, musician and performance artist, born in Sangsar, Iran in 1952. One of the most celebrated painters of his generation, Derakshani has continually pushed the boundaries of what contemporary art is, or can be. 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 moved from the study of constellations of light made by moonlight shining through tiny holes in the tent to the study of mathematics in high school, and visual arts in Tehran and the U.S.

After immigrating to the USA (1983) as a result of the Islamic Revolution, Derakshani's cosmopolitan identity led him to reflect on aspects of Western abstraction in his work. Abstract Expressionism in particular exerted a major influence on the artist's work during a stay of several years in New York. There, Derakshani was in close contact with artists such as Francesco Clemente, and Cy Twombly. Through these and many other encounters, Derakshani integrates his examination of Western postmodernism into his paintings and, influenced by the poetry of Persian art, the figures of later Iranian narratives in Iran, as well as by the legends of the early period, he also incorporates elements of classical miniature painting and calligraphy into his work.

Reza Derakshani is known both in the Middle East and in the West as one of the most significant contemporary Iranian artists. His work features in many public art collections including The British Museum, London; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; The Russian Museum in St Petersburg, Russia and the Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Germany. In addition, the artist has been the subject of two solo exhibitions in 2016 at The State Russian Museum in St Petersburg, Russia and at the Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Germany. Derakshani also performed as a musician in numerous museums and festivals such as the Brooklyn Museum and the Montreux Jazz Festival among others.

He currently lives and works between Austin USA and Istanbul, Turkey.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2020 EMANATIONS, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, AE
- 2019 Empty House Party, SETAREH, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2019 Reza Derakshani, Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait, KW
- 2018 Reza Derakshani - Hunting the light, Sophia Contemporary Gallery, London, GB
- 2018 Black Water, SETAREH, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2017 Birth of a Collection 1: Reza Derakshani, 28 Fine Arts, Dubai, AE
- 2016 Reza Derakshani, Kunstsammlung Chemnitz - Museum Gunzenhauser, Chemnitz, DE
- 2016 Reza Derakshani - Retrospective, The State Russian Museum St. Petersburg, RU
- 2016 Reza Derakshani: The Breeze at Dawn, Sophia Contemporary Gallery, London, GB
- 2014 Reza Derakshani, Opera Gallery, Seoul, KR
- 2013 Reza Derakshani - Retrospective, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, AE
- 2013 The Pink House Stories, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, London, GB
- 2013 My Wicked Persian Carpet, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, USA
- 2013 Reza Derakshani, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, London, GB
- 2012 Reza Derakshani: Everyday & Every Night, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery Zurich, CH
- 2012 The Armory, Solo Show 2012, Leila Heller Gallery and Jamm Art New York, USA
- 2011 Circus of Life, Dar Al Funoon Gallery and Jamm Art, Kuwait City, KW
- 2010 Reza Derakshani, Osborne Samuel Gallery, London, GB
- 2010 Voice and Circus, AB Gallery, Zurich, CH
- 2009 Eternal Rebirth, Dar Al-Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, KW
- 2008 Reza Derakshani, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
- 2008 Beyond the Darkness, Khak Art Gallery, Tehran, IR
- 2007 Reza Derakshani. Exhibit, Seyhoun Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2006 Nocturn, Mah Art Gallery, Tehran, IR
- 2005 Assar Art Gallery, Tehran, IR
- 2003 Reza Derakshani, Caterina Pazzi Arte Moderna e contemporanea, Rome, IT

2003	Reza Derakshani, Niavaran Palace Cultural Centre, Tehran, IR
2002	Retrospective, House of Artists, Tehran, IR
1994	Galleria il Punto di Svolta, Rome, IT
1994	Tarrahan Azad Gallery, Tehran, IR
1993	Lawson Gallery, Seattle, USA
1992	Nour Foundation Gallery, New York, USA
1974	Seyhoun Gallery, Tehran, IR
1971	Sarah Ghandriz Gallery, Tehran, IR

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

2016	Voyage a Travers l'Iran, Foundation Behnam Bakhtiar, FR
2015	Shattered Music, Metropolitan Museum New York, USA
2013	Renoir to Damien Hirst, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, KR
2013	Heavenly Paradise, AB Gallery, Vienna, AT
2013	Art of Iran, Opera Gallery, Dubai, AE
2012	The Rule and its Exception, Debora Colton Gallery, Houston, USA
2012	Cross-Current, Coburn Gallery, Colorado College, USA
2011	Show off, The Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, AE
2010	Hope, Palais des Arts et Festival, Dinard, FR
2010	Tehran - New York, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
2010	Made in Iran, Opera Gallery, Dubai, AE
2009	Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA
2009	L'Iran sans frontieres, Galerie Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, FR
2009	Routes II, Waterhouse and Dodd, London, GB
2009	Khosrow and Shirin Series, Dar Al Funoon Gallery, Kuwait City, KW
2008	The Colour of Love, Farhangsara Cultural Centre, Tehran, IR
2004	Gardens of Iran, Ancient Wisdom - New Vision, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IR
2004	6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IR
2003	Assie Mennegini Gallery, Rome, IT
1995	Montclair State University, Montclair, USA
1994	Anzio City Hall, Anzio, IT
1979	Lorry Dunn's Gallery, Long Beach, USA
1977	Thumb Gallery, London, GB
1976	Tehran University Gallery, Tehran, IR

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

British Museum, London, GB
 Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA
 Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, RU
 Museum Gunzenhauer, Chemnitz, DE
 SPM, Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, AE
 Farjam foundation, Dubai, AE
 Passargad Museum, Tehran, IR
 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IR
 Collection of Leon Black, New York, USA
 Collection of Sam Bardaouil, New York, USA
 Collection of Athena Andreadis, London, GB
 Collection of Maryam Eisler, London, GB
 Collection of Mr and Mrs Lancillotti, IT
 Collection of Roger Federer, Zurich, CH
 Collection of The Royal Family of Abu-Dhabi, AE
 Collection of Sting and Trudie Styler, London, GB
 Tehran Contemporary Art Museum, Tehran, IR
 Mirella Haggiag collection, Rome, IT

PUBLICATION

- 2017 Reza Derakshani - Black Water, SETAREH, Dusseldorf, (exhibition catalogue), Düsseldorf
- 2016 Reza Derakshani, Retrospective at the Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, exhibition catalogue), St. Petersburg
- 2016 Reza Derakshani. Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz. Museum Gunzenhauser, (exhibition catalogue), Chemnitz
- 2016 Reza Derakshani, The Breeze at Dawn, Forword by Norman Rosenthal, Sophia Contemporary Gallery, London
- 2013 Hamid Keshmirshakan, Contemporary Iranian Art: New Perspectives, Saqi, London
- 2013 My Wicked Persian Carpet, Essay by Scott Indrisek, Taymour Grahne New York
- 2012 And Diverse are their Hues, ed. by Jonathon Bloom and Sheila Blair, Yale University Press, New Haven
- 2012 Silence of the Night, Essay by Negar Azimi, Leila Heller, New York
- 2010 Saeb Eigner, Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World and Iran, Merrell, London
- 2010 Reza Derakshani, Selected Works, Preface by Sussan Babaie and Roxana Zand, Patrick Cramer Publisher, Geneva