



Untitled #3, series I am your only tiger
Textile, polyester and foam, 110x30x44 cm

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

TIGER IS TIGER IS A TIGER IS A TIGER

Farhad Farzali

curators Azad Asifovich & Asli Samadova

01.02 – 27.02.2022

extended from March 11 to March 19



GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

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GALERIE DIX9

TIGER IS A TIGER IS A TIGER IS A TIGER

For his first solo exhibition in France, Farhad Farzali chose a symbolic element to evoke his home country, Azerbaijan: the tiger. According to the words of the artist, his country is indeed his only muse, a charming mystery which has to be solved. His homeland located close to Persian, Ottoman and Russian Empires becomes an inspirational kaleidoscope of customs, traditions, and rituals. Farhad Farzali accurately examined anthropological samples of his native cultural context, carefully cataloged all forms of the new art, and the archaic elements turning back and actualized to create neofolk artifacts.

The exhibition made especially for Galerie Dix9 in Paris is a dialogue between the artist and the two Azeri curators, Azad Asifovich and Asli Samadova.

The title of the exhibition, *Tiger is a tiger is a tiger is a tiger*, refers to Gertrude Stein's quote *Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose* in her 1922 poem *Sacred Emily in Geography and Plays*. This quotation invokes the polysemic force of the word «rose», which represents as much a first name as a flower or a color, while underlining the law of identity which stipulates that everything is what it is. The meaning shifts never escape an expressive unity and a set of common, even universal, models.

In Azerbaijan, the tiger is a symbol full of history and imagery. Exterminated in the country, this animal embodies the pagan past of Azerbaijan, and more precisely a divine Mesopotamian attribute, which represents prestige and victorious hunting. Over time, the tiger remains an essential decorative element, present in Persian mosaics from antiquity to the modern era, as hunted and prized prey. It is the harbinger of an angelic apparition in certain Islamic traditions.

In contemporary culture, the tiger has become a symbol of manhood and male power. These anachronistic echoes form the background of Farhad Farzali's work, and his attachment to the figure of the tiger.

Farhad is particularly interested in the issue of the feline fur. His series of soft plush tigers is made from tiger-aspect clothing, worn nowadays by Azerbaijani women. Such motifs are considered traditional in popular culture in Azerbaijan, although they come from the international textile industry. If the symbol of the tiger is divided in a binary way between the genres, Farhad proposes a non-binary and transgressive interpretation: the contemporary feminine garment sculpts a plush whose iconography is that of the majestic and virilizing tiger. In addition, the feline plush is a common wedding gift in Azerbaijan. The artist therefore combines codes and references in order to question the value of this symbol and its charge.

In his recent series of paintings, the artist varies the facial expressions of his tiger heads, in a systematic spirit that links the tiger to its status of malleable and variable image. Between inspiration of Persian miniatures for their stylisation, and anthropomorphism cartoonesque, these painted tiger heads tend to reconcile the imaginations.

Azad Asifovich and Asli Samadova.

Farhad Farzali's works figure in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in Baku, Azerbaijan National Museum of Fine Arts and Yarat Contemporary Art Space.



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Tiger, acrylic on canvas, 65x65 cm, 2021



Tigers, ceramic, 5 cm each, 2021

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1989 en Azerbaijan, Farhad Farzali lives and works in Bakou

Education

Master Azerbaijan State Academy of Fine Arts, department Architect-Artist, 2012
currently Phd at Azerbaidjan State Academy of Fine Arts, department Architect-Artist

Residencies

Art Villa Garikula, Akhalkalaki, Georgia (2018)
KulturKontakt Austria, artist programm in residency, Vienna, Austria (2011)

Solo shows

2021

Tiger is a tiger is a tiger is a tiger, Galerie Dix9, Paris, curators Azad Asifovich and Asli Samadova

2019

Turandokht. Radio Riddle, Venice, Italy, curator Asli Samadova

2017

Vertigo, Palace of the Shirvanshahs, Bakou, curator Asli Samadova
Azerbaijan Baroque, Fragment, Moscou, Russia, curator Andrey Misiano
Molotov Gulab, ARTIM exhibition space, Bakou, curator Anna Fech

