

ARTIST

Kour Pour



Installation View: Kour Pour, *Polypainting* solo exhibition at GNYP Gallery in 2018

Kour Pour

No-man's-land

2016

acrylic on canvas over panel

165 x 134 cm

65 x 53 in





Kour Pour

Kour Pour is a British artist of Iranian descent. As such, he explores in his works the ideologies and cultural constructions of East and West, either by the appropriation and highlighting of iconic symbols derived from oriental civilizations, or by experimenting with traditional Asian techniques. He combines a historical and cultural specific moment, the figurative Orient, for instance, with the ahistorical question of painting's material, that is, paint and color. Using a range of different techniques, such as silkscreen printing or the application of several paint layers by the use of a broomstick, Kour Pour essays to translate the character of particular rugs onto the paneled surfaces.

Born in 1987, he earned his BFA at the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. Kour Pour was featured on the *Forbes 30 Under 30: Art And Style* list in 2015 and 2017. He is currently based in Los Angeles.



Kour Pour

Geometric Painting 22

2018

acrylic on on canvas over panel

76 x 63.5 cm

30 x 25 in





Kour Pour
Yakeishidake
2015

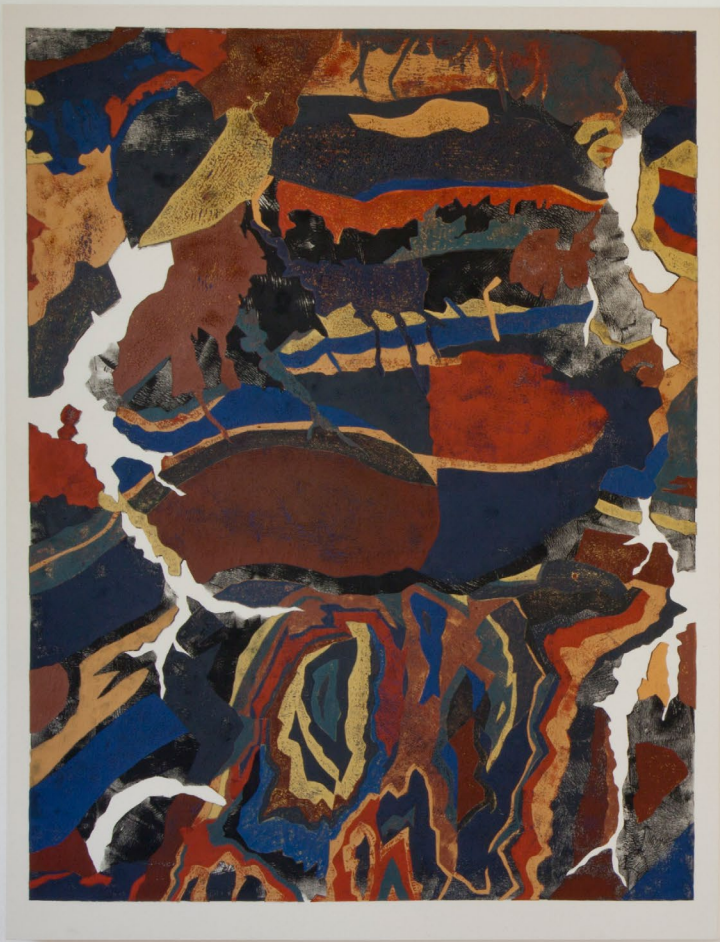
block printing, ink on canvas

200 x 169 cm
78 3/4 x 55 1/2 in

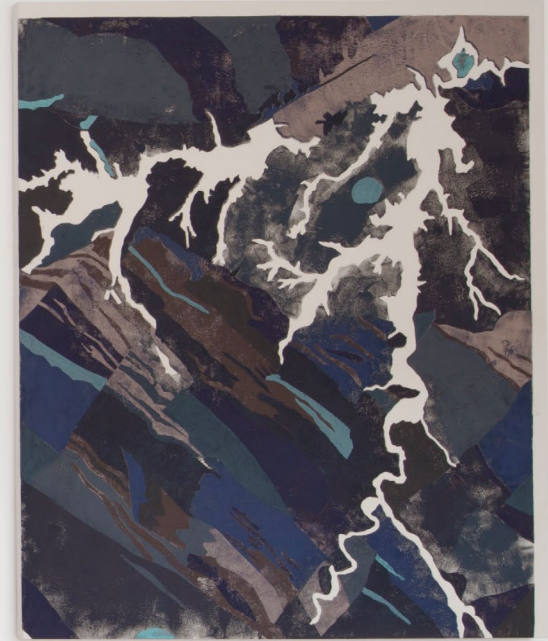
My father had a small carpet shop in England and I remember being in the shop when I was very young. My father moved to the UK from Iran when he was only 14 years old. He and my uncle were on their own in England, they didn't know English at the time and because of what was happening in Iran they never went back. Later on my father met my mother, who was British. I think they were only 19 when they married, and they were fighting to support themselves. My dad worked a lot of different jobs but the carpet shop was always memorable to me.

