

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

- 2018 *Stacey Beach and Orkideh Torabi*, Interface Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 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

- 2018 *What have you got to lose?*, SLOW, Chicago, IL
- 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 Lane 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
Soho House, Brooklyn, NY

RESIDENCIES

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018 [Hyperallergic](#). Sutton, Benjamin. "Lapping Up NADA New York's Lush Portraits and Giant Tongue Sculptures." Mar. 9
Roberta Smith on [Instagram](#). "At Horton Gallery/Western Exhibitions chez @newartdealers..." March 11
- 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 Almakhluga-te 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.

"Ostad Sattar-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 imagines herself as a director who, through painting, resituates the power dynamics of patriarchal society in her native Iran. Rendered with simple button-like eyes, injured or missing noses, unnatural skin hues, and tacked-on mustaches, her unabashedly humorous paintings imbue the protagonists with an emasculated and clown-like state of being. She juxtaposes her cartoonish images of contemporary men against vivid patterns that are influenced by Persian miniatures, small yet highly detailed illustrations that have been an integral part of Iranian culture since the 13th century. In doing so, Torabi makes explicit that the past and present become interwoven. Using fabric dye on cotton fabric through an idiosyncratic transfer process that generates saturated surfaces, Torabi's paintings have a batik or watercolor-like fluidity in which her men revel. Titles like "Which One Is My Wife" and "I'll Catch You," update the timeless popular image of "the dirty old man" through contemporary political satire.

Notices from the 2018 NADA New York art fair:

"At Horton Gallery/Western Exhibitions chez @newartdealers the Iranian artist Orkideh Torabi works in fabric dye on cotton fabric and likes to hang her work on patterned walls. She got her MFA at the SAIC and lives and works in Chicago. Her work blends Persian painting with Hairy Who's like Nutt and Nilsson, fomenting optimism for the continuation of the reciprocal revitalizations of cultures. They simply won't be kept apart." – [Roberta Smith](#), *New York Times*

"The most eye-catching painting display is in the shared booth of Horton Gallery and Western Exhibitions, with its ornate orange wallpaper pattern, which serves as a popping backdrop for Orkideh Torabi's playful and attractive portraits." – Benjamin Sutton, [Hyperallergic](#)

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 in Chicago, Horton Gallery in New York City and upcoming at Interface Gallery in Oakland. 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 Horton Gallery in New York and Western Exhibitions in Chicago.