

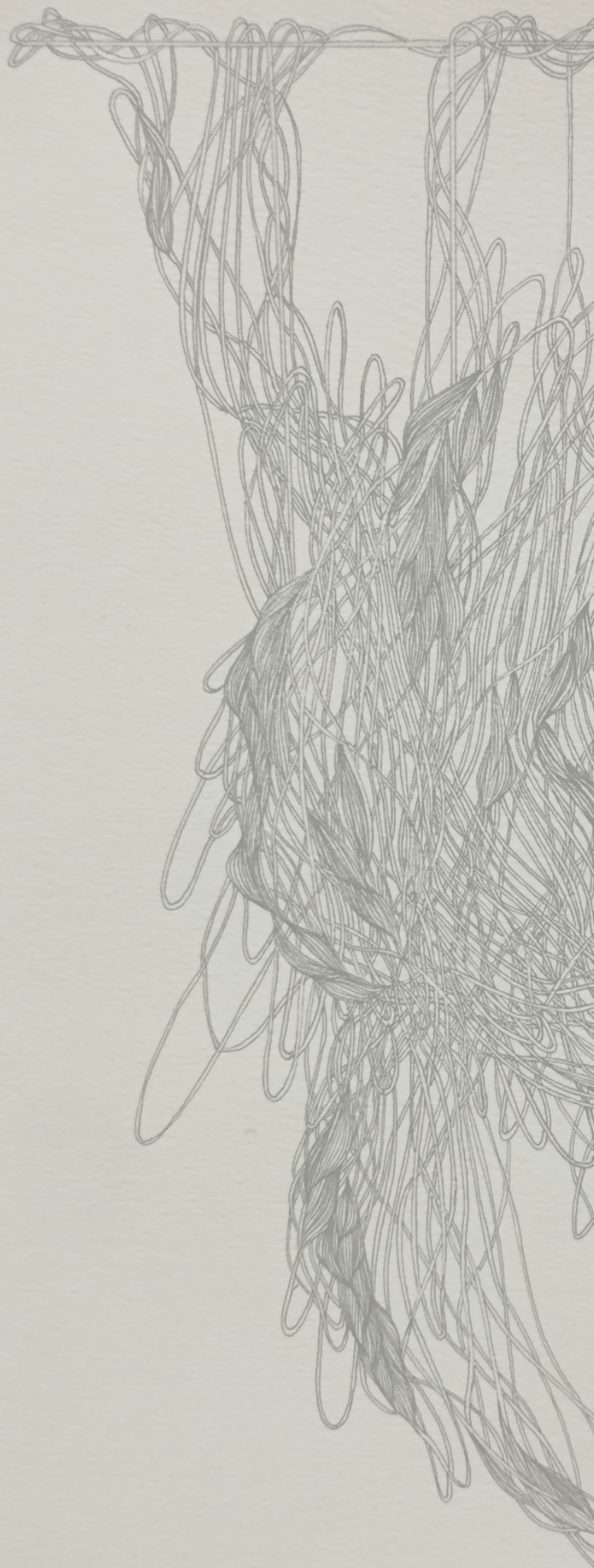
# Space: Chapter One



Didaar Art Collective

**Space: Chapter One**  
A Juried Exhibition of  
Drawing and Printmaking  
by Didaar Art Collective

April 9 - May 8, 2021  
Oliva Gallery  
3816 W Armitage Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60647  
(847) 922-5736





## **Jurors:**

### **Elise Archias**

Elise Archias is an associate professor of art history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research and classes center around art since 1945 including performance art and dance, asking questions about the relationship between abstract ideals, physical materials, and human needs in 20th- and 21st-century life and aesthetics.

### **Reza Hosseini**

Reza Hosseini is a Tehran-based painter, poet, and sculptor. He holds a BFA from the Atlanta College of Art in Georgia. His work has been displayed in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally, and can be found in many private art collections and art museums such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran and in Ahvaz.

### **Sangmi Yoo**

Sangmi Yoo is a Korean-American artist, professor of printmaking and drawing, associate director of art at Texas Tech University, and also a member of the International Graphic and Printmaking Council. Her work has been displayed in many solo and group exhibitions.

### **Leili Adibfar**

Leili Adibfar is a Ph.D. candidate in Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a co-founder of Didaar Art Collective. Her primary research is on Iranian art after 1945. She is interested in the role that modernist aesthetic theories, in conversation with local art historical and cultural legacies, played in the historical period that culminated in the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

### **Azadeh Husseini**

Azadeh Hussaini is a Chicago-based visual artist and art educator, a co-founder of Didaar Art Collective, and a curator and board member at Theatre- Y, a Chicago-based theater company. She holds an MFA in Non-figurative Painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and a BFA in Painting from Azad Art University in Tehran. Her work has been displayed in numerous exhibitions in the United States and in Iran.

### **Yasaman Moussavi**

Yasaman Moussavi is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the University of British Columbia and a co-founder of Didaar Art Collective. She holds an MFA with two emphases on Painting and Printmaking from Texas Tech University, where she explored and developed her skills in papermaking, printmaking, and installation art. Her work has been displayed in many exhibitions in the United States and in Iran.

