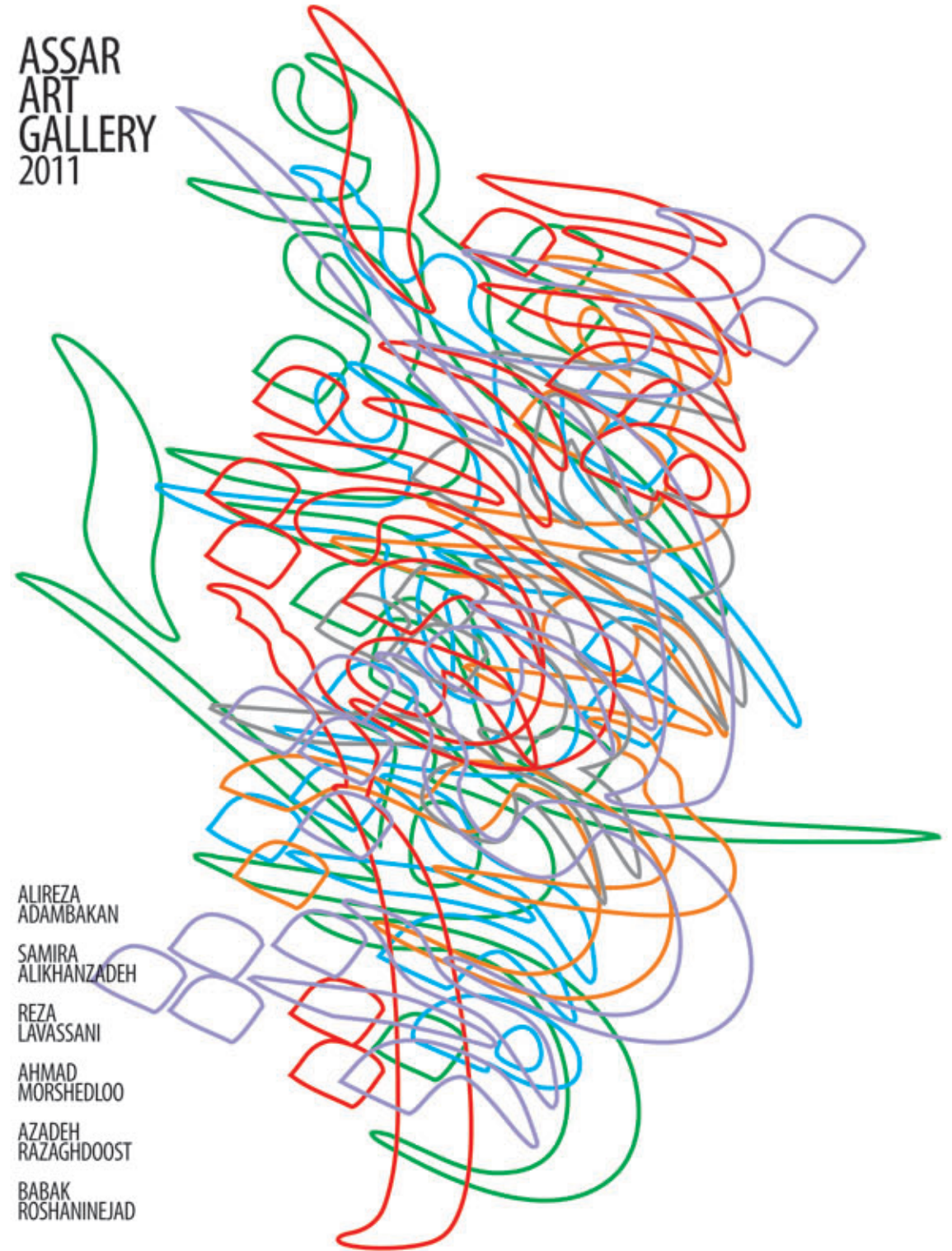


**CONTEMPORARY ISTANBUL**  
24<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> OF  
**NOVEMBER 2011**  
BOOTH 306 ON LEVEL A (GROUND FLOOR),  
LUTFI KIRDAR HALL,  
ISTANBUL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE



**ASSAR  
ART  
GALLERY  
2011**



ALIREZA  
ADAMBAKAN

SAMIRA  
ALIKHANZADEH

REZA  
LAVASSANI

AHMAD  
MORSHEDLOO

AZADEH  
RAZAGHDOOST

BABAK  
ROSHANINEJAD

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ASSAR  
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2011



CONTEMPORARY  
ARTS IN  
ISTANBUL

NOVEMBER 2011



ASSAR  
ART  
GALLERY

As one of Tehran's leading galleries, Assar Art Gallery offers special programs for its audience to engage with modern and contemporary Iranian art.

