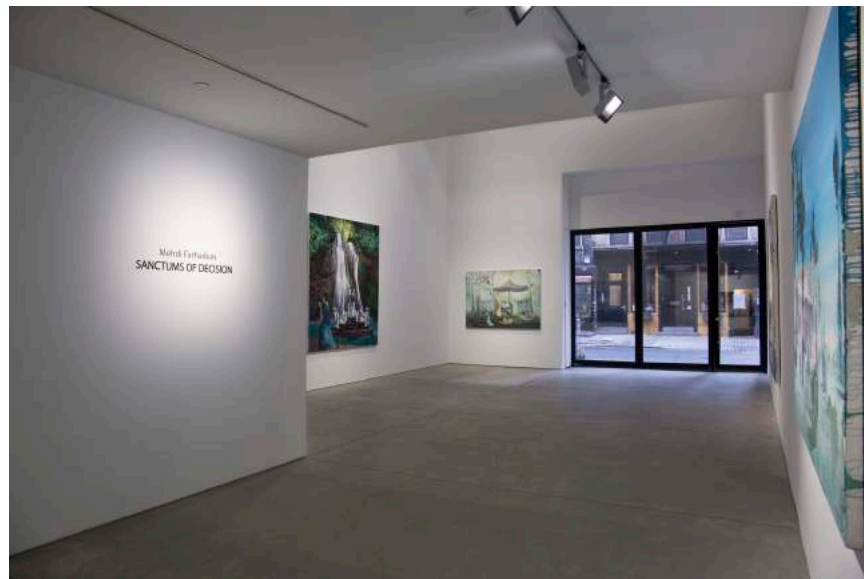


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## September 22, 2016

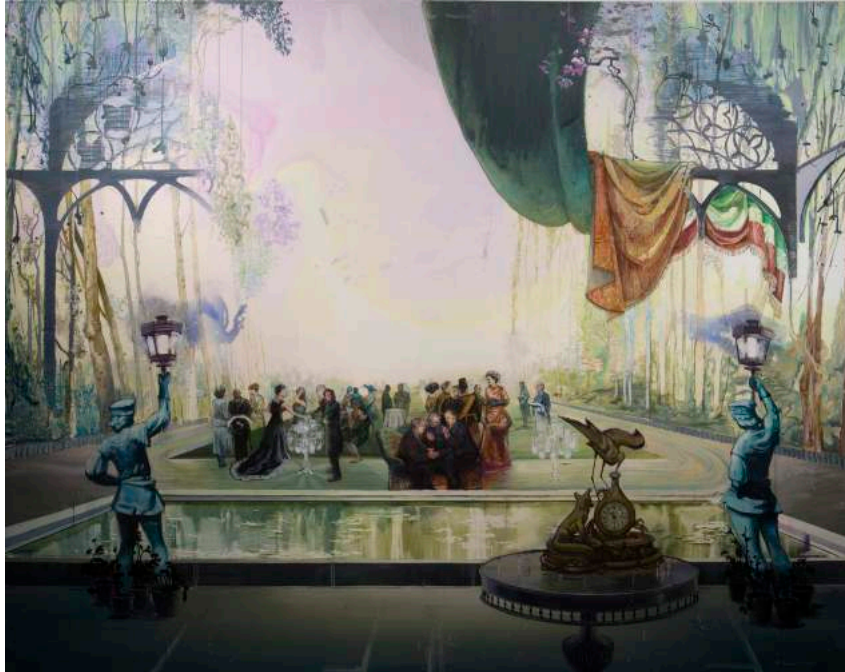
### Sanctums of Decision by Mehdi Farhadian