# Artists

1. Setareh Afzali
2. Fatemeh Ahankar
3. Vafa Almasi
4. Ghazaleh Bahiraie
5. Maryam Boroumand
6. Fatemeh Ebrahim
7. Avin Farhadi
8. Paria Farokhi
9. Mir Mohammad Fattahi
10. Mina Ghahremani
11. Milad Gholami
12. Niloofar Gholamrezaei
13. Marjan Ghorbani
14. Ali Golestaneh
15. Fatemeh Jaleh
16. Amir Molaeizadeh
17. Safa Kasaei
18. Hassan Nozadian
19. Elham Radfar
20. Nastaran Rahimi
21. Pegah Rajamand
22. Shadi Saeedi
23. Hanieh Safaei
24. Mehran Salari
25. Amir Samavati
26. Setareh Taji
27. Samaneh Teymouri
28. Faezeh Zandieh
29. Shooraj Majedian

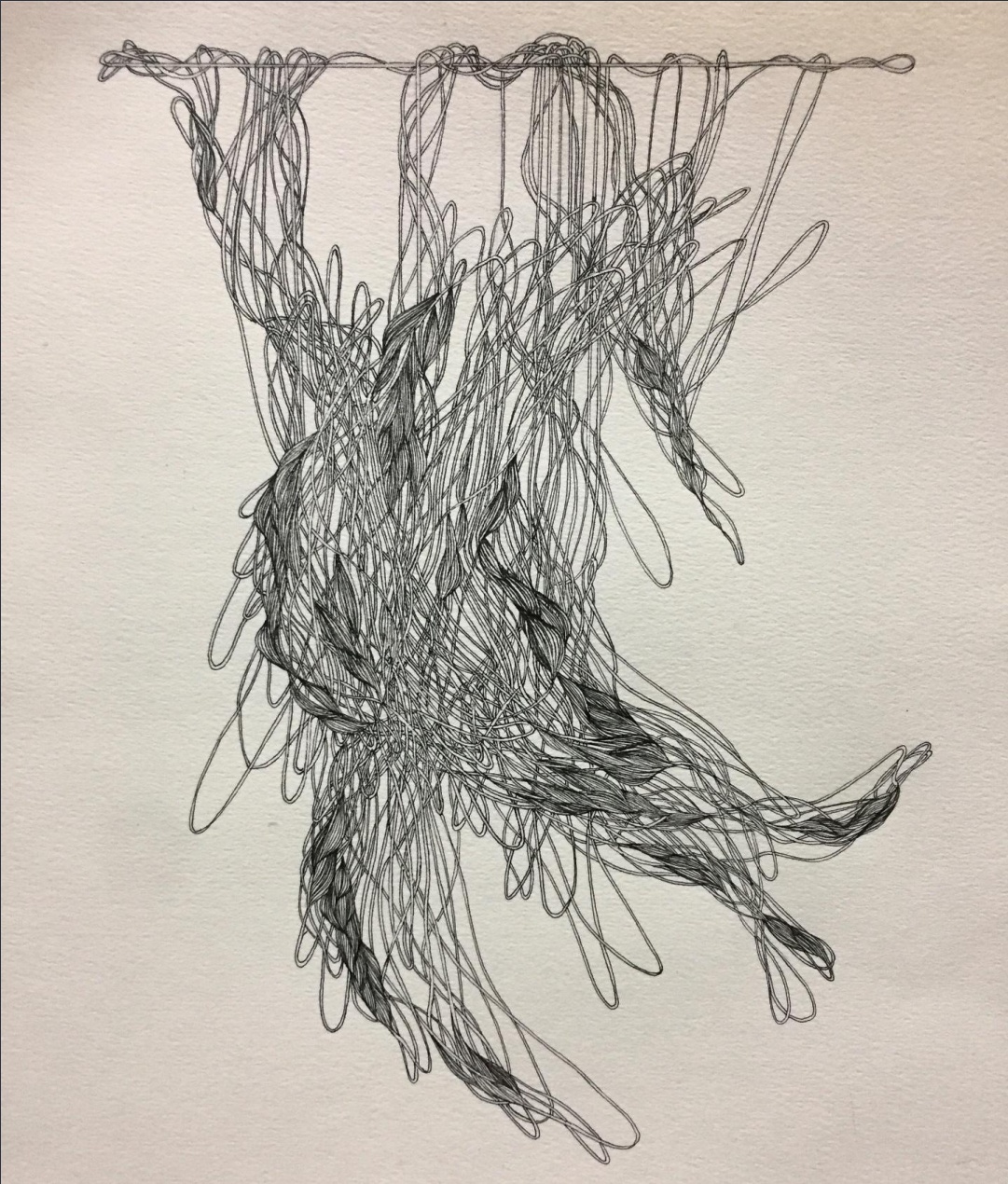


Space as a containing framework for existing and living is a pervasive concept. Yet, the boundlessness of ways through which a relation could be made with exterior or interior spaces in their concrete, abstract, physical, or virtual dimensions and extensions and the abundance of discourses which inform these unlimited forms of relation make space an occasional and a volatile notion in each instance of experience and experiment. Space encompasses us so ubiquitously that we often are in it without a conscious investigation of our relationship with it. When we knowingly begin to consider this relationship, however, we encounter the difficulty of reflection on the many distinct forms through which we perceive space. This observation has propelled the formation of *Space: Chapter One*, which is the first episode of an ongoing inquiry into the theme of space in visual arts.

