

PAINTING, AN UNENDING

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Parham Ghalamdar

ART

EXHIBITION GUIDE

Sat 18 Feb – Sun 4 Jun



● PARHAM GHALAMDAR: PAINTING, AN UNENDING

This exhibition brings together new paintings in oil, ceramics, and animation to create an immersive installation. Incorporating art historical and contemporary cultural references, Ghalamdar introduces an artificial intelligence tool to his practice as an extension of his sketchbook.

Elements ranging from a tent in a 15th Century fresco by Piero de la Francesca¹, and vases featured in the 11th Century poetry of Omar Khayyam, to objects from American cowboy cartoons and sci-fi films consumed during his childhood in Iran, are painted against bleak landscapes, creating often absurdly humorous epic scenes. Eschewing narrative, he approaches his work as a performer warming up their vocal cords, shape shifting colour with texture, surface quality and composition to infuse a dreamlike, surreal sensibility.

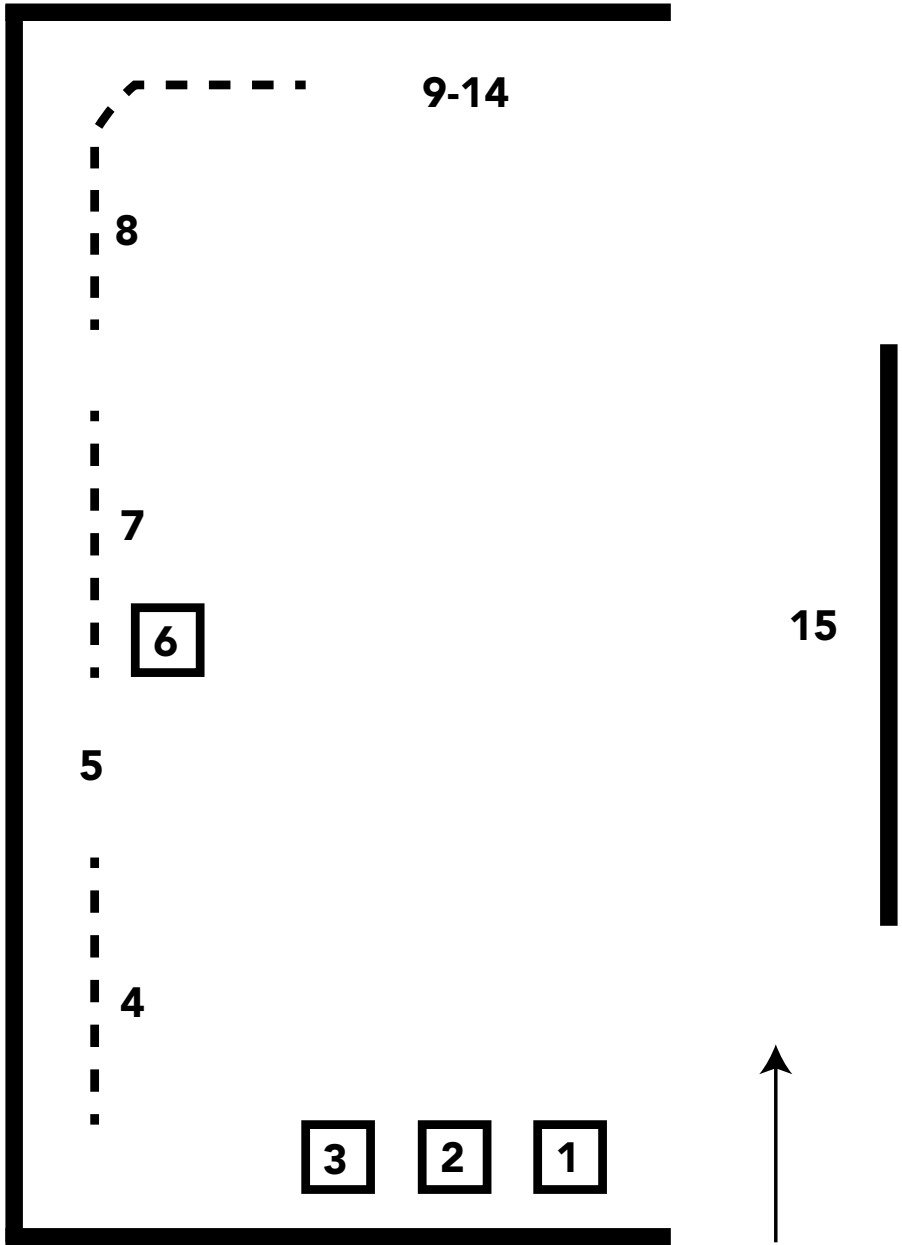
An artificial intelligence tool that creates realistic images from text descriptions, is prompted with social scenes or situations that due to the artist's political beliefs or sexuality would be impossible in his homeland. The results appear surprising and random. Incorporating them into his work, he repaints and repeats the process endlessly. The work jumps from one epoch, or socio/political context, to another within the same canvas, exploring notions of identity politics, migration, freedom of movement, borders, community and belonging.

