

AB ANBAR



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# **MAJID FATHIZADEH**

IDEOLOGUES OF THE GAME AND OTHER SEEKERS OF  
THE END

Curated by Hannah Feldman

# MAJID FATHIZADEH

## IDEOLOGUES OF THE GAME AND OTHER SEEKERS OF THE END

23 January - 24 February, 2024 | Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

Ab-Anbar gallery is proud to present 'Ideologues of the Game and Other Seekers of the End,' an exhibition curated by Hannah Feldman. The show marks Majid Fathizadeh's first solo exhibition outside his native Iran, where he has been making and exhibiting work since 2003.

In two parts spread across two gallery floors, the exhibition offers a survey of drawings, paintings, watercolors, and sketchbooks from these decades, which have witnessed the artist evolve a painterly style that at once honors the traditions of European-style painting in multiple genres, but especially its predilection for allegory and symbolism, while also adhering to traditions of a parallel humanist tradition in Iran. While attentive to specific local historical events and exigencies, Fathizadeh's dark and often large format paintings present a landscape of human behavior underscored by the deleterious effects of ideology, be it political, religious, or nationalist that, like a game with no end, promulgate exclusionary and eliminatory thinking and its violent ends in war, oppression, and eco-genocide globally.

At the core of the exhibition's focus is also the idea that the artist, here Fathizadeh, is also implicated in this "game" of power and privilege through the making and working with art historical forms that have historically been used to naturalize narrative of ethnic superiority and colonial impunity. Inherently ideological, art is here wrested from the purposes of this game and made to articulate counter narratives that refuse the identitarian separations between "here" and "there," even in expectations of contemporary art practice.

### EVENTS

Ab-Anbar Gallery, 34 Mortimer St, W1W 7JS

#### **HANNAH FELDMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH SUSSAN BABAIE**

23rd January 2024, 5 - 6 pm

RSVP [Here](#)

#### **OPENING RECEPTION**

23rd January 2024, 6 - 8 pm

### INFO

Additional images of works available on request,  
[info@ab-anbar.com](mailto:info@ab-anbar.com)



## MAJID FATHIZADEH: **BIOGRAPHY**

Majid Fathizadeh (b.1977, Iran, Zahedan), lives and works in Iran, creating paintings inspired by the European Old Masters but which depict the chaos of our own times, from environmental catastrophe to biopolitics and the relentless humanitarian disaster of war. His dark and enigmatic sepia-toned works feature a macabre cast of characters engrossed in a grotesque and relentless dance – a darkly seductive, densely populated underworld where naked figures crawl into the mouths and bellies of gigantic fish and giants wander blasted landscapes. Often created on a monumental scale, these savage and unsettling satires on contemporary folly are told with a cacophony of visual storytelling, delivered with a painterly delicacy.

A collaborator with Fathizadeh, the novelist and screenwriter Jean Claude Carriere notes, ‘He (Fathizadeh) exposes his own world beside ours. The world which year after year has deepened and coloured itself. Majid has opened the doors to us and dares us to follow him.’

He has featured in many group exhibitions including ‘Speaking from the Heart’, Framer Framed, Amsterdam and History game, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran. Fathizadeh’s solo shows have featured in many of the most prominent galleries in Tehran such as the Azad Art Gallery which held the ‘To Engage’ exhibition (2015) and the Kaaf Foundation who exhibited ‘Obstruction’ in 2015.



Red Rose, 2023, Oil on canvas, 320 x 200 x 4cm



Red Carpet , 2023, Oil paint on canvas, 200 x 260 cm



Execution, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 70 x 190 x 4.5 cm



Self Portrait #1, 2007, Dip pen and ink, 31 x 21.5cm



Shoot, 2007, Dip pen and ink on watercolour paper, 33 x 24cm