This juried show exhibits the practices of a group of emerging Iranian artists who, with the exception of the few, live across Iran. The selecting of the works by the jury members is informed by the variety of their expertise, interests, and viewpoints. The range of the works selected for the show visualizes the perception or an idea of space in its personal and social connotations in addition to its usual physical and phenomenological attributes. From interior landscapes to exterior environments, from the engagement with the dematerialized virtual space to the struggles for finding an actual place to live in exile or at home, space in these works is visualized in various ways through which artists contemplate and form their interior self in relation to the influences and effects of the external space. This could be an engagement with the sense of belonging or not belonging to a space, yearning for a (utopian) space, and/or striving to realize ambiguous relations with a space.

Since the inception of this project, the interest in the theme of space has been indispensable from the question of medium. The show brings together selected drawings and non-photographic print media such as etching, lithography, drypoint, and monotype. Beyond the theme of space, therefore, the show focuses on the specific media of drawing and printmaking as long-established media of the past in order to examine and showcase their two-dimensional capacities and other potentialities such as choices of framing the picture plane and plays with its material body in visualizing the multi-layered space(s) of today, whether perceived as entities, relations, or intuitions. The focus on the medium also follows another intention, which is to seek to go beyond the cultural discourses that would reduce the work of these Iranian artists to the content of their practices in relation to the “marginalized” geography they are associated with. Rather than asking how space is perceived and visualized in the work of artists from or associated with a specific geography, a look into their engagement with specific media allows for questions about the role these age-old media could play in the emerging practices of art (in Iran) and for reflections on the aesthetic dimensions of the works of these artists as the citizens of the world.

Leili Adibfar



Setareh Afzali, *Suspended*, 2019.  
Drawing pen on cardboard, 25×30 cm.

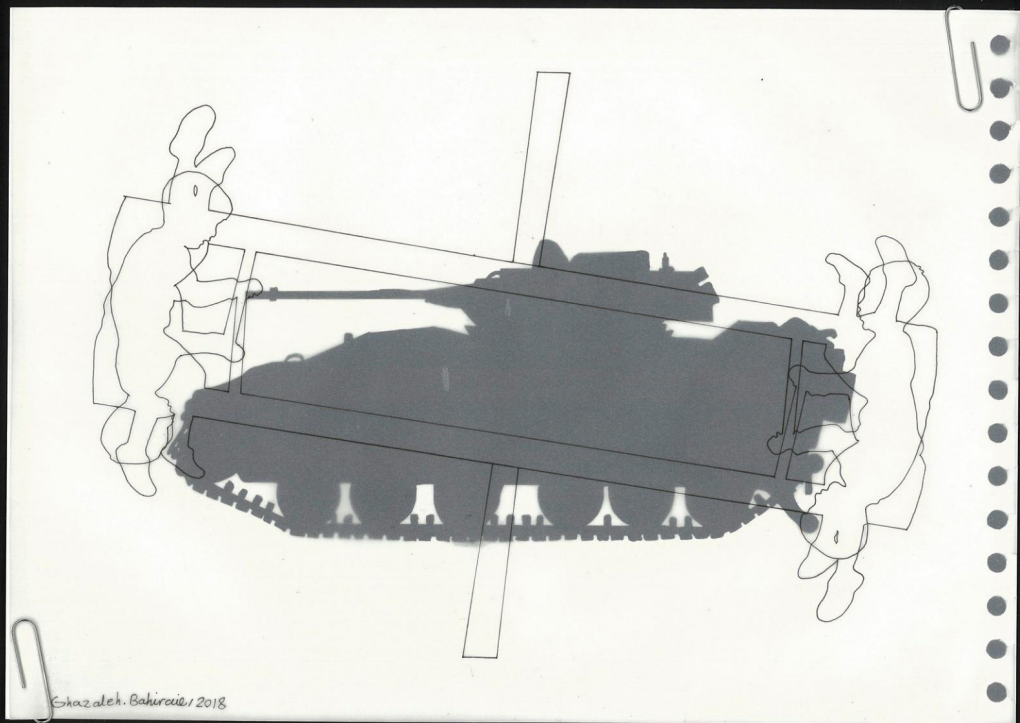


Fatemeh Ahankar, *Untitled*, 2020.  
Mixed media, 30x40 cm.



Vafa Almasi, *Another Place*, 2020.  
Ink on paper, 7x12 cm.





Ghazaleh Bahiraie, from the *Homeless Series*, 2018.  
Pen on cardboard and tracing paper, 30x38 cm.



