

Ali Banisadr

The work of Ali Banisadr (B. 1976, Tehran, Iran) demonstrates a careful balancing act between chaos and composure, and 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.

Alongside references of historical and contemporary art, sound is also integral to Banisadr's practice; indeed, much of the dynamic power in his painting has been attributed to the synaesthesia that he experiences while painting. This began when he was growing up in Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, where he drew the sounds he heard during air-raids, in order to make sense of what was happening. He says: 'When I begin a painting, it is always based on an internal sound. As soon as I apply the brush, the sound begins, and I am able to compose the work based on the sounds I hear as I'm painting. It is the force that drives the whole painting and helps me compose the work and pull everything together.'

Banisadr's family left Iran in 1988, moving first to Turkey and then to California. He studied psychology and was involved with the underground graffiti scene in San Francisco. Moving to New York in 2000, he obtained his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and MFA from New York Academy of Art. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

The artist's works are housed in prestigious public collections worldwide including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Saatchi Gallery and the British Museum in London, among others. His work has been featured in many group shows, including *Expanded Painting*, Prague Biennale 6, Prague, CZ (2013); *Love Me/Love Me Not, Contemporary Art from Azerbaijan and its Neighbors*, The 55th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, IT (2013); *Frauen Liebe und Leben* (The Klöcker collection), Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, DE (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, US (2013), *The Moving Museum*, Dubai, AE (2013); *Contemporary Iranian art in the Permanent Collection*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US (2012) and *Hareng Saur: Ensor and Contemporary Art*, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent, BE (2010).

Banisadr's works are in important public collections including Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; The British Museum, London; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Museum der Moderne, Salzburg.