2015

I Am Your Only Tiger, YAY! Galerie, Bakou, Azerbaijan, curator Bjorn Geldhof

Group shows

2019

Café, avarice and generosity, Galerie Dix9 Paris, curator Azad Asifovich-Contemporary Istanbul Plugin, Istanbul, Turkey
Bahith (seeker), Gazelli Art House, London, UK
Die Grenze, House of Youth, Tachkent, Ouzbekistan, curators Inke Arns and Thibaut de Ruyter
Die Grenze, Hay Art Center, Erevan, Armenia
Contemporary Istanbul, art fair, Turkey
Off White Auction (Cosmoscow), Moscow, Russia
Art Dubai, EAU

2018

1918, Gazelli Art House, Bakou, Azerbaijan
Die Grenze, The Ural Branch of NCCA-ROSIZO, Ekaterinbourg, Russia, curators Inke Arns and Thibaut de Ruyter
Die Grenze, State museum of Arts Abilkhan Kasteyev, Almaty, Kazakhstan, curators Inke Arns and Thibaut de Ruyter
Art Dubai

2017

Work Never Stops, Museum and educational association, Tioumen, Russia, curator Svetlana Usoltseva
In Between to Sea and Mountains, YAY! gallery, Bakou, curators Björn Geldhof and Farah Alakbarli

Hosting the Inhuman, MMOMA, Moscou, curators Maria Kramar and Karen Sarkisov
Die Grenze, Tsereteli art gallery, Moscou, curators Inke Arns and Thibaut de Ruyter
Die Grenze, ARTPLAY SPb, Saint-Petersbourg, Russia
Die Grenze, The Krasnoyarsk Museum Center, Krasnoïarsk, Russia
Die Grenze, art center Plivka, Kiev, Ukraine
Die Grenze, History Museum in Tbilissi, Georgia
Die Grenze, Centre culturel Korpus, Minsk, Bielorussia
Die Grenze, HMKV, Dortmund, Germany, curators Inke Arns and Thibaut de Ruyter

2016

300 Words on Resistance, contemporain art center YARAT, Bakou Azerbaijan, curators Suad Garayeva-Maleki and Björn Geldhof
Boom Bang III, NN Contemporary Art Northampton, Northampton, UK, curators Cibic, Virginija Janukeviit, Filip Markiewicz and Katharina Stadler
Boom Bang III, Cultural Center in Agar, Lituania
To Be Surprised, To Surprise, art space ARTIM, Bakou, curator Sergey Bratkov
Art Dubai, EAU

2015

Candy Mountains, Oil Shores, Perm, Russia, curators Nailya Allahverdiyeva and Farhad Farzali
Pavillon of Large Caucase, official program 6th Biennale of Moscou, VNDKKh, curator : the group «the Unbound»
The Review, YAY! Gallery, Bakou, Azerbaijan
3th art festival in Bakou, Azerbaijan curator Sara Raza

2014,

ASTAR, a Time for Dreams, 4th International Biennale in Moscou for Young Art, MMOMA, Moscou, Russia, curator Nailya Allahverdiyeva
Nuda Veritas, Musée d'art moderne, Bakou, Azerbaijan, curator Samira Sefi
16th edition of festival of Islamic arts, Art museum in Charjah, EAU
START Art fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

2013

Different Cultures - One World, 7th Biennale of contemporary art in Tachkent, Ouzbekistan
Baku Air Condition Plant building, Bakou, Azerbaijan co-curator with Faig Ahmed
Eko Art, Museum Center, Bakou, Azerbaijan
From Waste to Art, Museum of archeology and ethnography, Bakou, Azerbaijan
The World Is Yours / The World Is Mine, Kicik QalArt, Bakou, curator Faig Ahmed
Process 2013, The Central House of Artists, Moscou, Russia

2012

Exhibition of the Union of the artists of Azerbaïdjan, Bakou, Azerbaijan
Aluminum 5, Biennale internationale, Museum Center, Bakou, Azerbaijan

2011

Exhibition of the Union of the artists of Azerbaijan, Bakou, Azerbaijan
Artist in Residency, Ausstellungsraum des BMUKK, Vienna, Austria

2010

At The Cross of XX Century, National Museum of Art of Azerbaijan, Bakou

2009

Aluminum 4, Biennale, Museum Center, Bakou, curator Leyla Akhundzadeh

2008

Steps of Time, National Collections of Dresde,DE, curator Leyla Akhundzadeh

2007

Aluminum 3, Biennale, Bakou, curator Leyla Akhundzadeh