



CENTRE A

Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art
205 – 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver BC V6A 1X5 | 604.683.8326 | www.centrea.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Centre A Presents New Exhibition by Sona Safaei-Sooreh on the Semi-Colonial History of the Iranian Oil Industry.



Sona Safaei-Sooreh, *Revolving: a family tale*, cast photo, 2021. Courtesy of the artist.

Vancouver, B.C., Canada (September 9, 2021) –**Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art** is proud to announce **Revolving: a family tale**, a new solo exhibition by Iranian born Toronto-based artist **Sona Safaei-Sooreh**.

This exhibition is curated by Henry Heng Lu and will run from September 16 through November 27, 2021.

Opening Reception:

Thursday, September 16, 5 PM – 9 PM*



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**Registration is required. Register and read important information about attending the opening reception [HERE](#). Light refreshments will be safely provided.*

Location

Unit 205, 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6A 1X5

Gallery Hours

Wednesday to Saturday, 12 PM – 6 PM*

*Subject to change as per COVID-19-related protocols. Face masks or face coverings are mandatory during your visit.

About the Exhibition

Revolving: a family tale is a multimedia exhibition that revisits the semi-colonial history of the Iranian Oil Industry by **Sona Safaei-Sooreh**. In part, it takes the form of a comic script, printed in traditional tabloid-size newspapers, attempting to compare the story of the nationalization of the Iranian Oil Industry with present-day political affairs.

The comic characters are inspired by cartoon drawing advertisements made by Ronald Searle for the British Petroleum company back in the 1950s. Safaei-Sooreh imagined a fictional life for Searle's characters and illustrated the life of their grandchildren who live in our current era. The new propaganda messages were born from the initial British petroleum ads with a middle-eastern twist. Further, the artist puts together video footage from an interview with BP staff when they were expelled from Iran in the 1950s and a scene from the Walt Disney movie "Cinderella" to portray the imperial attitudes of the British subjects towards Iran.

Sona Safaei-Sooreh is an Iranian-born artist based in Toronto. She holds a B.Sc. from Azad University and a BFA from OCAD University. In 2017, she graduated from the MVS program at the University of Toronto. Her practice is largely concept-driven, and in many instances, it positions itself in discourses around literary theory, political economy, and institutional critique.

Safaei-Sooreh has shown her work nationally and internationally in venues such as hinterland galerie (Vienna), Art Athina Platform Projects (Athens), Zalucky Contemporary (Toronto), Artspace (Peterborough), Mohsen Gallery (Tehran), KunstraumKreuzberg/Bethanien and nGbK (Berlin), Cité internationale des arts (Paris), De Bond (Bruges), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), Thomas Erben Gallery (New York), SESC Vila Mariana (São Paulo), Aaran Gallery (Tehran), and Parkingallery (Tehran). In addition, her work was part of a travelling exhibition called PROJECT 35: VOLUME 2, which has toured around the world.



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About Centre A

Centre A is the only public art gallery in Canada dedicated to contemporary Asian and Asian-diasporic perspectives since 1999. Situated on traditional and unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, and in the heart of Vancouver's Chinatown, Centre A is committed to providing a platform for engaging diverse communities through public access to the arts, creating mentorship opportunities for emerging artists/arts professionals, and stimulating critical dialogue through provocative exhibitions and innovative public programs that complicate understandings of migrant experiences and diasporic communities.

Centre A's programming has been rooted in a curiosity about and an ongoing exploration of the role of a contemporary Asian art centre. Our past and current Chinatown gallery locations have helped situate our activities in the local but also seek to discuss those local sensibilities on a globalized level. Through a combination of exhibitions and public programs by B.C., Canadian and international artists, Centre A has been able to respond to a local audience as well as build up its international profile, attracting a diverse audience.

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Media Contact

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Executive Director/Curator

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