Established in 1999, the gallery has maintained its unique profile and position as an independent force in the Iranian art scene. The gallery has ongoing programs of solo and group shows in the capital and is a regular presence promoting the very best of Iranian art internationally. As well as promoting art, Assar regularly sponsors cultural events, publications and is a keen player in supporting emerging talents.

For this edition of Contemporary Istanbul, Assar Art Gallery exclusively presents the recent works by six of its representing artists: Alireza Adambakan, Samira Alikhanzadeh, Reza Lavassani, Ahmad Morshedloo, Azadeh Razaghdoost and Babak Roshaninejad. In this show, the gallery wishes to portray the importance and relevance of the art of Iran in the region and hopes to transcend boundaries through the language of visual arts from culturally one of the most interesting countries of the Middle East.

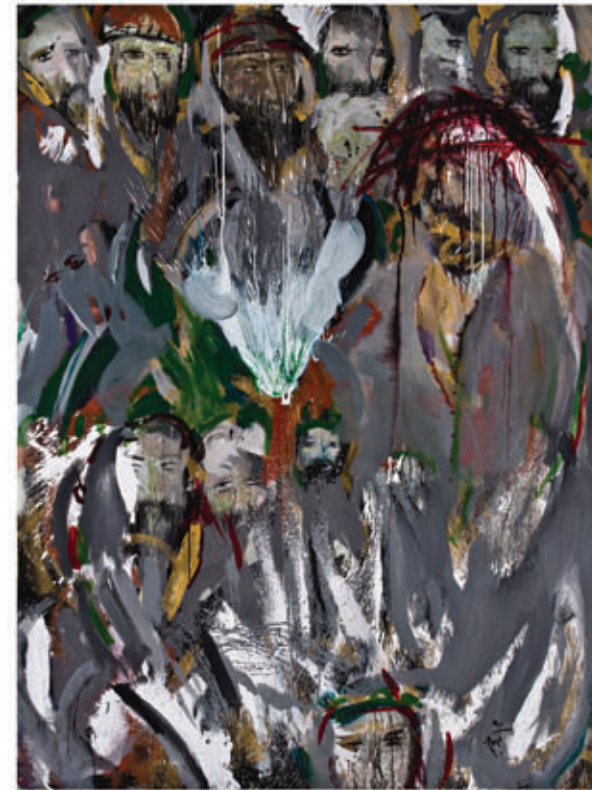


## ALIREZA ADAMBAKAN

Alireza Adambakan was born in Tehran, Iran in 1976 and graduated from the Azad University with a BA in painting in 1999. He has held many solo and group exhibitions in Iran and internationally and his work is part of important collections.

The two mixed media paintings presented in this selection explore the artist's strong relationship towards concepts of religion and cultural references. In the *Haftad-o-Du-Tan* series, Adambakan translates some established religious and cultural codes and uses them in an artistic context to express his confusion in a society where the connection between modern morals and traditional habits seems to collide.

Adambakan works mainly with acrylic or plastic paints as he believes they give him the freedom to work frequently and intensely on his pieces. The scale of his latest works is notably larger than before and the bold and intense colours are always present in his artistic language.



*Kamad* from the *Haftad-o-Du-Tan* series  
Mixed media on canvas  
200x150 cm  
2011

*Truth is Wonder* from the *Haftad-o-Du-Tan* series  
Mixed media on canvas  
200x150 cm  
2011



## SAMIRA ALIKHANZADEH

سَمیرا علیخانزاده

Born in 1967 in Tehran, Iran and graduated from the Azad University with an MFA in painting in 1998, Alikhanzadeh has held numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Her works are part of some important collections such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). She lives and works in Iran.

Alikhanzadeh's works are the constructions of her sensitive search for elements that together would present the audience with a unique feeling. These feelings are aroused by the notions of identity, time and drama. In her pieces, Alikhanzadeh uses old photographs found randomly at people's homes, using various objects, she turns them into subjects that try to surpass our commonly defined ideas about identity and culture and present us with a unique experience as to how we relate to our past and present.

The work presented in this exhibition is a piece from the *Persian Carpet* series where old photographs were digitally printed on perspex and with a use of real carpet, this mixed media piece is set to communicate complex layers of meaning and address subjects such as culture, identity and display.

No. 7 from the *Persian Carpet* series  
Digital print on perspex and Borchalou rug  
162x218 cm  
2011



## REZA LAVASSANI

Born in 1962 in Tehran, Iran and graduated from the University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts with a BA in painting in 1991, Reza Lavassani's works have been exhibited extensively and his works are part of some important collections. Being based in Tehran, he works both as a painter and a sculptor.