By Angela Fu

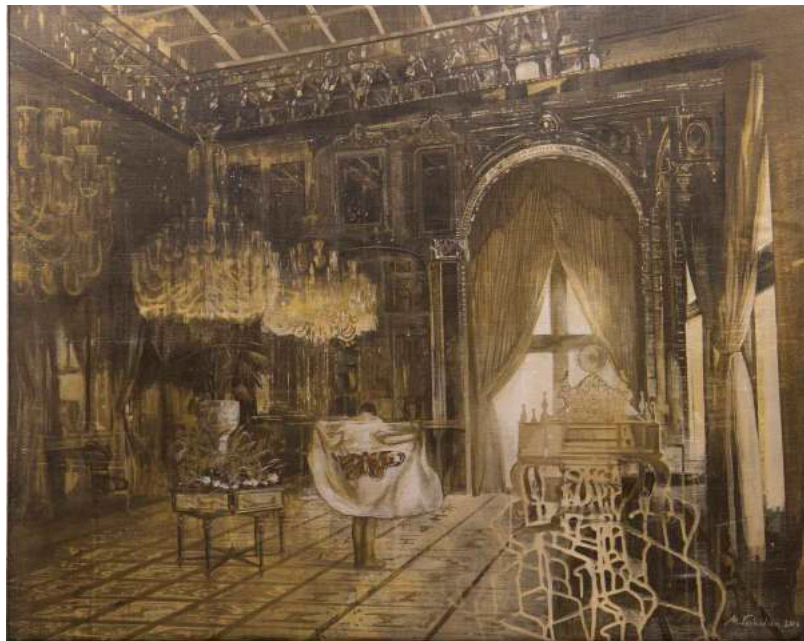


**SANCTUMS OF DECISION** IS A BODY OF INTRICATELY DETAILED PORTRAYALS OF IRAN'S PAST WHILST FUSING CONTEMPORARY HISTORY. IRANIAN ARTIST, MEDHI FARHADIAN EXPLORES EXTRAVAGANT INTERIOR SPACES AND GARDENS THEN TRANSLATES THEM INTO PHANTASMAGORICAL SCENES FEATURING PEOPLE AND ANIMALS ENGAGED IN AMBIGUOUS ACTS. CERTAIN ARTWORK ARE VISUALLY LEFT UNDONE WHICH ARE MEANT GIVE A SENSE OF UNCERTAINTY OR LEFT FOR THE VIEWER TO INTERPRET WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

<http://www.thisisodd.nyc/blogs/news/sanctums-of-decision-by-mehdi-farhadian>



FARHADIAN'S STYLE UNITES REALISTIC, EXPRESSIVE AND FICTIONAL NARRATIVES WHICH HELP RELAY HIS PERSONAL SUBJECT MATTERS TO THE PUBLIC. DRAWING FROM THE LUSHNESS OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPEAN PAINTING TRADITIONS AND IMBUING THEM WITH LOCAL SPECIFICITY, ETHEREAL QUALITIES, AND DISTINCTLY IRANIAN ELEMENTS, THESE PAINTINGS REINVIGORATE REPRESENTATIONAL ART WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY USHERING BEAUTY BACK INTO CONTEMPORARY PAINTING.



CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POIGNANT OF FARHADIAN'S RECENT PAINTINGS, **TRUCE** (2016) DEPICTS TWO SCENES: THE AFTERMATH OF A

<http://www.thisisodd.nyc/blogs/news/sanctums-of-decision-by-mehdi-farhadian>

HUNTING SCENE AND WAR/BATTLE. THE ATMOSPHERE IS SNOWY AND COLD WITH BLOODSTAINED SNOW SURROUNDING THE PANTHER AND DEER AS WELL AS THE PAINTED PAVILION. SYMBOLS OF ROYALTY IS SHOWN WITH THE CROWN EMBLEMS AND THE ROYAL CROWN FLOWER THAT BLOOMS ON THE LEFT. THE VIEWERS ARE LEFT TO DECIPHER WHAT THEY BELIEVE HAS OCCURRED IN THIS EERIE NARRATIVE.

THE GALLERY IS CURATED TO LEAD VIEWERS FROM WHIMSICAL, DREAM-LIKE SCENERIES IN IRAN TO DARKER AND MORE POWERFUL PAINTINGS. AN IMPECCABLE VISUAL TOUR OF FARHADIAN'S POTENT MESSAGE OF THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN BLISSFUL PEACE AND DEPTHS OF FEAR.

THIS EXHIBIT WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY UNTIL OCTOBER 2, 2016. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EXHIBIT AND GALLERY HOURS.](#)