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Almine Rech now represents Mehdi Ghadyanloo

By Martha Kirszenbaum, May 11, 2022.



Portrait of Mehdi Ghadyanloo, 2022 / Courtesy of the Artist and Almine Rech © Mehdi Ghadyanloo Studio.

LONDON.- Almine Rech announced the representation of Iranian artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo in France, Belgium and Shanghai, following his first solo exhibition at Almine Rech Brussels in the spring of 2021.

Almine Rech will feature a solo exhibition of Mehdi Ghadyanloo in the London space in 2023.

Born in Karaj, Iran in 1981, he graduated with a B.A. from Tehran University's College of Fine Arts in 2005, and later earned an M.A. in film studies from Tehran's Teachers College.

Mehdi Ghadyanloo began his career as a muralist in Tehran in the early 2000s, when, following a call for proposals by the city, he produced almost one thousand gigantic wall paintings, including dreamlike landscapes and science-fiction scenes.

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His work combines minimalist themes and a surrealist aesthetic in his paintings, using acrylic, oil, or watercolor. He uses the trompe l'œil technique of his murals to compose his paintings that take on the shape of square boxes with dreamlike imagery and hyper-realistic technique. Each of his works reveals his brilliant ability to trick our eyes and our perception of reality. Their architectural appearance reflects the artist's investigation into designing and representing space on the canvas.

Shadow and light overlap and challenge each other endlessly in Ghadyanloo's practice, and the symbolism of the movement from darkness to light is at the heart of his vision. All the elements that he depicts in his paintings — ladders, fences, holes in the ceiling — are methods of representing a way out, a kind of hope.

Mehdi Ghadyanloo is now based in Sarrebrücken, Germany and New York, US.

— Martha Kirszenbaum, independant curator and writer