

Andaruni Landscapes Minoo Emami

March 11 - April 16, 2022



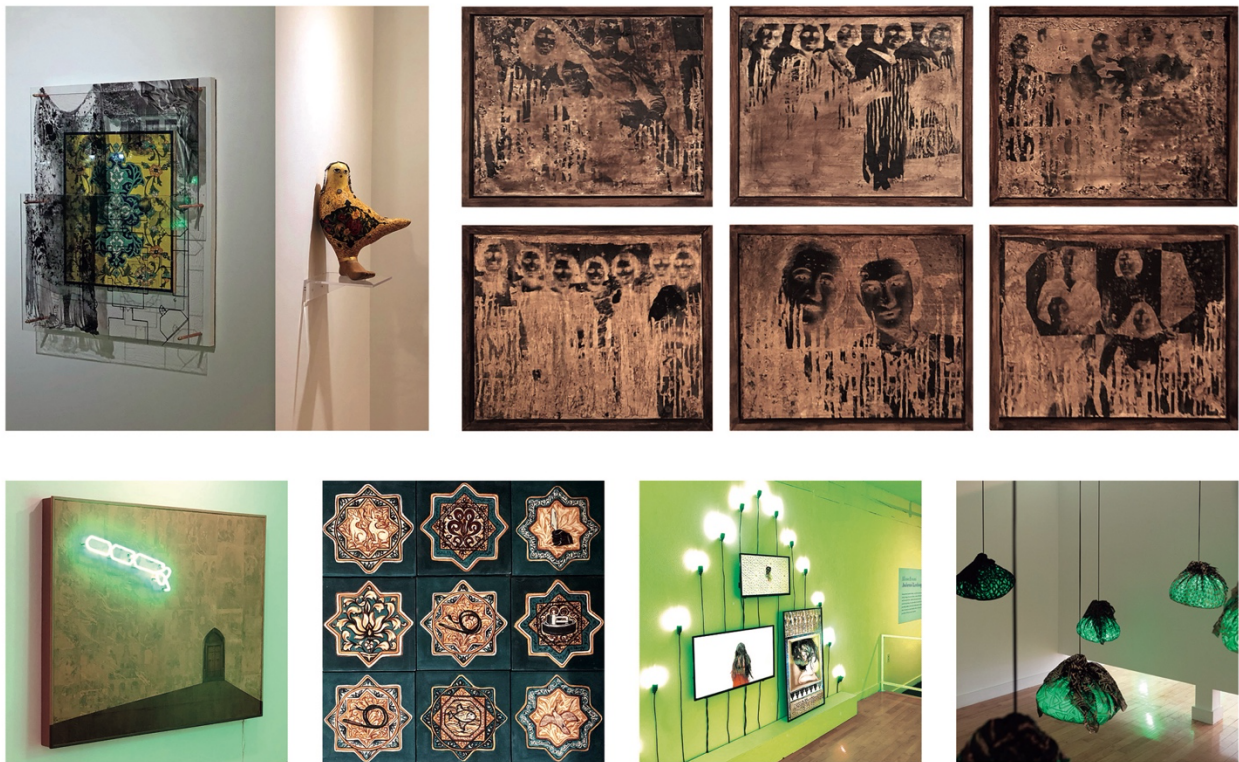
Andaruni, Minoo Emami, 2021

Andaruni Landscapes, Minoo Emami's second exhibition at Gallery Kayafas, highlights the intersection between her Iranian and feminine identities.

Through a variety of mediums, Emami celebrates the ability of women to come together, even in difficult times. Symbols of danger, themes of trauma, the consequences of war, and control of the female body are embedded in the photographs and paintings. Using Persian and Islamic aesthetic language and heritage, Emami takes the viewer into a private space, *andaruni* or courtyard, where possibility and hope exist.

Emami has presented us with several installations that make us wonder what is real and what is imagined. Projected onto the *Andaruni* installation (acrylic painting on canvas mounted to wood with curtains illuminated with green lights) is a moment of solitude in a protected garden. Within the illusion, two women are aware of each other but not connecting.

Green is a reappearing color in this exhibition for its representation of the Shi'a sect in Islam. Illuminating two of the galleries, green can also be found in the hand-painted tiles, hanging chiffon scarves, and the neon lettering penetrating *So, I Can Fly*. Symbolizing nature and life, green lights encapsulate the nine exquisite fabric bundles dropping from the ceiling.



In the six hauntingly beautiful paintings titled *War Family*, generations of women in Emami's family are depicted. *War Family I*, pictures Minoo, her daughter, her mother, and grandmother appearing as survivors together. Surfaces are damaged and scraped away, revealing only pieces of the image created from multiple layers of film transfers and oil painting. The viewer senses the resulting surface is the effect of a city bombing.

Minoo Emami is an Iranian multidisciplinary artist with over 30 years dedicated to art practice, teaching, and exhibition. Emami is a passionate activist for women, using her art and personal history to make us aware, bring about change, and contribute to the next generation's understanding of humanity and equality. Minoo has taught, given talks and presentations at universities and institutions in the U.S. Her work has been written about and exhibited in solo and group shows nationally and internationally. Her work has been collected privately and within the permanent collection of the Newport Art Museum, Newport, Rhode Island, USA and at *Lette International* in Berlin, Germany.

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