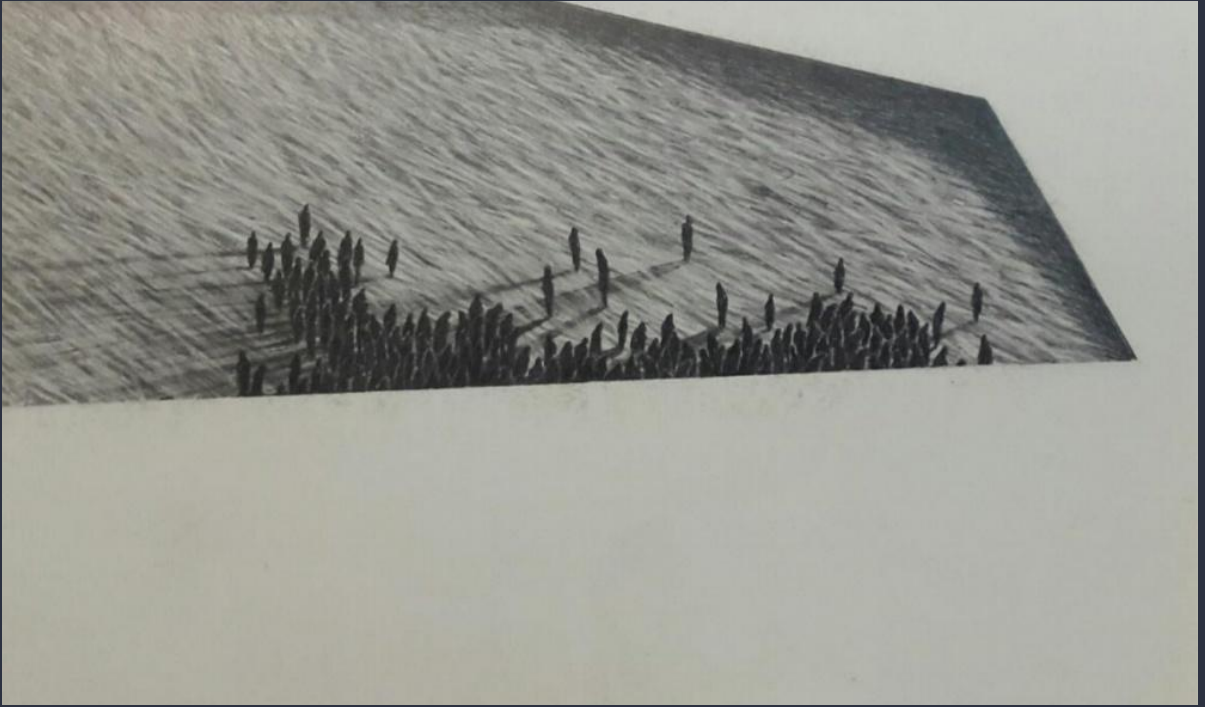
Maryam Boroumand, *Untitled*, 2019.  
Monotype and monoprint on paper, 30x20 cm.



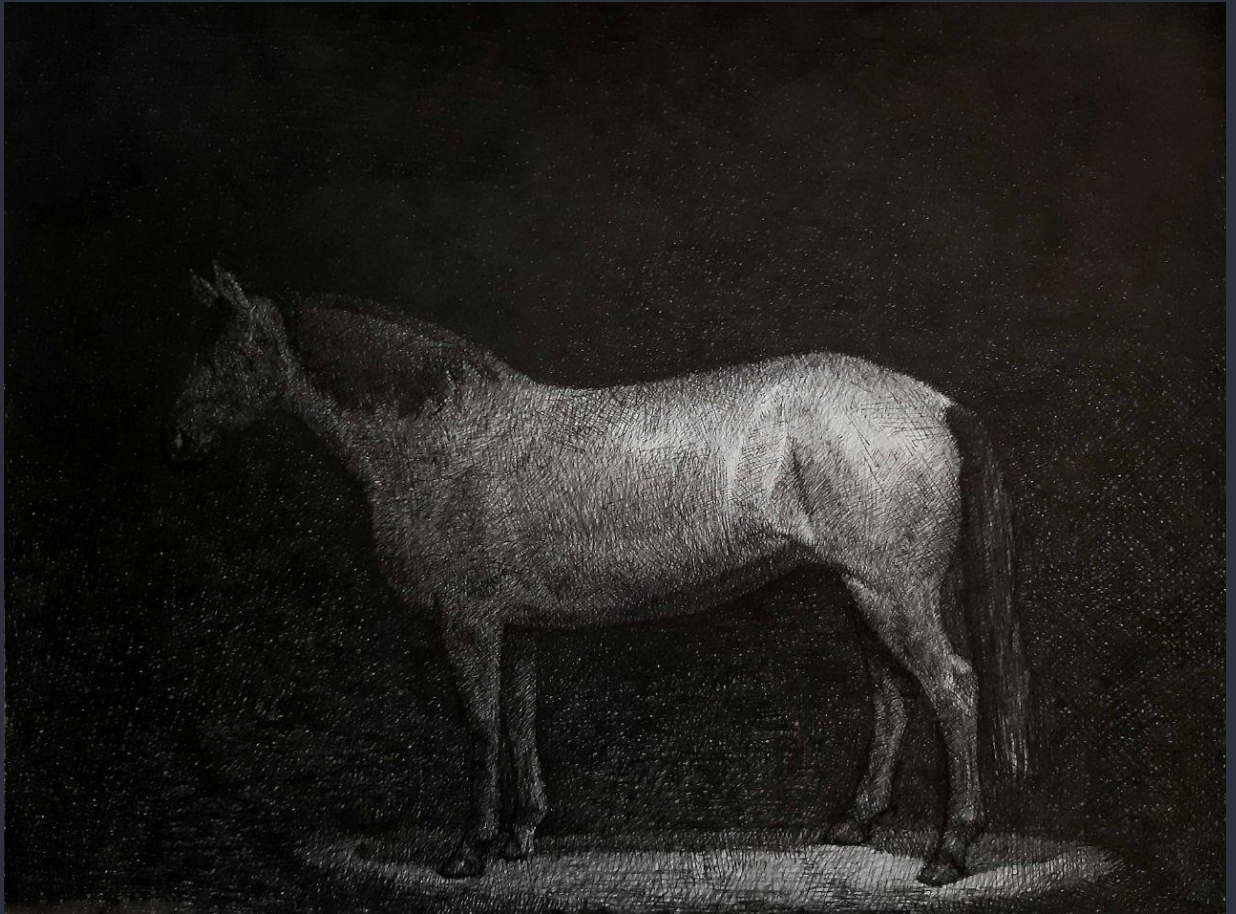
Fatemeh Ebrahimi, *Untitled*, 2020.  
Etching and aquatint, 15x23 cm.



