



CENTRE A

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

1 of 4

Ominous Chaos

April 8 – June 3, 2023

Curated by Bahar Mohazabnia

Ominous Chaos looks at the peculiar, the uncanny and the grotesque through the works of Homa Khosravi and Marzieh Mosavarzadeh. Approaching the subject with levity, the exhibition interrogates mechanisms of control placed on the body. The body is malleable, constantly shifting, rearranging and reconstructing: it is a vessel of labor and memory. Situating the body through whimsical comicality, this exhibition asks: do these notions become suspended within the grotesque? Is the notion of chance a mediator in the unresolved questions of bodily autonomy and docility?

Using a variety of mediums to negate de-skilling, Khosravi and Mosavarzadeh emphasize labor and process in their practices: the hand of the artist is present. With cheeky playfulness, Khosravi's work placates a sense of delicate surrealism through a series of paintings, illustrations, sculpture and collage. Mosavarzadeh contemplates potentialities and constraints in the relationship between language and the body, using printmaking as a means of repetition and decay. Ominous Chaos conveys a relationship between the humorous and menacing, illuminating possibilities in this implausible duo.

Khosravi's laborious mediums work in tandem, highlighting skill and ornamentality. Khosravi's *Bedtime Stories* is a deconstructed soft-sculpture consisting of multiple pillow-objects, hand sewn by the artist. At first appearing as abstract, the details of work reveal phallic-like body parts using soft, dainty material. In contrast to the phallic are abstract organic shapes that reiterate elements of fanciful playfulness. In a short video accompanying the work, the audience is provided a glimpse into the sculpture's process of creation over a period of two months in the artist's bedroom. Khosravi narrates stories from her life as the sculpture lays on her bed, static: the creature's slow birth as an autonomous being.

Mosavarzadeh's work formulates both promise and dissent through contention between words and images. In Mosavarzadeh's visual-text series *Indexing Bodies: Remaining Fragments*, the random placement of words evokes memory, providing a space to reflect on the limitations of imagery. *Indexing Bodies: Remaining Fragments* also revisits objects of childhood memorabilia, including a series of balloons embedded with images of a childhood birthday party. A contrast of



CENTRE A

Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

205 – 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver BC V6A 1X5 | 604.683.8326 | www.centrea.org

2 of 4

humor, nostalgia and the volatile appear as the balloons naturally evaporate the exhibition duration. Mosavarzadeh engages with sensorial relations experienced by bodies and the possibilities that lie in the abstraction of those senses.

Artist Biography

Homa Khosravi, (b. Tehran, Iran) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Vancouver. She received her MFA from Simon Fraser University and BFA in Painting from the Tehran University of Art. Her work touches on surrealism, abstraction and worldbuilding with various “more than human” creatures through a multitude of mediums, including painting, video and sculpture installation. Khosravi explores the human body and its connection to memory, fantasy and the uncanny, highlighting a foundation of humor found within. Khosravi investigates experiences of her body and mind in relation to her environment, vis à vis the process of making the artworks, the choice of colours, and materiality within the installation.

Marzieh Mosavarzadeh is a PhD candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at The University of British Columbia, Canada, specializing in art education. Her arts-based educational research explores artful, pedagogical, and speculative ways of making-place through the artistic practices of walking, image-making, and writing. She holds both her MFA and BFA in visual arts. Marzieh is grateful to live and work on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples—Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlílh lwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil- Waututh), and xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Nations.

Curator Biography

Bahar Mohazabnia is an Iranian/Canadian art historian, cultural worker and curator based in Vancouver, the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tseil- Waututh, and Musqueam Nations. Mohazabnia is currently an MA candidate in the department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory at the University of British Columbia and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History with a minor in Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies from the same institution. She is the recipient of the UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Award and the Helen Belkin Memorial Scholarship, amongst others. Mohazabnia has held the positions of Curatorial Assistant at Griffin Art Projects, Exhibitions Assistant at AHVA Gallery and is currently a Public Programs Assistant at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery.