The repetition and production of his work can be seen as a liberating process of catharsis, reconciliation or reckoning with his past, a coming of age in an authoritarian regime in the aftermath of a failed revolution. In a country where imported western culture was readily consumed, yet laws on the production of culture in Iran consistently ambiguous, redefined or banned, Ghalamdar pushes the limitations of the medium of painting through AI image synthesis, navigating the tensions and traversing between self-expression and authorship; authenticity and censorship.

1, The tent featured in Francesca's 15th Century fresco *Dream of Constantine* is used as a trope throughout *Painting, An Unending*. Located in a church in Arezzo, Italy, the fresco depicts the night before the Battle of Milvern Bridge, fought between the Roman Emperors Constantine and Maxentius. Historicised as the event that marked the death of paganism and the birth of Christianity as the dominant religion for the empire and Europe, the work symbolises a significant turning point in social, cultural and political consciousness. As such, for Ghalamdar, the work signifies a moment of pause, an 'in between state', flickering between past and future, charged ambiguity or promise. Autobiographically, the work resonates as a state of transition, migration and shelter.



GALLERY MAP



LIST OF WORKS

- 1.** *Deadly snare of idleness*, ceramic, 2023
- 2.** *Remember when it seems otherwise*, ceramic, 2023
- 3.** *Outweighing fears*, ceramic, 2023
- 4.** *Back-drop for a cancelled Iranian gay vampire movie filmed in stormy landscapes*, oil on canvas, 2023
- 5.** *Staging magic in the studio*, oil on panel, 2021
- 6.** *You'll see blood spilled in the most playful way, just as if it were Shiraz red wine*, ceramic, 2023
- 7.** *The tent is temporary, it disappears to see the unbelievable*, oil on canvas, 2023
- 8.** *Low-budget corner-drop for a cancelled Iranian gay vampire sci-fi film*, oil on canvas, 2023
- 9.** *Experiments to overcome the world*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2022
- 10.** *Documenting magic*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2022
- 11.** *Secular magic*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2020
- 12.** *Bargain with reality*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2020
- 13.** *Fluffy déjà vu*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2020
- 14.** *Metaphorical architecture*, oil on pearlescent paper, 2021
- 15.** *Your smile was the most beautiful definition of motherland*, 262 frames of animation in loop, 2022

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Parham Ghalamdar is a painter and has a background as a member of the graffiti collective ELF in Tehran. He studied MA in painting at Manchester School of Art and specialized in oil painting. His recent work examines the relationship between contemporary painting with the past, i.e. Christianity and the future, i.e. internet and digital culture, to negotiate the present.

Ghalamdar has been expanding his painting and drawing practice into the digital realm since the temporary closure of his studio during the national lockdown in 2020. This resulted in 9 thousand frames of animation produced in the past two years. He has recently finished two short animations/films in collaboration with the director Martin Cooper, commissioned by the Oscar-winning artist, animator, filmmaker, Joan Gratz.