Avin Farhadi, *Untitled*, 2017.  
Oil on paper, 24x33 cm.



Paria Farokhi, *Pages*, 2020.  
Pencil on cardboard, 13x22 cm.



Mir Mohammad Fattahi, *Void*, 2020.  
Pen on cardboard, 22x30 cm.



Mina Ghahremani, *The Path Narrows from the Left*, 2020.  
Pencil on paper, 30x40 cm.

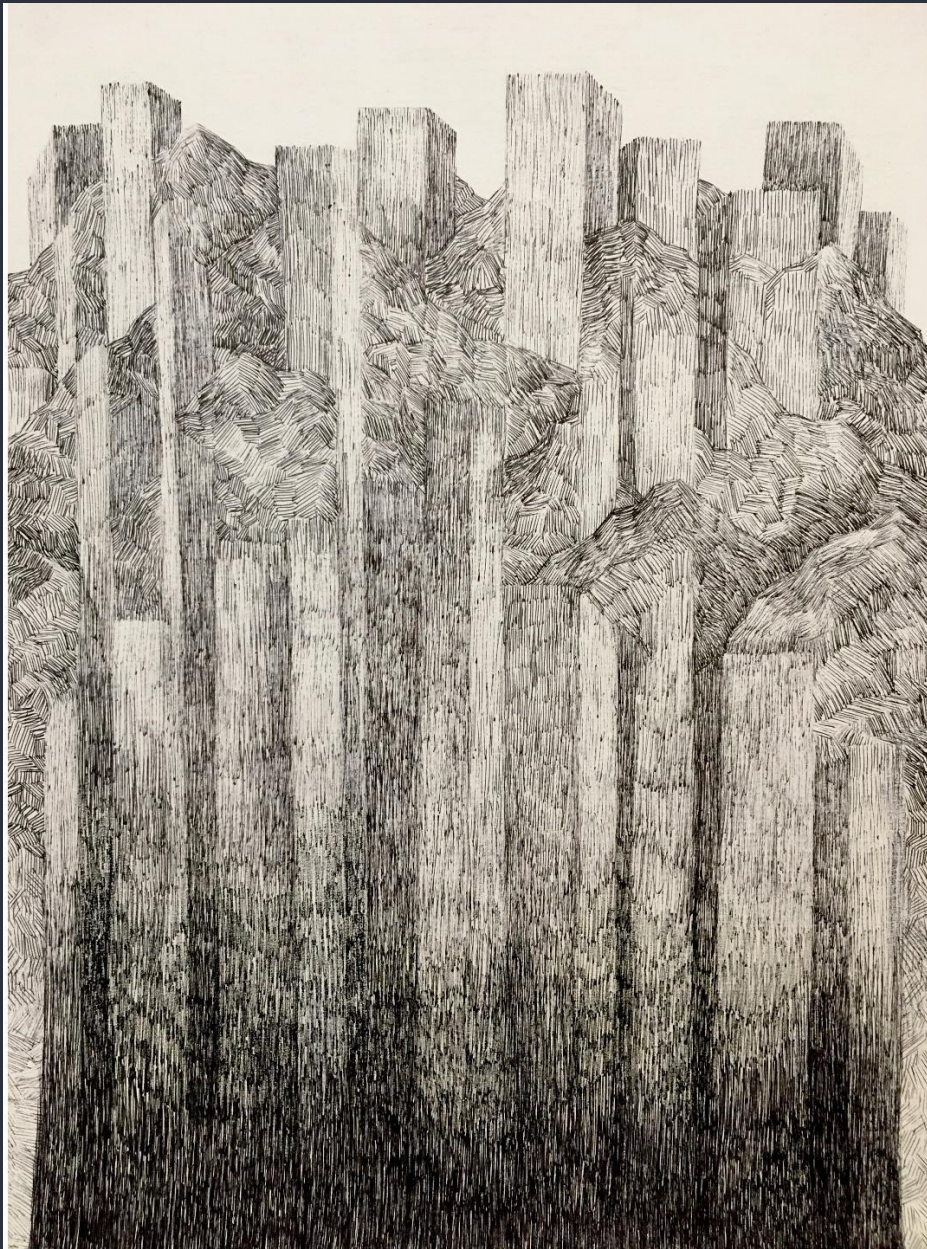


Milad Gholami, *Text in Text*, 2019.  
Rapid drawing on paper, 40x40 cm.





