

Art Show | FOU Gallery Presents Artist Helia Chitsazan's Solo Show, After Midnight...

BY EDITORIAL TEAM | MAY 3, 2023



Poster design: Yizhi Liu

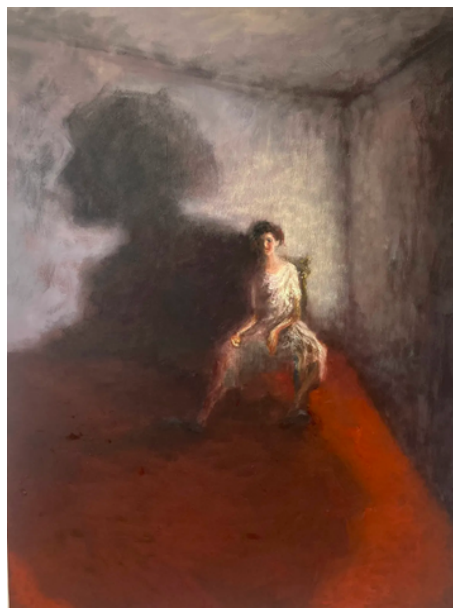
(New York—May 6, 2023) The upcoming exhibition *After Midnight...* at Fou Gallery, running from May 6 to July 16, 2023, promises to be a spectacular display of the artistic prowess of Helia Chitsazan (b. 1995), an Iranian artist who has recently graduated from the New York School of Visual Arts. This will be Chitsazan's first solo exhibition, featuring a collection of her striking large-scale oil paintings and smaller canvases that have been produced over the past two years.

Born and raised in Tehran, Chitsazan earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from the Art University of Tehran before pursuing a Master's degree in Fine Arts in New York. As a female who grew up in a conservative society, she has cultivated a keen interest in observing how people interact with one another in their social and private lives. In Iran, certain personal pastimes and intimate behaviors, such as drinking, dancing, smoking, and holding hands, are considered illegal in public spaces, leading people to indulge in such activities only in the privacy of their homes. This duality of behavior, one that manifests itself in stark contrast between public and private settings, has inspired Chitsazan to create a body of work that candidly and emotionally depicts this paradoxical way of life.



Helia Chitsazan, *When I Heard That He Is Gone*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches
©Helia Chitsazan, courtesy of Fou Gallery

Chitsazan's artistry lies in her ability to capture intimate and sincere moments of life that are often hidden from the public eye. Many of her pieces are inspired by fond memories of her time spent with family in Tehran, and they feature vivid and thick colors that illuminate dimly lit indoor spaces. These spaces often house one or more figures who are caught in deep thought or active conversation. Viewers of her art can easily sense the tense energy that permeates her work, which is generated through the bold body language of her subjects, the unspoken thoughts that are hidden under their expressions, and the play of light and shadow that creates an aura of uncertainty. Chitsazan is an artist who defies classification; although her work displays traces of both Neoclassicism and Romanticism, her unique artistic style is characterized by a distinctly innovative approach to spatial relationships, brushwork, and surface textures.



Helia Chitsazan, *See, You Are Still Here With Me*, 2023. Oil on canvas, 48 x 36 inches
©Helia Chitsazan, courtesy of Fou Gallery

As a gallery housed in a historic brownstone building dating back to 1905, Fou Gallery's exhibition space—which resembles a grand living room—provides the inspiring setting for Helia Chitsazan: *After Midnight...*, enabling her works to create a cohesive contextual narrative that is centered around the concept of “home.” This theme serves to emphasize the emotional weight that is inherent in the moments depicted in her art.



Helia Chitsazan, *After Midnight*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 54 x 56.7 inches
©Helia Chitsazan, courtesy of Fou Gallery

The exhibition is curated by Fou Gallery's Artistic Director, Lynn Hai, and will feature a series of feminist-themed discussions and events of feminist perspective that are set to take place throughout the exhibition's run.

Exhibition Dates

May 6 – July 16, 2023

Opening Reception

Saturday, May 6, 2023 16:00 – 19:00

Venue

Fou Gallery
410 Jefferson Ave #1
Brooklyn, New York, NY 11221

Curator

Lynn Hai

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For more information, please visit:

<https://www.fougallery.com>

About the Artist



Helia Chitsazan at her studio, photo by Tyson Housman ©Helia Chitsazan

Helia Chitsazan Having earned her BFA in Painting from the Art University of Tehran in 2018, **Helia Chitsazan** relocated to New York City to pursue her MFA in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts, where she graduated from in 2023. Chitsazan's artwork has been showcased in various painting festivals in Tehran and featured in the 2021 group exhibition, Cocoon, at the New Collectors art gallery in New York. She also participated in group shows at Thierry Goldberg Gallery and LAbeast gallery in early 2023. She was awarded the 1st painting grant from Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation located in Montreal, Canada.

About Curator



Lynn Hai at Fou Gallery ©Lynn Hai, Photo by Echo He

Lynn Hai graduated from Architectural Association (London) in 2014 and gained her Master's in Design Studies at Harvard University (Boston) in 2017. She is a partner and the Art Director of Fou Gallery, also a staff writer at Harvard CAMLab (Chinese Art Media Lab). She initiates and curates art exhibitions for Fou Gallery Artists and refines the artists' creations in academic form. Her selected curatorial and design experiences includes: November online group highlights on PLATFORM by David Zwirner Gallery with Cathleen Clarke and Shuling Guo (New York, 2022); *Wei Jia: Good Times* (Fou Gallery and Chambers Fine Arts, 2021); Together in Distance benefit art auction for the relief of COVID-19 (New York, 2020); Dwelling At the Present Interior Design Exhibition and Forum (Harvard Club, New York, 2019); *Flow Fields – Confluence in Urban Picnic* (Matedero, Madrid, 2013); *Flow Fields – Dilution* in 2013 Lisbon Triennale (Sinel de Cordes Palace, Lisbon, 2013) et al. Her writings are published on art periodicals including *ArtChina*, *CAFA Artinfo*, *Tussle Magazine* and *ArtPulse* et al.

About Gallery

FOU GALLERY is an apartment gallery and creative lab based in New York. Fou is dedicated to promoting creative talents and projects of our time. As suggested by its name, Fou is both a denial of the mainstream commercial gallery model and an active contributor to a new, organic art community. With the belief that the enjoyment of art is an essential part of everyday life, Fou offers a vibrant, inspirational selection of original works in art and design, and hosts various events to create a diverse and accessible art space.

(text & photo courtesy of FOU GALLERY)

<https://litang.zone/2023/05/03/art-show-fou-gallery-presents-artist-helia-chitsazans-solo-show-after-midnight/>