Ghalamdar is a member of the Workplace Foundation's Community of Artists. He currently has a solo screening of his animation at Bavan Gallery, Tehran, Iran. Recent solo exhibitions include Narratives, The Lowry, Fig.1, Caustic Coastal; A fine Kettle Of Fish, Granada Foundation Galleries HOME, Manchester; Against the Absurdity Of Life at Maria Behnam-Bakhtiar Gallery, Monte-Carlo, France. Recent group exhibitions include at Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London; London Paint Club, Floorr Magazine; Castlefield Gallery, Manchester; Manchester Art Gallery; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Beep Painting Biennale, Swansea; Asia Now Art Fair, Paris. In 2022 he undertook a residency at Desire Lines Residency Programme.

www.ghalamdar.com  [@parham.ghalamdar](https://www.instagram.com/parham.ghalamdar)  [@parham_art](https://twitter.com/parham_art)

CREDITS

Curated by Clarissa Corfe. Painting, An Unending is commissioned by HOME.

EVENTS

Please visit homemcr.org for more information and to book tickets.

AUDIO DESCRIBED TOUR

Mon 13 Mar, 12:00

Join Audio Describer Anne Hornsby and Clarissa Corfe for an Audio Described tour of HOME's three current solo exhibitions.

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TOUR

Tue 14 Mar, 18:00

Artists Nick Jordan, Chris Paul Daniels and Parham Ghalamdar will lead tours of their solo exhibitions.

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FIELDTRIP

Tue 28 Mar & Tues 11 Apr 2023

Peat Restoration Fieldtrip to Little Woollen Moss to coincide with the exhibition Natural Interaction.

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BSL TOUR

Sat 29 Apr, 14:00-15:00

Join Martin Glover for a British Sign Language (BSL) led tour of HOME's three current solo exhibitions.

SCREENING

Tue 16 May, 18:00

Out of Memory: the films of Nick Jordan and Chris Paul Daniels + Q&A.
Book your ticket at homemcr.org.

IN CONVERSATION

Sat 20 May, 14:00

Join the artists and their guests in conversation on their solo exhibitions and wider practices: Nick Jordan and Naziha Arebi, Chris Paul Daniels and Derek Horton, Parham Ghalamdar and Shezad Dawood.



OPENING TIMES & DATES

Sat 18 Feb 2023 - Sun 4 Jun 2023

Mon: Closed

Tue - Sat: 12.00 - 20.00

Sun: 12.00 - 18.00

Free, no booking required



GROUP BOOKINGS INFORMATION

If you'd like to discuss tour for schools or groups, please email **groups@homemcr.org** or call Box Office on **0161 200 1500** (12:00 - 20:00 daily)