Kour Pour





Installation View: Kour Pour, *Onagata* solo exhibition at GNYP Gallery in 2016



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My first memory of LA was hearing hip-hop music on the radio. I became fascinated by the sounds that were used in the songs and even had the idea of becoming a music producer. When I finally moved here I went to community college while waiting for recording school to start and took some art classes. Then it just happened to me, I fell into art.

Kour Pour



Kour Pour

Polypainting

APRIL 26 - JUNE 24, 2020

GNYP Gallery is delighted to present the second solo exhibition of the Los Angeles based artist Kour Pour. The nexus of the artist's various bodies of work lies in his reference to specific art making practices located between different global geographies and points in time. Existing series have referenced the visual languages of Persian carpets, Japanese prints and American abstract painting. The works in the new exhibition Polypainting, take their formal structures from the tradition of Persian miniature paintings, which are in themselves an amalgamation of influences and styles from multiple cultures.

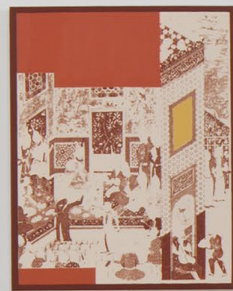
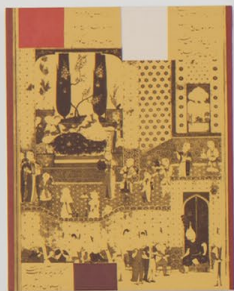
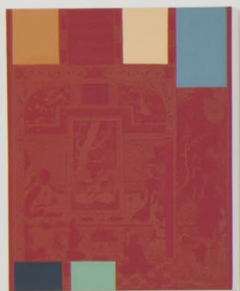
In each of the six paintings displayed, different themes are addressed from migration to spirituality, identity and colonialism. This is achieved through the artist's selection of images and symbols from different locations, time periods and cultures, which are collected from books, old catalogues and websites. Using a framework typical of a Persian miniature painting, these images are organized or collaged in Photoshop to create playful and dynamic compositions of disparate motifs. The paintings are carefully prepared then silkscreened and hand painted in multiple layers. The silkscreen printed sections have a digital or pixelated quality, while the meticulous hand painting is reminiscent of traditional miniature painting. The artist then finishes each work by sanding the surface to look and feel worn or antiqued.

In another body of work exhibited, Geometric Paintings, the artist silk-screened images appropriated from pages of Persian miniature paintings from the well known Shahnameh, the Persian Book of Kings, written by the 11th century poet Firdausi about Iran's mythical and pre-islamic history. Pour painted sections of the text out with blocks of colour, which disrupts the reading of the story and at the same time redacts the written farsi, for those who can read it. For those who cannot, the different blocks of colour play off of each other in a way that is reminiscent of minimal geometric abstraction, a style that is highly celebrated in Western art. For Pour, appropriation and the application of multiple visual languages highlights the influences of one culture on another, as well as the tendency to observe the world through inherited concepts of taste based on each viewer's personal history and identity.

Polypainting represents a shift from looking at histories as linear and stagnate, to a globally inclusive perspective of culture that branches out in every which direction. Through the combination of art historical and cultural styles, to the different speeds of paint application by hand or printmaking, the use of technology to gather and organize images, and the way the paintings visually keep the eye moving around the surface, these works carry with them the feeling of a cosmopolitan existence.



