

EQUINOX GALLERY  
3642 Commercial Street  
Vancouver, BC V5N 4G2

604.736.2405 t  
info@equinoxgallery.com e  
www.equinoxgallery.com w

## **Hamed Rashtian: *Reveries***

July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Reception for the artist: Friday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7pm

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

\* \* \* \* \*

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present *Reveries*, a special exhibition with Hamed Rashtian. Hamed Rashtian is a Vancouver-based visual artist who focuses on creating a dialogue between various colonial histories through his art. Through his practice, Rashtian delves into a thought-provoking exploration of Iran's rich cultural heritage, evoking contemplation on the ever-evolving interplay between history, collective identity, and the built environment.

In 2016, Hamed Rashtian began working on a series of sculptures driven by his response to the depiction of turmoil and unrest in Iran through mainstream media. This body of work reflects his investigation into the historical and cultural background of the region, as he aimed to unveil the foundations of its collective identity. Rashtian's quest for these ideas was ignited by a series of books edited and written by his mentor in sculpture, Parviz Tanavoli, a prominent figure in Iranian Modern Art, whose expertise and guidance influenced his artistic vision.

Rashtian's research yielded various projects, including the series entitled *Reveries*. Of the three pieces presented here, two are influenced by intricate and multi-layered architectural structures that combine fragments inspired by Iranian architecture with pottery elements. The third sculpture represents a further iteration, intertwining a colossal yet minimalist brick tower called Gonbad-e Kavus from the north of Iran with diverse compositions of architectural fragments inspired by Iranian architecture. The complex and multifaceted nature of these sculptures serves as a testament to the intricate tapestry that is woven into the culture and history of Iran.

The artist's deliberate choice to emphasize architecture stems from the understanding that collective memories are often manipulated and reshaped to serve the urgent needs of the present. As architecture physically embodies tangible remnants of the past within the present, existing buildings with enduring imprints from years gone by can serve as historical witnesses. Recognizing the subjective nature of history and the inherent biases embedded in historical narratives, the idea that historical narratives can provide absolute truth is challenged. While people may lie or forget about the past, the buildings we see around us remain steadfast.

Hamed Rashtian completed his MFA at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver and holds a Swiss Federal Diploma in Higher Education from the F+F School of Art and Design in Zurich. Active as a visual artist since 2006, Rashtian has had solo exhibitions in Iran, Switzerland, and United Arab Emirates as well as participated in many international group exhibitions. He is a PhD student in the School of Interactive Arts & Technology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.