Niloofar Gholamrezaei, *Untitled*, 2019.  
Mixed media, 20x20 cm.



Marjan Ghorbani, *Destruction*, 2019.  
Pen on paper, 27x36 cm.



Ali Golestaneh, *Without-Within*, 2017.  
Acrylic on cardboard, 13x15 cm.



Fatemeh Jaleh, *Untitled*, 2008.  
Ink and pen on paper, 24x35 cm.



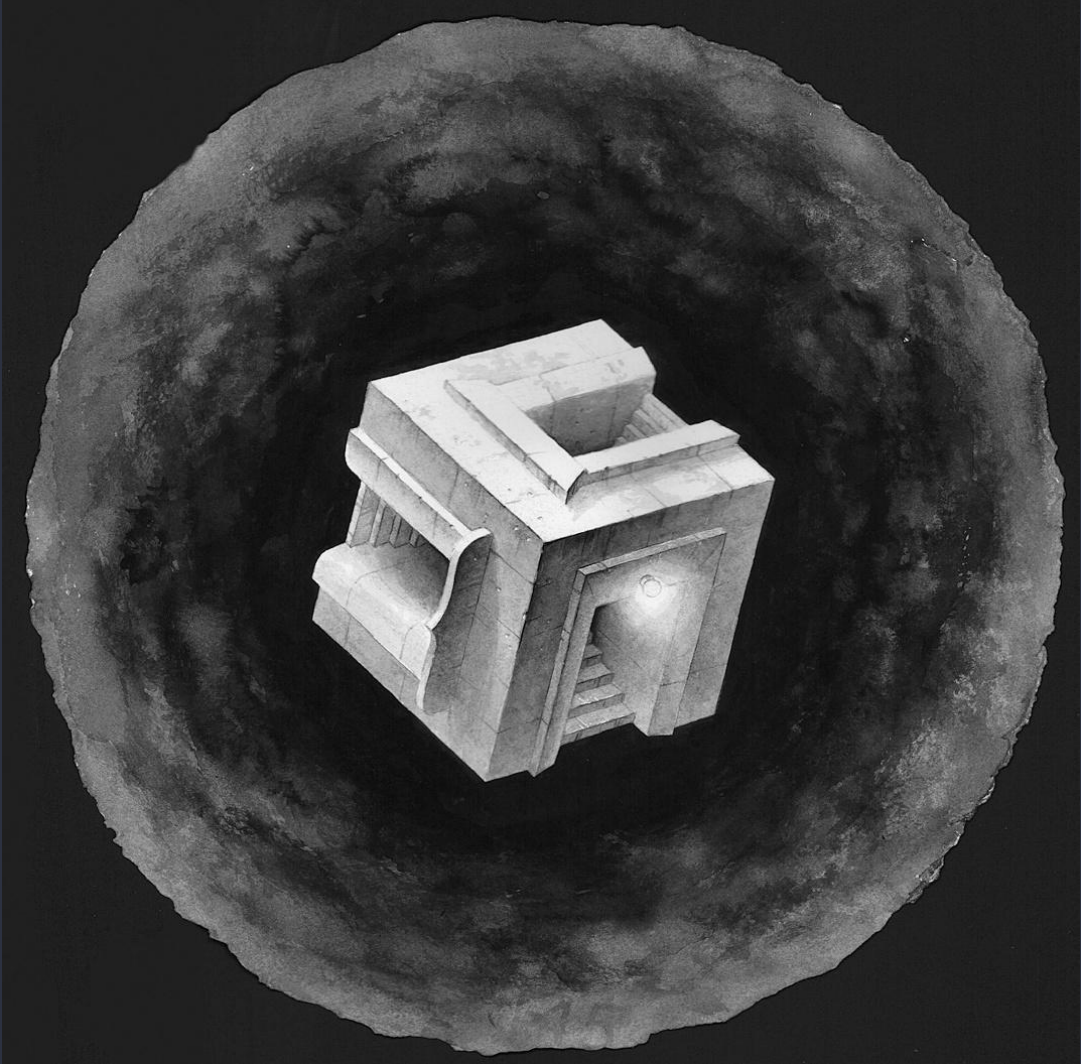
Amirhosein Molaeizadeh, *Untitled*, 2013.  
Rapid pen and acrylic color on paper, 20x29 cm.



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Safa Kasaei, *The Fat & the Beautiful*, 2018.  
Tooner etching, 29x36 cm.



Hassan Nozadian, *Untitled*, 2020.  
Ink on paper, 35x35 cm.



Elham Radfar, *Regret*, 2019.  
Etching and aquatint on paper, 10x15 cm.





