



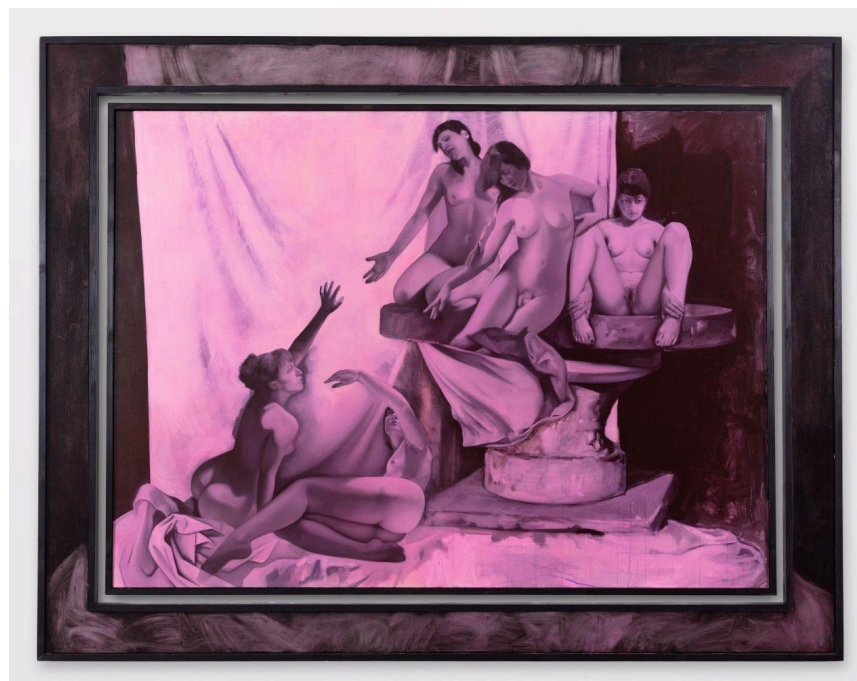
Palo Gallery Presents
Fa Razavi: Opera Rose
30 Bond Street, New York, NY 10012
29 March – 3 May 2025
Opening Reception: 28 March 2025 | 6 PM – 8 PM



Fa Razavi, *Mothers "Victory" battle scene (Snakes and ladders)*, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

Palo Gallery is pleased to announce ***Opera Rose***, the debut solo exhibition of Iranian artist **Fa Razavi** in the United States, in collaboration with the London-based curatorial duo Pia Zeitzen and Sasha Shevchenko of Kollektiv Collective. In this new body of work, Razavi's triptych and seven large-scale paintings depict instances of revolution, whether on the battlefield, by the kitchen sink, or at the artist's easel. Razavi's visual language draws on the ways in which politics and history linger in the subconscious. Please join Palo Gallery, Fa Razavi, and Kollektiv Collective for a celebratory opening reception on Friday, 28 March 2025, from 6PM to 8PM at the gallery's flagship location at 30 Bond Street in New York City. A zine will be published jointly with the exhibition with supplementary text by Kollektiv Collective.

Razavi's skillfully crafted compositions capture the grandeur of the Renaissance and the drama of the Baroque, creating scenes that feel both historical and prophetic. Informed by the long history of the global female resistance movement, her paintings create spaces in which solidarity prevails over oppression. In the artwork *Opera Rose*, the artist portrays intersex bodies that attest to their right to belong. Two hands extend toward each other in a moment of unadorned compassion, with the imminent spark of their touch conveying an anticipation for a brighter future. The composition conveys that the simple act of existing in space is already a form of resistance and revolution, both in taking to the streets and within the privacy of domestic space.



Fa Razavi, *Opera Rose*, 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

The discovery of Razavi's layers prompts the viewer to consider the lives of her heroic, fictional figures and the imagined revolutions they participated in. Color bathes the figures in a sacred urgency, illustrating acts of reclamation in their home, history, body, and voice. While symbolizing faith and the promise of equality, the color green also signifies resistance – whether to an oppressive regime, hegemonies, or broken promises. In Razavi's dreamland, the wash of color strips the proposed fantasy, exposing the distress and uneasiness beneath each parable. Amidst uniformity, the green encounters but one anomaly: a rebellion amongst conformity. Fate becomes obscured in a colorful mist, and the epic tale begins in the quotidian quiet.

