

Helia Chitsazan

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Helia Chitsazan is a contemporary painter born in Tehran, Iran, in 1995. She graduated from the Tehran University of Art in 2018. Currently, she is pursuing the MFA Fine Arts program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

In this series of paintings, Once upon a time, something happened I convey the notion of memories. identity absence, and ephemerality. My works reflect significant moments spent with my friends and family back home in Tehran, Iran, as those people, places, and moments are now inaccessible. To overcome this absence, I use my imagination and recreate those moments of affection and intimacy. The narratives usually take place in indoor spaces reminiscent of 'home! Home is where the secret double lives of Iranians occur-drinking, dancing, smoking and holding hands, despite these being illegal in public. These moments are profoundly honest, emotional, and sincere demonstrations of our community.

I use videos shot with my phone and old family VHS records to build these compositions based on the imprints I have experienced as a protagonist of the painting. In this series of works. I aim to show a hidden and intimate layer of my life as an Iranian woman and more importantly, a human encompassing the dilemmas and sadness, as well as states of happiness. With this approach, I try to offer an answer to the chaotic world that makes us forget our most basic and crucial feelings.



*Image:
Tust Careless
oil on canvas
48 x 24 inches*



*Image:
When I heard that he is gone
oil on canvas
48 x 60 inches*