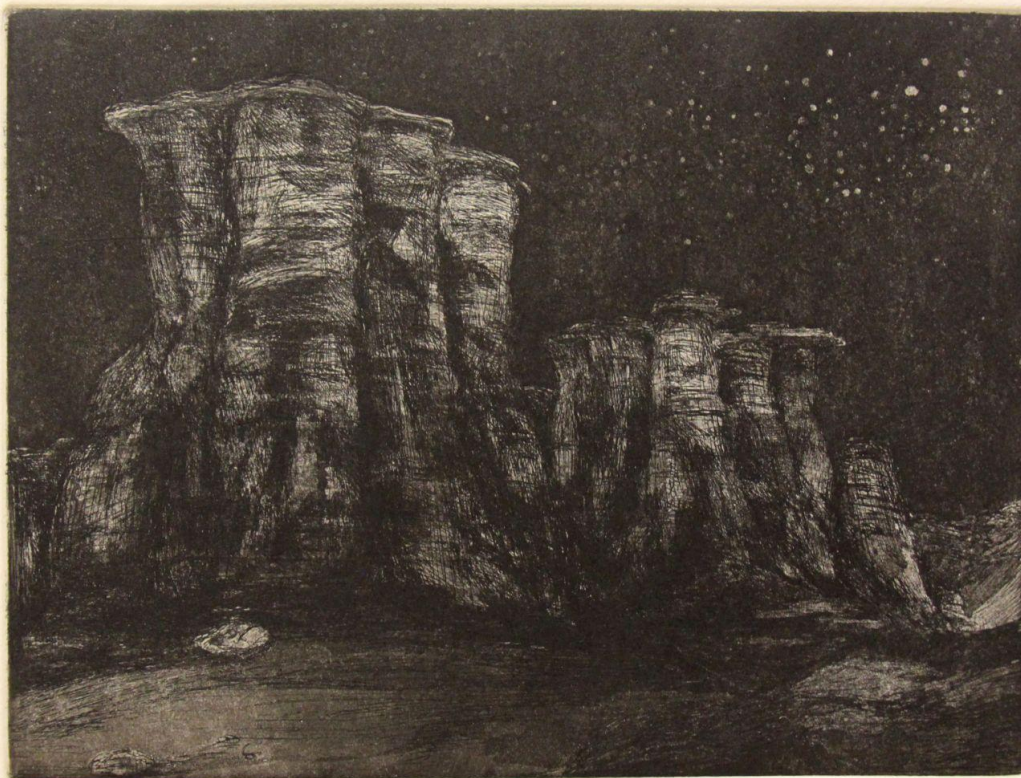
Nastaran Rahimi, *Dining Room*, 2020.  
Drawing on cardboard, 25x35 cm.



Pegah Rajamand, *Untitled*, 2019.  
Charcoal and pastel on paper, 28x18 cm.



Shadi Saeedi, *Untitled*, 2016.  
Aquatint and drypoint and lift-ground, 30x40 cm.



A/P

Hanieh Safaei

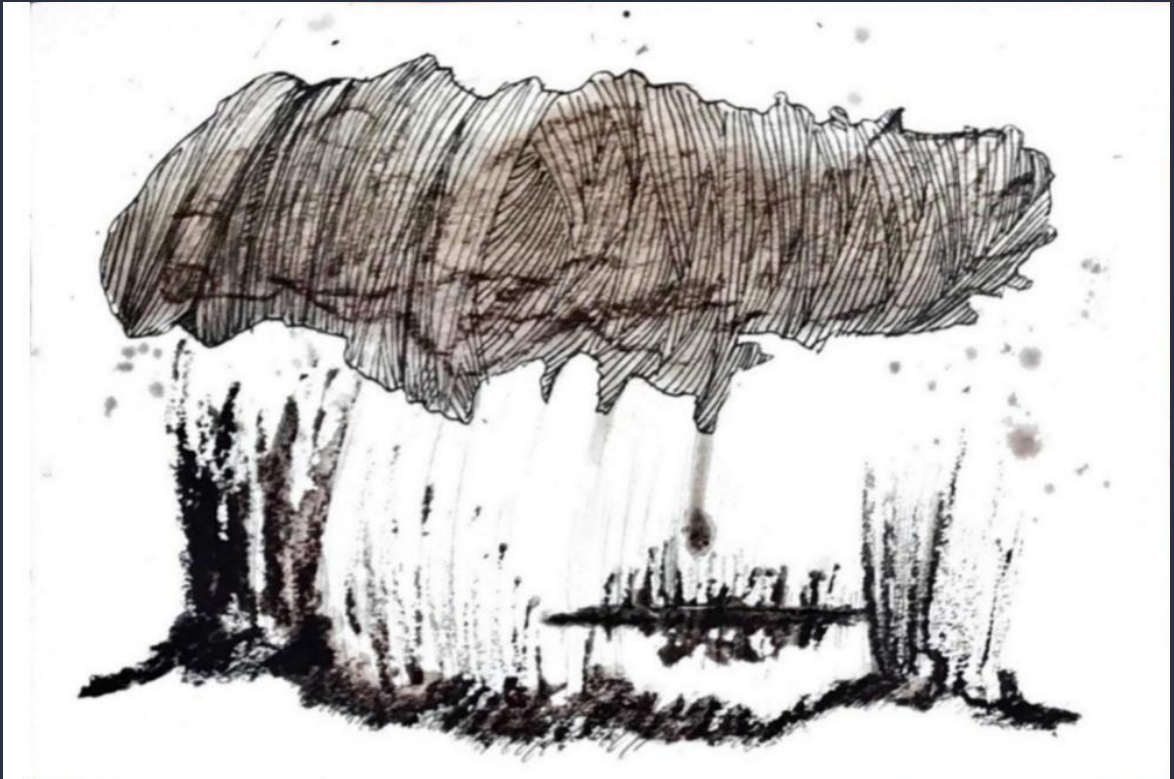
Hanieh Safaei, *Mountains*, 2017.  
Etching and aquatint, 25x35 cm.