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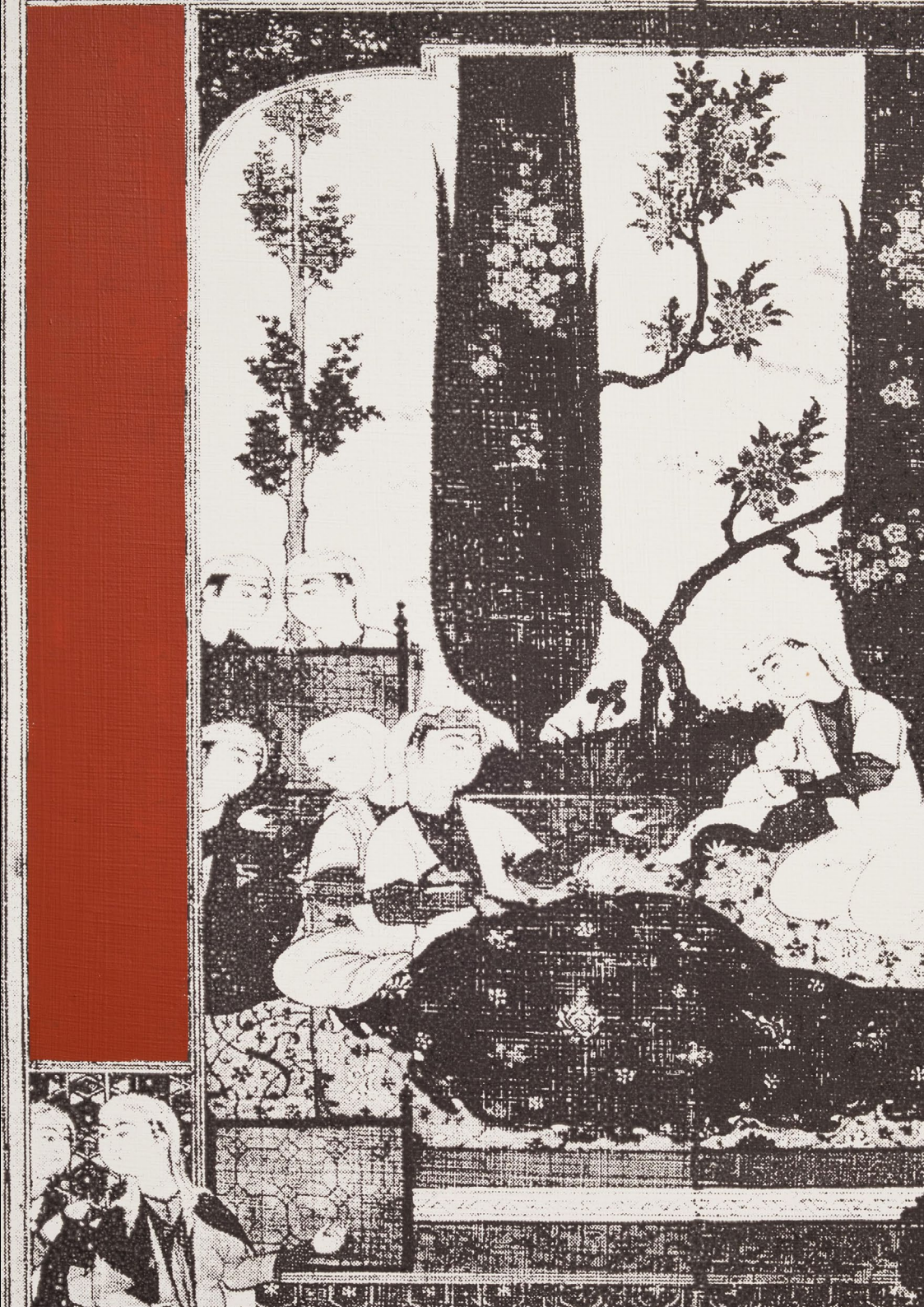


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Appearance in my practice is important as I enjoy visual pleasure and stimulation, but it is only one element of the work. When people come to visit me at the studio they realize that there is a conceptual side to my practice, which is growing and changing in different ways. Art can be beautiful, smart and interesting all at the same time.

Kour Pour







What is interesting to me are the images and objects that I am referencing in my work. Some are thousands of years old and the people who created them, often with their own hands, believed that they had real meaning or some sort of spiritual or magical power. I really love that.

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Kour Pour

Solo Exhibitions

2021

Familiar Spirits

Kavi Gupta Gallery, Washington (USA)

2020

Fallow

THE CLUB, Tokyo (Japan)

2019

Returnee

THE CLUB, Tokyo (Japan)

Manzareh/Keshiki/Landscape

Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco (USA)

2018

Abrash

Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago (USA)

Kour Pour

Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

Polypainting

GNYP Gallery, Berlin (Germany)

Polypainting

Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

2016

Onnagata

GNYP Gallery, Berlin (Germany)

Onnagata

Mesler Feuer, New York (USA) and The American Academy, Rome (Italy)

2015

Samsara

Depart Foundation, Los Angeles (USA)

2014

Ozymandias

Ellis King, Dublin (Ireland)

Kour Pour

UNTITLED, New York (USA)

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021

I & the ME

THE SHOPHOUSE gallery concept, Hong Kong

A Boundless Drop to a Boundless Ocean

Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando (USA)

2020

Glitch: Art and Technology Exhibitions

Margo Veillon Gallery, AUC Tahrir Square, The American University in Cairo, Cairo (Egypt)

2019

LA Painting

Museum of Art and History, Lancaster (UK)

Gold Standard

Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco (USA)

Centennial: 100 Years of Otis College Alumni

Ben Maltz Gallery - Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles (USA)

2018

Mossavar-Nameh

Dastan's Basement, Tehran (Iran)

2017

Grinding

Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco (USA)

Earthquakes and The Mid Winter Burning Sun

Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco (USA)

Decoration Never Dies, Anyway

Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Museum, Tokyo (Japan)

Horror Vacui, or The Annihilation of Space

Misako & Rosen, Tokyo (Japan)

2016

Labyrinth(s)

Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

2015

From Above

Di Donna, New York (USA)

Painting Show – Part One

Galerie Ruddier Schöttle, Munich (Germany)

CONTACT & INQUIRIES

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