

IMAN AFSARIAN

Iranian, born 1974



Afsarian completed his BA and MA degrees at the University of Art in Tehran in 2000, by which time he was already participating regularly in the Painting Biennials at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Afsarian emphasises that he is a realist painter, following the influential painting tradition of Realism, which dates back over a century ago in Iran. He is strongly affected by the aura of an empty space. Afsarian explains "Seeing, after a funeral, the empty chairs of guests left alone beside the wall; looking at the black lace flowers hooked on the wall; staring, in the deep boredom, at the nothing on an empty wall and waiting for the winter light to pass over it. Even facing the nothing in the mirror - these are the moments that make me paint, make me portray the moment of loss and nothingness."

In response to current life in Tehran, Afsarian feels strongly that the people who depart from this life, and the houses which are destroyed daily, should not be forgotten and pass unrepresented but that this melancholy and the 'non-existence' should be made real for us to bear witness to. He has been influenced by the play of shadow and light in Andrei Tarkovski's movies as well as the works of painters such as Vermeer, Chardin, Hammershøi and most importantly, by his childhood memories.

Brief Biography

Since completing his BA and MA, Afsarian has had five solo exhibitions at the Aria Art Gallery and Haft Samar Art Gallery in Tehran. Further afield, Afsarian's work has been exhibited at the Moscow Artist's House in Russia (2005) and at the Mousonturm Cultural Center in Frankfurt, Germany. Two years ago, Afsarian was invited by the Iran Heritage Foundation to participate in an exhibition of contemporary Iranian art entitled *Broken Promises, Forbidden Dreams* in London.