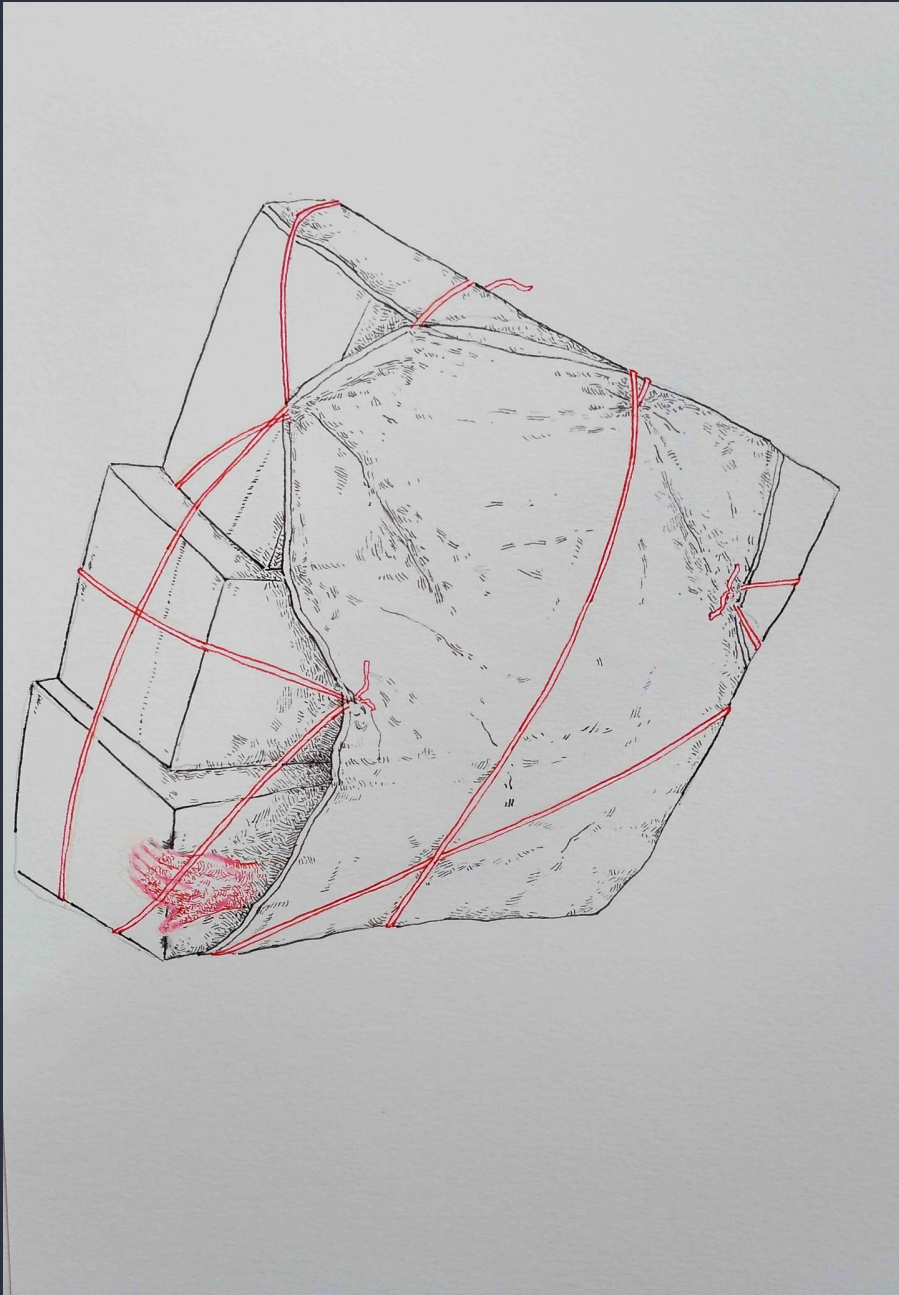
Mehran Salari, *Untitled*, 2017.  
Monochrome print and pencil and pen, 40×40 cm.



Amir Samavati, *Homelessness*, 2020.  
Mixed media, 30x40 cm.



Setareh Taji, *Space 6*, 2020.  
Mixed media, 14x20 cm.



Samaneh Eshaghi, *Piggyback*, 2019.  
Pen on cardboard, 21×29 cm.





Faezeh Zandieh, *Untitled*, 2020.  
Chalcography, 20x15 cm.



Shoora Majedian, *The Rice Pot*, 2019.  
Mixed media on paper, 28x35 cm.



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[www.didaar.org](http://www.didaar.org)