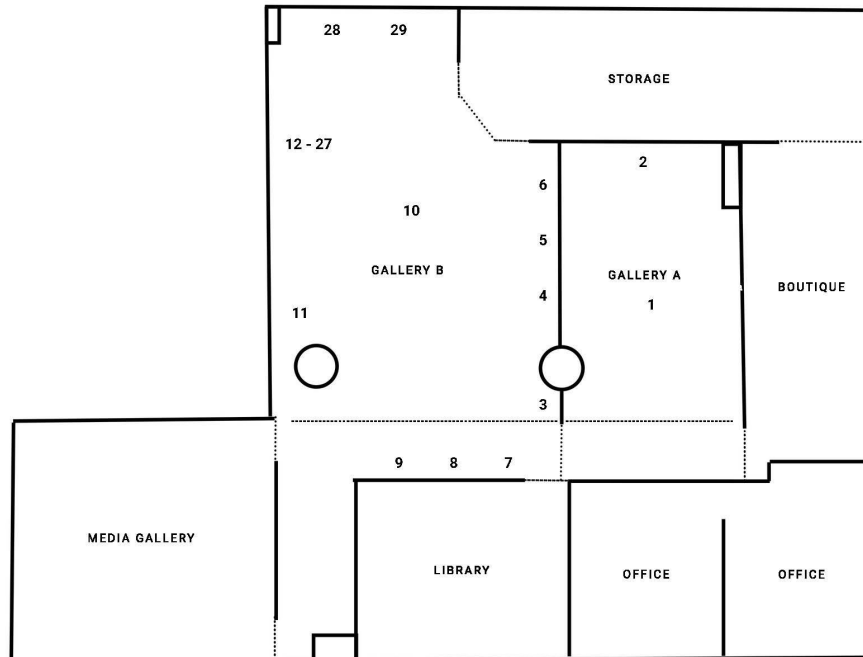


CENTRE A

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

3 of 4

Floor Plan:



1 – 2. Marzieh Mosavarzadeh, *Indexing Bodies: Remaining Fragments* (2022-2023), installation.

3 – 9. Marzieh Mosavarzadeh, *Indexing Bodies: Remaining Fragments* (2016-2017), various mediums and dimensions.

“In this visual-textual body of work, I explore the new meanings that emerge in the space between abstract and concrete words when juxtaposing them with the visual fragments from my childhood album. The abstract words refer to concepts, ideas, and theories that cannot be directly experienced through our senses, while concrete words signify things that are tangible, real, and objective. As a collector of words, I contemplate with the potentialities and constraints of English words in conveying the complexities of the experiences of marginalized bodies; to consider how the collection of these words arouse and enable imagery in relation to lived-experiences of marginalized bodies, and how they may fall short in doing so. The tangible objects in this series are made through repetition, replication, reverberation, and labour work that is inherent to the printmaking process, so as to further activate the affect that each body carries physically and conceptually.”



CENTRE A

Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

205 – 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver BC V6A 1X5 | 604.683.8326 | www.centrea.org

4 of 4

10 – 27. Homa Khosravi, *Bedtime Stories* (2022 - 2023), silkscreen prints in various mediums and dimensions.

“In this body of work, I explore the notions of dreams and reality through various techniques and mediums. *Bedtime Stories* is an intimate experience; a sneak peek into my worldbuilding. At times this is made through layers and investigation and at other times through storytelling. The work presents an offer to the viewer to walk through this unknown land, building their own narrative upon the pre-existing one. My paintings act as an invitation; a space not only about the human form but other living organisms. Beyond the ornamental elements and soft colors the work presents a space of reflection on mortality and decay; formulating a space for the viewer to find the line between reality and dream under layers of color and glitter.”

Upcoming Programming:

- **Reading Group - Sin, Bathing, and Wind Up Doll – Saturday, April 15, 2023 - 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**
- **Curator’s Tour/Artist Talk – Saturday, April 29, 2023 - 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**



Conseil des arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Saturday, 12 pm – 6 pm

For additional information, please contact us at info@centrea.org or (604) 683-8326

 centrea.org

 [@centre_a](https://www.instagram.com/centre_a)

 [@centrea](https://twitter.com/centrea)

 [CentreAGallery](https://www.facebook.com/CentreAGallery)

Centre A is situated on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil- Waututh) Nations. We honour, respect, and give thanks to our hosts.