

FEREYDOUN AVE (b. 1945, Tehran, Iran)

Lives and works between Paris, France and Tehran, Iran.

Fereydoun Ave (b. 1945, Tehran) is an influential Iranian artist, curator, and cultural figure whose multifaceted practice spans painting, collage, photography, assemblage, textiles, set design, and curatorial work. Educated in England and the United States, Ave earned a BA in Applied Arts for Theatre from Arizona State University and studied film at NYU before returning to Tehran in 1970, just as the city's cultural scene was flourishing.

His work moves fluidly between abstraction and figuration, rooted in mythology, history, and the personal. Ave draws on a wide range of references—from Iranian wrestling and heroes of the 10th-century *Shahnameh*, to Greek mythology and contemporary allegory. "I'm a collage myself," he once said, capturing the essence of an artistic language where painterly gestures, repetition, calligraphic lines, and found objects all coexist.

Then come the four elements, the four seasons, and the tiny and mundane things: shells from the shores of the Seychelles, juicy figs in Greece, "Trompette de la Mort" and twigs near Paris, dahlias from his garden in Tehran—all dance before our eyes. These recurring motifs connect the metaphysical to the tangible, infusing Ave's compositions with memory and materiality.

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, while many artists left Iran, Ave chose to remain. He became a key figure in the reemergence of the visual arts scene, founding 13 Vanak Street—an independent art space that operated under the radar for nearly two decades. Alongside his own practice, Ave has been a tireless supporter of other artists, fostering a sense of community and creative freedom amid often challenging circumstances.

His work has been exhibited extensively in Iran and internationally, and is held in the collections of institutions such as the British Museum, the Centre Pompidou, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. A 2020 retrospective at the British Museum and his inclusion in the 58th Carnegie International highlight his ongoing impact. Ave continues to live and work between Tehran and Paris, committed to a lifelong exploration of art, form, and the poetic everyday.

EDUCATION

- 1970 Film Studies from the New York University, Film School, NY, USA
- 1969 BA in Applied Arts for Theatre from Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Life*, Dastan Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2023 *Fereydoun Ave Solo Exhibition*, Far Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 Some seasons: Fereydoun Ave and the Laal Collection, 1959-2019, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai
 Fereydoun Ave: Retrospective Part One, Dastan Gallery at Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *Condo Unit*, The Breeder Gallery, Athens, Greece
 Rostam 2019, Dastan:Outside Project. V-Gallery. Tehran, Iran
- 2016 *Souvenirs*, Dastan's Basement, Tehran, Iran
- 2015 *Postcards from Iranestan*, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, USA
 References, Cues and Favorite Things, SAM Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 Seven Works on Paper, Dastan's Basement, Tehran, Iran
- 2014 *The Warrior's Rest*, Ermion Technis, Kikladhas, Greece
 Fereydoun: The Designer, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 *Flowers and Divas*, AB Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2010 *The Sacred Elements: Wind*, Rossi & Rossi, London, UK
 Fereydoun Ave and his Rostam, Janet Rady Fine Art at La Ruche, London, UK

- 2009 *Rostam in the Dead of Winter*, B21 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 *Lal Dahlias*, B21 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 1970 Seyhoun Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- 2007 Herve Van der Straeten Gallery, Paris, France
- 13 Vanak Street Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Silk Road Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Événement du Jeudi, Paris, France
- Sheikh Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Omega Gallery, Athens, Greece
- 13 Vanak Street Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Seyhoun Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Farideh Cadot Gallery, Paris, France
- Zand Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Litho Gallery, Teheran, Iran
- Iran - America Society Cultural Centre, Teheran, Iran

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Move, Pause, Return*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Perception*, Soo Contemporary, Dubai, UAE
- Number 13*, Emkan Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Eco(ed) Visions*, The Mine, Dubai, UAE
- Continuous Visualization*, Shavadoon Art Gallery, Shooshtar, Iran
- 2023 *Who Created Winter?*, Museum Archive Nasser Bakhshi, Tabriz, Iran
- A Selection of Contemporary Iranian Artists*, Art Center, Tehran, Iran
- Process*, Ech Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Soft Edge of the Blade Vol. 2*, Zaal Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- Hasht Cheshmeh Art Space, Kashan, Iran
- The 58th Carnegie International*, The Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, US
- 2022 *We*, Artibition Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Treasure 1*, Ela Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- The Contemporary Collector*, Artibition Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Soft Edge of the Blade*, Dastan Outside Projects, London, UK
- Resize*, Artibition Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Negar Art Gallery*, Tehran, Iran
- Opportunity*, Iranian Artist Forum, Tehran, Iran
- In a Space Between Rocks*, Total Arts at the Courtyard, Dubai, UAE
- Imagine*, Iranian Artist Forum, Tehran, Iran
- 5th Selected*, Negar Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 5 Titans of Iranian Modern Art*, Sahar K Boluki Fine Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2021 *Turning Point 4*, Liam Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Turning Point 3: Part One*, Liam Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Stellar Artists*, Sahar K Boluki Fine Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- Sanctuary*, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Remembering - Being*, Soo Contemporary, Tehran, Iran
- Legendary Artist*, Negah Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Iranian Modern & Contemporary Art*, Homa Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Edition*, Liam Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- Collector 9*, Artibition, Tehran, Iran
- Back Hand*, Soo Contemporary, Tehran, Iran
- A Rare Collection of Iranian Modern Art*, Leila Heller, Dubai,
- 2019 *Condo Unit Athens*, The Breeder Gallery, Athens, Greece
- Journey/Passage*, A Dastan:Outside Project. Manouchehri House, Kashan, Iran
- 2018 *Modern-Contemporary*, A Dastan:Outside Project. V-Gallery. Tehran, Iran
- 2017 *Update*, +2. Tehran, Iran