His enigmatic paintings and Papier-mâché sculptures are his own visualized subjects taken mainly from old Persian folktales and literature. Lavassani's pieces are the contemporary depiction of characters and subjects that long have been talked about, described and treasured among Persian speaking cultures.

Lavassani's defining approach to art-making is his use of lines. He starts every project with drawing and he is dedicated to use the traditional form and materials in art making. In this Papier-mâché sculpture, the artist presents us with a tree derived from a piece of poetry by the famous and much loved fourteenth century poet Hafez:  
*Beneath their load are the trees that have attachment: O happy the Cypress, who free from grief's bond came.*

*Beneath Their Loads Are the Trees* from the *Wonder* series  
Papier-mâché  
240x96X50 cm  
2008-2011



AZADEH  
RAZAGHDOOST



Razaghdoost received a BA in painting from Tehran's University of Art in 2002. Born in Tehran, Iran in 1979, she has exhibited widely both inside and outside Iran. Today her work is part of some important collections and she is considered one of the most active young painters of Iran.

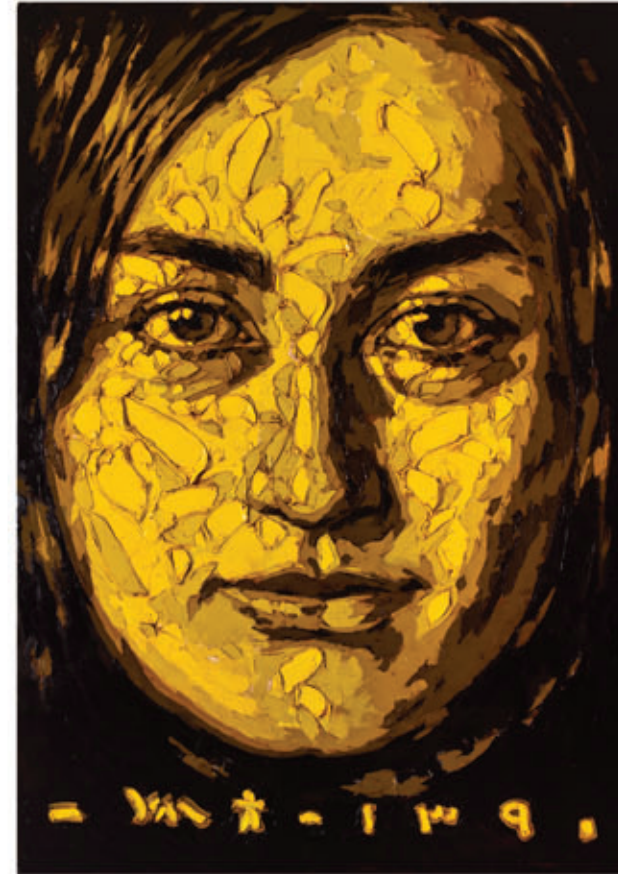
The work presented in this show is selected from her latest *Letters* series in which Razaghdoost took inspiration from notes and letters by poets, writers and also her own memories of school years and childhood. Her work is the depiction of innocence that is also emotionally sophisticated. In her works, Razaghdoost expresses agony towards subjects, realities, stories and memories that have left her feeling painfully poetic. Using pencil to leave vague marks on heavily applied oil colours on her canvases producing highly charged pictures that would engage the observers both intellectually and sensually. These writings have no relation or link to the idea of aesthetic beauty of words or calligraphy, but their presence is a continuation of the artist's use of elements she has always been accustomed to use and practice throughout her career as an artist.

*Through Air Where Roses of Black Gunpowder Burst No. 7 from the Letters series*  
Oil and pencil on canvas  
180 X 130 cm  
2011



## BABAK ROSHANINEJAD

Roshaninejad is a self-taught painter. He has exhibited widely and his work is part of important collections such as the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Born in Hamedan, Iran in 1977 where he still lives and works. The pieces presented here are the artist's latest works from the *Mask* series. The collection of portraits in this series present Roshaninejad's highly stylized approach to painting. He uses painting as his tool to express intense philosophical outlook on life and existence. His large scale distinctive canvases normally consist of specific limited colours and he uses very thick oil paint to depict his subjects. The overall images are aesthetically very carefully and specifically set and are somewhat extreme, "a result of me defending myself against the mainstream" as he puts it.



*What Are You Doing Here At This Time of Night No. 2* from the *Mask* series  
Oil on canvas  
200x140 cm  
2011

*What Are You Doing Here At This Time of Night No. 1* from the *Mask* series  
Oil on canvas  
200x140 cm  
2011