

Parham Ghalamdar



Workplace Foundation
19 – 21 West Street
Gateshead, NE8 1AD

Exhibition continues:
18 Jan – 29 Feb 2020

Workplace Foundation is excited to present the first solo exhibition of Parham Ghalamdar.

Painted in intense acidic colour, surreal forms and structures inhabit desolate and empty landscapes. Uncanny and strange these objects adhere to rigorous placement, assimilating elements drawn from a diverse range of Western and Middle Eastern Art History such as Caravaggio, Goya, Bouguereau, Soviet Socialist realism, graffiti, pop culture and traditional Persian miniatures.

Parham Ghalamdar's works switch between the aesthetics of realism and the cartoon. Through this absurdist strategy Ghalamdar obfuscates narrative enabling the painting to stand alone, resistant to a didactic reading. The considered, rational structuring of his paintings stand as a counterpoint to the oppressive weight of dogmatic ideology that Parham experienced in his homeland.

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1994, Parham Ghalamdar studied Printing and Media at the Art University in Tehran. Parham was a founding member of ELF Crew, the first graffiti collective in Iran. ELF became known for their transgressive and coded resistance to the regime and their liberal progressive subculture.

Arrested multiple times for graffiti Parham was eventually detained indefinitely in the North of Iran in 2015 where interrogations became more forceful and the authorities began to investigate his associations and social networks more thoroughly. Fearing for his life (his sexuality, if exposed, would be punishable by death) Parham managed to escape Iran, travelling through Asia before being granted asylum in the UK. In 2019 he completed his BA in Fine Art, Painting at Manchester Metropolitan University where he is currently an MA student.

Previous exhibitions include *Stretch*, P.S Mirabel Gallery, Manchester; *Graffiti, Vandalism and Protest in Iran: An Archival Curation*, People's History Museum, Manchester; *Super Brain*, Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk, UK; Kamil Gallery, Monaco; *Art, social space and public discourse in Iran*, Coulter art gallery, Stanford, USA; *Contemporary Iranian Art*, Sotheby's Los Angeles; The Mine Gallery, Dubai, UAE; Affenfaust Gallery, Hamburg; *Few scenes from paradise*, Atbin Gallery, Tehran. Parham Ghalamdar lives and works in Manchester, UK

Workplace Foundation is a new charity based in Gateshead in the North of England that supports emerging and under-represented artists with a specific commitment to UK art scenes outside of London and with a focus on The North of England.

For further information on how to support Workplace Foundation, please contact Miles Thurlow at: miles@workplacefoundation.art

Workplace Foundation
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List of Works:



Parham Ghalamdar
Simulating fire, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 30 cm
 19 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0018)



Parham Ghalamdar
Staging the reality, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 35 cm
 19 3/4 x 13 3/4 in
 (PG0017)



Parham Ghalamdar
The fist from every Communist poster, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 30 cm
 19 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0016)



Parham Ghalamdar
Practical instruction for safeguarding and survival, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 30 x 35 cm
 11 3/4 x 13 3/4 in
 (PG0015)



Parham Ghalamdar
Cheap prop for a low-budget student film which was never made, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 7.5 x 4.5 cm
 3 x 1 3/4 in
 (PG0014)



Parham Ghalamdar
On the edge of the spring
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 30 cm
 19 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0013)



Parham Ghalamdar
He was dead already, he just couldn't accept it yet, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 50 cm
 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in
 (PG0012)



Parham Ghalamdar
Tree, road, desert and backdrop, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 30 x 40 cm
 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 in
 (PG0009)



Parham Ghalamdar
Spectre, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 80 x 59 cm
 31 1/2 x 23 1/4 in
 (PG0008)



Parham Ghalamdar
Satisfactory red Diamond Shape, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 38 x 30 cm
 15 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0007)



Parham Ghalamdar
Air Flight 655, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 30 cm
 19 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0005)



Parham Ghalamdar
Theorising Conspiracy, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 40 x 30 cm
 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0004)



Parham Ghalamdar
Certified copy, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 50 x 50 cm
 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in
 (PG0003)



Parham Ghalamdar
Empowering a certain narration, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 40 x 30 cm
 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
 (PG0002)



Parham Ghalamdar
Staging, 2019
 Oil on canvas
 120 x 110 cm
 47 1/4 x 43 1/4 in
 (PG0001)