The intimate, joyous gatherings of women whilst in their private spaces stands in contrast to the violence of gender segregation in and outside the home. *The Last Train Home* depicts the contemporary Iranian landscape and references various forms of resistance, such as a woman dancing with a flag and a menstrual pad covering a CCTV camera. In September 2022, following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in Iranian police custody, everyday objects, such as menstrual pads, became symbols of an uprising, being used to cover surveillance cameras in public spaces, including train stations.

Behind a monochromatic veil, Razavi's layers of paint offer intimate glimpses into the lives of her painted heroes. Yet with the final layer of a single color acting as protection and enforcing a respectful distance, Razavi refrains from providing explanations. In the glimpses of her personal history – childhood memories of evenings surrounded by the women in her family, listening to their wisdom and laughter – a form of liberation is already here. The artist invites thoughtful



interaction with her works by imagining spaces that are safe for women to be free—in the privacy of the artist’s memories, the intimacy of the home, and the courage to imagine a different future.

Fa Razavi: Opera Rose is on view at 30 Bond Street from 29 March through 3 May 2025. Please join Palo Gallery on Wednesday, April 2 at 6pm for an artist talk with Fa Razavi and Kollektiv Collective at 30 Bond Street in New York. This event is open to the public.

About the Artist

Fa Razavi’s (b.1996, Bushehr, Iran) work is delicate in its power and graceful in its rage, speaking like the urgency of a revolution in the making. Razavi is a London-based Iranian artist whose practice spans painting, sculpture, film and performance, and entwines the artist’s personal experience with the socio-political context of contemporary Iran. Grappling with themes of displacement and belonging, collective and personal memory, and self-determination and authority, she negotiates her cultural heritage, religious upbringing and her life in the UK at present. Referencing Iranian present-day conventions and turbulent history, Razavi imbues her work with courageous symbolism; her practice becomes a testament to the resilience of those who have had their rights curtailed. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from Middlesex University (2022) and was a Sculpture Associate at the Art University of Tehran (2017).

Razavi’s previous solo exhibitions include *Snakes and Ladders* at the Bomb Factory Art Foundation (London, 2024), *Nothing to Be Shown* at Hoxton Gallery (London, 2023), and *Dancing on a Knife’s Edge* at Wilder Gallery (London 2023). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Tinnitus (London, 2024); Galería Yusto/Giner (Madrid, 2023); Hoxton Arches; Kupfer (both London, 2023); Shame Gallery (Brussels, 2023); Nunnery Gallery (both London, 2022); and Forum Gallery (Tehran, 2017), among others. In 2022, Razavi won the Freelands Painting Prize.

About Kollektiv Collective

Founded in 2019, Kollektiv Collective is a London-based curatorial collective founded by curators and writers Pia Zeitzen and Sasha Shevchenko. Kollektiv Collective specialises in site-specific curatorial projects with a research and collaboration-based practice that draws from contemporary philosophy and storytelling. Zeitzen and Shevchenko’s work is deeply rooted in the fascination with space – architecturally, conceptually and socio-politically – through which they engage with contemporary anxieties in order to critically and communally contextualise different modes of being in the present. Working site-specifically, the underpinnings of their projects are developed with and against a given exhibition space and setting. Kollektiv Collective conceives every project as an experiment in curating as a collaborative, artistic expression.



About Palo Gallery

Established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, Palo Gallery brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic presentations. Originating as a pop-up gallery, Palo opened its 3,400-square-foot flagship space designed by Selldorf Architects in 2022 in the NoHo district of Manhattan, and is the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf.

In June 2024, Palo opened its second gallery location in New York City. Since its inception, Palo Gallery has sought to incorporate thematic elements into its curatorial practice – whether it be group shows or solo presentations. Early exhibitions marked the gallery's foray into concept-driven presentations focusing on themes of memory, history and our most primitive instincts. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic presentations, offering their artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal cultural and historical topics.

After participating in Art Cologne 2023, Art Cologne 2024 and ZsONAMACO 2025, Palo Gallery will be participating in EXPO Chicago 2025 and Aspen Art Fair 2025 later this year.

Locations

Palo Gallery
30 Bond Street
New York, NY 10012

Palo Gallery
21 East 3rd Street
New York, NY 10003

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions:

I Am The I Am, curated by Danny Moynihan
30 Bond Street
30 January to 22 March 2025

Sandy Williams: Life in Ellipsis
21 East 3rd Street
1 March to 5 April 2025

Fa Razavi: Opera Rose
30 Bond Street
29 March to 3 May 2025

Charlie Roberts: Metropolis
21 East 3rd Street
12 April to 10 May 2025

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