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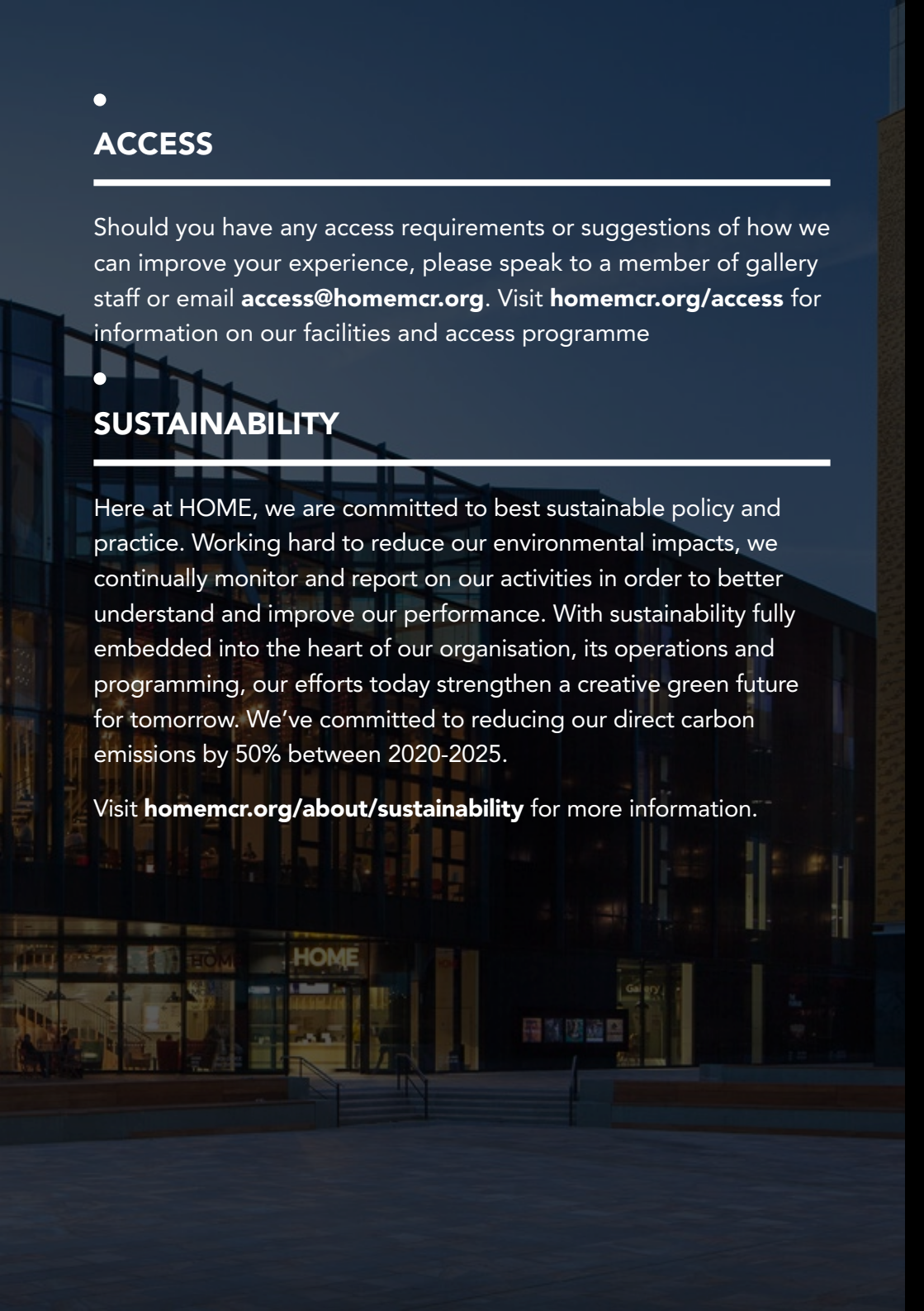
Should you have any access requirements or suggestions of how we can improve your experience, please speak to a member of gallery staff or email access@homemcr.org. Visit homemcr.org/access for information on our facilities and access programme

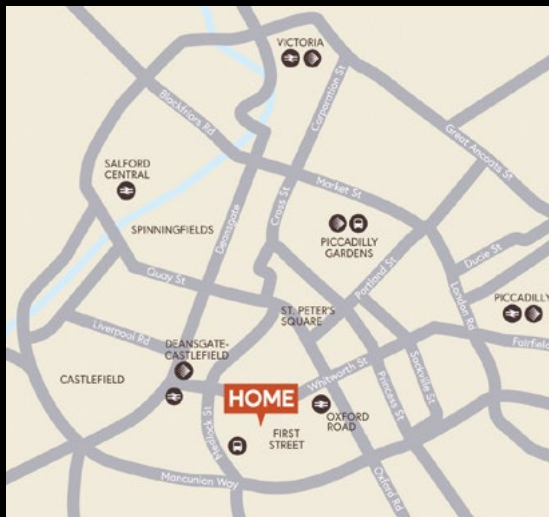


SUSTAINABILITY

Here at HOME, we are committed to best sustainable policy and practice. Working hard to reduce our environmental impacts, we continually monitor and report on our activities in order to better understand and improve our performance. With sustainability fully embedded into the heart of our organisation, its operations and programming, our efforts today strengthen a creative green future for tomorrow. We've committed to reducing our direct carbon emissions by 50% between 2020-2025.

Visit homemcr.org/about/sustainability for more information.





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GETTING HERE

HOME

2 Tony Wilson Place
Manchester M15 4FN

We are located on Tony Wilson Place, First Street, just off Whitworth Street West, roughly opposite the Hacienda apartments and a short walk from Oxford Road and the Deansgate-Castlefield Metrolink stop.

For venue, event and booking information please visit homemcr.org
Or Call Box Office on **0161 200 1500**

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