



Ali Banisadr

Foreign Lands

het
noordbrabants
museum

6 Apr – 25 Aug 2019
Den Bosch,
The Netherlands

PRESS RELEASE

Den Bosch, 26 March 2019

Artist Ali Banisadr makes his European museum debut

The Het Noordbrabants Museum is delighted to present *Ali Banisadr: Foreign Lands*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition in Europe. On view from 6 April to 25 August 2019, the retrospective takes its title from one of Banisadr's most elaborate landscapes, *Foreign Lands* (2015). Featuring over twenty paintings and works on paper from across a decade of the artist's career, it will also include a new painting *Hold the Fort* (2019), created especially for the exhibition.

Ali Banisadr (b.1976, Tehran, Iran) moved to the United States as a child. In 2000, he started his training as an artist at the School of Visual Arts in New York – the city where he still lives and works today. His work is a careful balancing act between chaos and composure, abstract and figurative painting and drawing. His complex, expansive paintings are rich with figurative allusions rooted in autobiographical narratives, sonic recollection, invented stories, world history, collective memory and mythology. His paintings represent a physiological space where 'things from the past, the present, and the future can dwell at the same time'¹

Sound is an integral part of Banisadr's practice, influencing the way that he works. He has synaesthesia (a condition where one sense, such as sight, simultaneously triggers another, like sound) and within his work he hears an internal sound which guides him on the composition of his paintings. Renowned art historian Robert Hobbs, author of the essay in the exhibition catalogue has described how this has "enabled him to focus on *energy* and *rhythm* as crucially important aspects of his innovative art."² Other writers have noted that whilst his work has been compared to Hieronymous Bosch or Wassily Kandinsky his dynamic brushwork brings to mind 'the dashing rhythms and bold symphonic timbres of Sergei Prokofiev or Igor Stravinsky.'³

'The spirit of an era can be captured in many ways – through music, writing, architecture ... for me, understanding issues, personal memories, or human conditions holistically can only happen through drawing or painting. This is an unsettling time for our country and the world. I want to capture that energy and record what it feels like to live right now.' – Ali Banisadr

Ali Banisadr will be in conversation with Iranian-Dutch writer Kader Abdolah on Friday 5 April 2019.

¹ Phong Bui, "Art in Conversation: Ali Banisadr," *Brooklyn Rail*

² Robert Hobbs, "Ali Banisadr: The Art of Sensation"

³ Robert Barry, "Ali Banisadr" *Frieze*

Catalogue and audio tour

Grant giving bodies

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A richly illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, written by art historian Robert Hobbs and is published by WBOOKS. The catalogue will be available in Dutch and English from 6 April 2019 and can be bought at the Museum Shop and in bookshops. The audio tour in the exhibition, introduces a selection of the paintings by Ali Banisadr and is accompanied by a soundtrack selected by the artist.

With thanks to

Ali Banisadr: Foreign Lands is made possible and supported by the Renschdael Art Foundation, Blain|Southern and Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac.

About Ali Banisadr

Ali Banisadr was born in Tehran, IR in 1976, and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received his MFA from The New York Academy of Art, New York, and his BFA from The School of Visual Arts, New York,. Banisadr's work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous group exhibitions, including The Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN (2018); Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR (2018); Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFA), Texas, TX (2017); The British Museum, London, UK (2016); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA (2013); Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, DE (2013); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (2012), Love me /Love me Not, The 55th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy and Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K), Ghent, BE (2010).

His work is in major public and private collections internationally including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, The British Museum, London, UK, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, AT and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY among others.

In 2019 his work will be the subject of the following major solo exhibition: *Bosch & Banisadr: Ali Banisadr: We Work in Shadows*, Gemaldegalerie, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, AT.

PRESS INVITATION

The private opening and press preview will take place on **Friday 5 April 2019**.

Programme 5 April

16.30 hrs State Room open

16.45 hrs Start programme

Charles de Mooij, director of the museum, welcomes you. Hans November, curator 20th and 21st century art of the museum, introduces the exhibition and presents the publication. This is followed by an interview with writer Kader Abdolah and artist Ali Banisadr.

17.45 hrs Exhibition open for viewing

18.45 hrs Drinks in the Rabo court

Registration and interview requests

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We would be grateful if you could let us know if you would like to attend both the press preview and the interview between Ali Banisadr and Kader Abdolah or just the press preview. An interview with the artist will be possible by mutual arrangement on Wednesday 3 April, Thursday 4 April or Friday 5 April 2019 (before the opening).

Contact Het Noordbrabants Museum, Communication and Marketing department
Greetje Tops, T +31 (0)73 – 6877 819 or pers@hnbm.nl

Images and catalogue

For high-res images and a biography of the artist, please visit www.hnbm.nl/press/banisadr

A PDF of the catalogue (WBOOKS) is available on request.



Ali Banisadr, *Hold the Fort*, 2019, olieverf op linnen, 61 x 61 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Blain|Southern

Het Noordbrabants Museum visiting information

Het Noordbrabants Museum
Verwersstraat 41, 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands
T +31 (0)73 – 6877 877
hnbm.nl

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