GALLERY ISABELLE

- 2016 *Islamic Art Now*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Los Angeles, USA
Art in Secret, Showcase Gallery. Dubai, UAE
- 2015 *Cy Tombly Maitre Fereydoun Ave disciple*, IBU Gallery Jardin du Palais Royal. Paris
Bits and Pieces: Collages and Assemblages. Shirin Gallery. New York, USA
Year in Review. A Dastan:Outside Project. Sam Art. Tehran, Iran
- 2014 *ROOTS*. Total Arts. Dubai, UAE
- 2013 *The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination*. Brunei Gallery,
The School of Oriental and African Studies. London, UK
My Name Is Not Rouge. Shirin Gallery. New York, USA
- 2012 *Victory! Triumph in Classical and Contemporary Asian Art*. Rossi & Rossi. London, UK
- 2011 *What's So Funny About Peace, Love and Understanding?*, Rossi and Rossi. London,
UK Inaugural Exhibition, JAMM, Shuwaikh, Kuwait
- 2010 *Roundabout*. City Gallery Wellington. Wellington, New Zealand
Boys and Girls Come Out to Play. Summer exhibition. Rossi & Rossi. London, UK
- 2009 *Demons and D-Artboards*. with Malekeh Nayiny. Rossi & Rossi. London, UK
Contemporary Art Museum, Tehran, Iran
The Contemporary Persian Scene: The American and European Experience. LTMH Gallery. New York, USA
- 2008 *Routes*. Waterhouse and Dodd. London, UK
- 2005 *Welcome*. Kashya Hildebrand Gallery. New York, USA
- 2004 *Gods Becoming Men*. Frissiras Museum. Athens, Greece
- 2004 *Iran Under the Skin*. Casa Asia. Barcelona, Spain
- 2002 *Iranian Contemporary Art*. Barbican Art Gallery. London, UK*
- 2001 *Regards Persans*. Espace Electra. Paris, France
- 1970 *Iran Heritage Show*, London, UK
- 2000

COLLECTIONS

The British Museum, London, UK
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
La Caisse des Dépôt et Consignation, Paris, France
Contemporary Art Museum, Teheran, Iran
Lloyds Bank, Geneva, Switzerland
Centre Georges Pompidou Collection, Paris, France
Cy Twombly Foundation, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "How I Got Started", Fereydoun Ave, Canvas Magazine, Crafting the Contemporary, January-February Issue
- 2023 "Grand Designs", Farzin M, New York, USA: Artforum
- 2021 "Collageman: A Conversation Between Fereydoun Ave & Hormoz Hematian" Ave, F., and Hematian, H., 009821
- 2019 "Oh! What a beauty! Fereydoun Ave Polaroids 69-79", Esfandiari, A., Aria Kasaei in collaboration with Studio Kargah
- 2018 "Fereydoun Ain't No Angel", Nazari, S, Homa Gallery
- 2016 *The Iranian Warhol on Collecting and the Changing Art Scene in Iran*. Sothebys at Large. London, UK
- 2014 "Fereydoun Ave: Designer", Ave, F., Kasaei, A., Bakhtiari, A., & Kiaras, D. Nazar, Research and Cultural Institute.
- 2010 *The Sacred Elements: Wind*. Rossi & Rossi. London, UK
- 2009 *Contemporary Art in the Middle East*, Paul Sloman, Black Dog Publishing, London, UK
Wrestling with History: Mystical and Masculine Fereydoun Ave in ArtAsiaPacific 65
- 2007 Canvas Magazine, artist profile (September 2007)
- 2004 *Gods Becoming Men*. Edward Lucie-Smith. Edition Frissiras Museum. Athens, Greece
- 2002 *Art Tomorrow*. Edward Lucie-Smith. Pierre Terrail Editions. Paris, France
Art Review Magazine (February 2002)
Regards Persans: Iran, Une Revolution Photographique. Michket Krifa. Fondation
Électricité de France. Espace Electra. Editions des Musees de la Ville de Paris, France
Erotica: The Fine Art of Sex. Edward Lucie-Smith. Hydra Publishing. New York, USA
- 2001 *Iranian Contemporary Art*. The Barbican. Booth-Clibborn Editions, UK