

ORKIDEH TORABI

b. 1979, Tehran, Iran
Live and works in Chicago, IL

EDUCATION

- 2016 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Master of Fine Arts, Painting and Drawing
- 2014 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Post-Baccalaureate, Painting and Drawing
- 2005 The University of Art, Tehran, Iran, Master of Arts, Illustration
- 2002 The University of Art, Tehran, Iran, Bachelor of Arts, Graphic Design

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Christopher Davison and Orkideh Torabi*, Horton Gallery, New York, NY
Orkideh Torabi: New Paintings, Yes, Please & Thank You, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Council*, curated by Robert Burnier, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL
EXPANDED, MANA Contemporary Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *Ground Floor*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
Sullivan Gallery, Chicago, IL
MCAC Emerging Illinois Artist, Bloomington, IL
Cool and Lame gallery, Chicago, IL
The National Wet Paint MFA Biennial, Chicago, IL
23rd Annual Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal U.S.A. Art Appreciation Program Presidential Award Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2015 Gallery 213 at Mana Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
The Open Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Sullivan Gallery, Chicago, IL
21rd Annual Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal U.S.A. Art Appreciation Program Presidential Award Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2013 The Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria
Open Knowledge Foundation Austria (OKFT) on the occasion of the international women's day, Tehran, Iran
Shirin Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 Aria Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 *The Third Contemporary Drawing Festival*, Imam Ali Museum, Tehran, Iran
- 2010 Imam Ali Museum, Tehran, Iran
Iran Painters Association, Tehran, Iran

- 2009 The Second Contemporary Drawing Festival, Imam Ali Museum, Tehran, Iran
- 2008 Iran Painters Association, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 Group printmaking workshop, Barg gallery, Tehran, Iran
Group printmaking exhibition, Barg gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2006 Iran Painters Association, Tehran, Iran
- 2005 Laleh gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2004 Kamaledin Behzad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

COLLECTIONS

Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, WA

RESIDENCIES

- 2017 Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE
Wassaic Residency Program, Wassaic, NY
ACRE, Steuben, WI

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2017 New American Paintings. Midwest, Issue #131.
Art and Cake Magazine. Quinn, Patrick. "Yes, Please, and Thank You Projects: New Paintings by Orkideh Torabi." January 26, 2017.
Amadeus Mag. Khatchadourian, Alex. "Subverting Masculinity: Orkideh Torabi's 'New Paintings'." January 6, 2017.
Artillery. Osberg, Annabel. "Orkideh Torabi: Yes, Please & Thank You Gallery". March 7, 2017
- 2016 Chicago Gallery News. Reilly, Allison. "Ground Floor at the Hyde Park Art Center". September 20, 2016
New City. Ali, Hiba. "Colorful, Cartoonish Constructions of Masculinity A Review of Orkideh Torabi at Western Exhibitions." July 27, 2016
Chicago Reader. "Some Standouts Among the Hodgepodge at SAIC's MFA Show." Dmitry Samarov, April 29, 2016.
- 2014 *Ajaib Almakhuqat-e Qazvuni in The Lithographed Images of Ali Quli Khoi*, Tehran: Nazar.
- 2012 Orkideh Torabi, Shahrouz Mohajer, Trans, *Persian lithography from the orientalist's point of view*, Tehran: Peikareh.
- 2011 "Research on The Lithographed Images of Ali Quli Khoi in Ajaib Almakhuqat-e Qazvini." *Ketabe Honar-e Mah*, Vol. 156.
- 2010 "Meraj-e Mohammad: The Lithographed Images of the Prophet Mohammad" *Farhang-e Mardom*, Vol. 35-36: 127-148.
"Ost d Satt r-e Tarizi; The Prominent Illustrator in Tabriz", *Art and Culture of Qajar Court in Tabriz panel*". Lecture in the International Book Fair in Tehran.
- 2007 "Constitutional period in Iran". *Herfe Honarmand*. Vol. 18.

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Orkideh Torabi makes paintings that lampoon Iran's patriarchal society, depicting Iranian men as absurd clown-like figures, drawing attention to the personal, political and social issues facing Iranian women. Her caricatures of male Iranian archetypes are made by painting on a silkscreen with fabric dye, then transferring the image onto the canvas using a squeegee, like a monoprint. This technique generates lurid, vividly saturated surfaces, relying on chance and imperfections. She mocks the complex and fragile masculinity of the Iranian society in which women appear completely absent. By portraying them with cartoonish whimsy, she strips the male oppressors of their power by undermining the culture of machismo that pervades Iranian society. Torabi says, "In demasculinizing them, and through repetition and displacement, I allow myself, as a female, to possess their power."

Writing recently in the *Chicago Reader*, artist and critic Dmitry Samarov observed "...the pieces that affected me the most were Orkideh Torabi's portraits. Silk-screened onto cotton in an odd, batik-like stained technique, the faces are eerily anonymous, yet somehow particular and subjective. Some seem like playing-card silhouettes, while others are reminiscent of circus posters or mugshots. Slippery, unfinished patterns lend an unsettled, mysterious demeanor. Their grouping forms a sort of rogues' gallery, though each offender's crime is to be supplied by the viewer's imagination."

Orkideh Torabi received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2016, and she received her MA and BA from The University of Art in Tehran. Torabi's solo and two-person shows include Yes, Please & Thank You in Los Angeles, Western Exhibitions and Horton Gallery in New York City. Group shows include Andrew Rafacz Gallery and the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago. She was selected for the 2017 Midwest issue of *New American Paintings* and has work in the Microsoft Art Collection in Redmond, WA. Torabi lives and works in Chicago. She is represented by Western Exhibitions, Chicago.