

# Hesam Rahmanian

Hesam Rahmanian describes himself as being like an ant building a world around him. Growing up in Iran surrounded by animals, his first dream was to become a veterinarian.

When he realized that art, as a process of creation, is the closest thing to nature he opted for painting instead.

Since then, animals have been the main subject of his art. But in 2009 Rahmanian created a series of works reflecting on the elections and following protests in Iran.

Apart from this specific choice to depict events, for him the political nature of painting lies in its inherent ability to challenge and propel contemporary culture.

by Margherita Dessanay



White Horse, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 150 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde

## Art school

At art school I was required to take life-drawing classes and the only benefit was the big studio space, of which I took advantage. What they teach in art school is formal training, but the same skills can be developed in a more natural progression and in a more firmly anchored way when self-taught.

## Ideal masters

From childhood I was fascinated by the spontaneity in the works of Francis Bacon and always considered David Hockney a master of drawing and colour. Gerhard Richter and Luc Tuymans are certainly the leading painters today; Wilhelm Sasnal's fluid use of paint and simple suggestions of form are a great inspiration to me.

## Inspiration

Whatever the source of inspiration, it is always challenged through the process of creating an artwork. The process or decomposing period between life and death, and back round to life, is very important to me. I'm interested in how this process leads to creation, in a way that is similar to the process of creating art and painting.



Captured Swan, 2011, acrylic on paper, 57 x 75 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde



Detaining the Guardian, 2010, acrylic on paper, 77 x 57 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde

Follow the Leader (I), 2010, acrylic on canvas, 180 x 145 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde



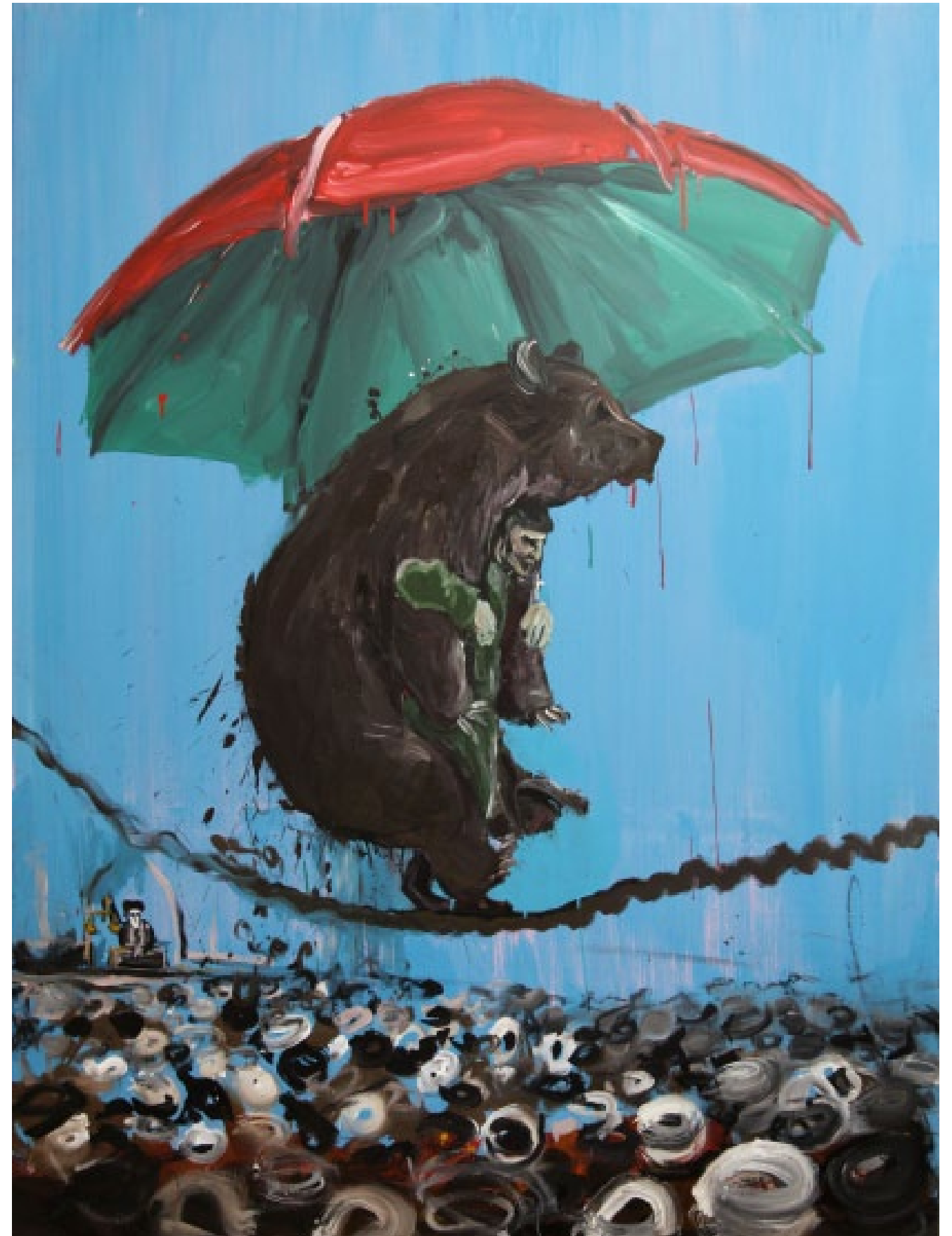
**Process**

I pursue my instinctive interests, obsessions and dreams. Rather than becoming bored of a routine approach, I 'evolve my work'. All of my work is the result of the path of explorations behind it. When I work I think about painting. I think about the subject I am painting. I let myself enjoy and discover new things. The discovery of new things leads into other discoveries; sometimes the new discoveries are related to the previous work and sometimes not.

**Technology**

Photoshop and digital media alike are just another medium. If they facilitate the artist's ambitions or enhance their developments, then why not use them, as David Hockney did. This being said, no medium can ever replace another – technical or technological progressions are not used exclusively over older methods.

Barbecuing for Vegetarians, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 142 x 192 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde



Freedom Under Flag, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 200 x 150 cm, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde