

Khosro Berahmandi's Persian Tapestry

By Dorota Kozinska

Khosro Berahmandi's work exemplifies a singular aesthetic, a personal vision of mysterious dimensions, spanning cultures and history.

Born in Iran, he has been living and working in Montreal since 1983, showcasing his unique talent at Mekic Art Gallery, specializing in Iranian art. Having studied in France at the University of Paris VIII, and completing his education with a Fine Arts degree from Montreal's Concordia University, Berahmandi invests his paintings and drawings with a particular mix of classical and contemporary, mythical and surreal. What is most prominent in his production is the attention to detail and precision in rendering his compositions. The painstaking execution of the works results in pieces that at times resemble jewellery in their intricacy, in this exhibition, however, the focus is more on forms, and their placement in space. Stylized shapes and a combination of organic and geometric forms, makes this a rather eclectic visual presentation, but held in check by the muted palette dominated by earthy tones and a glimmer of copper. Familiar images of animals populate some of the compositions, while others resemble votive offerings. A series of boxes with tiny worlds enclosed within them, take Berahmandi's production to a very different level. These objets d'art have an atavistic feel to them, something organic, ancient, like notations from the past left for us to decipher. *The Eye of the Well* is a poetic title for the artist's latest production, but in Persian culture poetry holds court and inspires everything from songs to visual art. Khosro Berahmandi masterfully translates this into his contemporary compositions, creating in the process a unique artistic hybrid, a visual lexicon unlike any other. Memory and the present intertwine in a dialogue that echoes throughout this exhibition.

Three art books on Khosro Berhmandi's work have been published by Maison d'édition Ketabe Iran Canada and by Les éditions du Noroît.

Khosro Berahmandi: *The Eye of the Well*

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