



RADICAL VOICE

woman, life, freedom

in collaboration with **Fashion Revolution Iran**

on show

from Thursday **11** to Sunday **14 May** 2023, from **11.30am** to **7.30pm**

Fondazione Sozzani

via Enrico Tazzoli 3, Milan

free entry

opening

Thursday **11 May** 2023 at **5.30pm**

with

Leila & Sara Shirvani, cellist and pianist

Martina Castigliani, author and journalist

Nazanin Karimkhani, Fashion Revolution Iran coordinator

Sara Sozzani Maino, Fondazione Sozzani creative director

Somayeh Haghnegahdar, Iranian documentary and filmmaker

talk

Saturday **13 May** 2023 at **6pm**

with

Marco Carrara, television journalist and UNICEF NextGen ambassador

Pegah Moshir Pour, Human and digital rights activist

Sennait Ghebreab, author, academic and winner of the Talented Young Italians award in the UK

Fondazione Sozzani in collaboration with **Fashion Revolution Iran** presents **Radical voice: woman, life, freedom**, an exhibition dedicated to **art** and the **female emancipation** of **Iranian women** through a selection of works created by young artists with different expressive languages, including painting, sculpture, video, photography, and fashion.

Since September 2022, in **Iran** there has been a wave of protests to the motto *woman, life, freedom*. The reactions, led mostly by women calling for an end to **gender discrimination** and **female oppression** in Iranian society, quickly morphed into a wider movement, with the entire population spreading through the street to defend basic human rights.

Together with the creative and artisan communities of Iran who support the ongoing revolution, Fashion Revolution Iran has launched the first edition of a call-to-action addressed to artists from all over the world, inviting them to present work inspired by women, life, freedom.

The finalists are: **Aytaj Ahmadova**, **Eleonora Gugliotta**, **Elisabetta Braghetto**, **Emanuela Taglietti**, **Evelina Marconi**, **Francesca Crisi**, **Mahnaz Ekhtiary**, **Marjane Saidi**, **Pairi Daeza**, **Patrizia Balzerano**, **Patrizia Benedetta Fratus**, **Stories & Ismaele**, **Valentina Pagano**, **Valeria Meliadó** and **Ziba Pashang**.

Thanks to these artists, the exhibition aims to give voice, value and dignity to the Iranian people and wants to remember how the riots have had a devastating impact on the working life of the country, leading to the loss of numerous jobs. Craftswomen are among the most vulnerable workers – often on the margins of society, women are subject to numerous difficulties and without economic stability they cannot guarantee a decent standard of living for themselves and their families.

“We believe that art can be a catalyst for change,” says **Vida Diba**, one of the organizers of the exhibition.

“Together to create a proclamation that cannot be ignored. Art to demand justice, promote equality and bring attention to important issues happening in Iran. Now is the time for a change”, says **Sara Sozzani Maino**, Fondazione Sozzani creative director.

The exhibition makes use of the support of **VAIA**, an Italian startup born with the aim of reforesting the Dolomites after the storm of 2018, enhancing the territory and craftsmanship thanks to the circular economy, and **Alisea**, which has been involved for years in the recovery and reuse of company materials waste. By selling a limited series of sustainable products for charity to support the battle of Iranian women, VAIA presents an exclusive series of VAIA CUBE customized by artists **Anna Benvenuto**, **Chiara Catalano**, **Gianluca Costantini**, **Leonardo Pucci**, **Marcello Pipitone**, **Sofia Biagini**, **Martina Lorusso**, **Nafiseh Kaboudvand** and **Fabio Orioli**.

Alisea in collaboration with the illustrator **Sara Guazzarini** proposes Perpetua, the only pencil produced in Italy with 80% graphite powder otherwise destined for landfill disposal, for this occasion decorated with a design that evokes the handwriting of the Farsi and it becomes a symbol of life, hope, and resistance.

“Through aesthetics, raw materials and art, a message, a symbol, an idea can be constructed. By intervening directly on the wooden object, the artists transmit messages that give strength to the voice of Iranian women”, says **Federico Stefani**, founder of VAIA.

“Perpetua is like a 25-year-old young woman determined to change and improve the way things are done. Perpetua stands alongside all the women who are fighting their battle for a different world”, asserts **Susanna Martucci**, creator of Perpetua.

Fondazione Pistoletto participates in the exhibition by presenting the work *Prima Scena* by **Michelangelo Pistoletto**, dedicated to the establishment of the **Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T.** platform (2009). Cittadellarte will select three artists chosen from the participants in the Radical Voice exhibition for a workshop on responsible art and social transformation at Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella. “There is a thread that unites humanity and every person, the umbilical cord. Women weave it. We all carry the sign of this weaving in the centre of our bodies. The radical voice of women is the sound vibration of that cord. We the instrument”. **Paolo Naldini**, Director Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto.

Aytaj Ahmadova is a creative director originally from Azerbaijan dedicated to projects that support women's empowerment. She runs a mentoring program for girls from underprivileged communities and helps them reach their full potential.

Through photography, performances, installations, sensitive environments and urban interventions, **Eleonora Gugliotta** investigates individual interiority, the process of human transformation, the difficulty of adaptation and suffering for the failure to reunite man with nature.

Elisabetta Braghetto was born as a figurative painter and then became abstract and material. The canvases characterized by almost monochromatic nuances are broken and treated with inserts of materials that reach the human dimension.

Emanuela Taglietti devoted herself to painting for years and exhibited in group and personal exhibitions. In 2015 she became passionate about illustrated diaries, travel notebooks and portraits of small everyday things. She was the victim of physical and psychological abuse.

Evelina Marconi, after having worked for several years in the fashion world, is dedicated to sustainable craftsmanship. She works with the vegetable printing technique and textile art remains her passion.

Francesca Crisi is an expert in autobiographical methodologies. You held the chair of moral philosophy at the University of Tuscia in Viterbo, creating a philosophical writing laboratory. You have written a book entitled *Chiaroscuri*, poems and a novel, *Ossessioni*.

Mahnaz Ekhtiari is an artist and stylist whose creations reflect on society and social identity. Through the symbolic use of elements such as hair, hands and roots, he denounces the condition of repression in which the Iranian people live.

Marjane Saidi celebrates the beauty and strength of Iranian women by inserting their stories and hopes into an ode to freedom. In her paintings she shows a place without borders, where everyone enjoys serenity and freedom.

Pairi Daeza is a ready-to-wear brand from Milan made up of two Iranian sisters, Yasaman and Nastaran Rezaee. Their creations celebrate cultural diversity, human creativity, and the freedom of the female figure. The name Pairi Daeza means "enclosed garden" in the ancient Persian language and refers to an image of the Earth like a beautiful but fragile paradise.

Patrizia Balzerano, after an intense activity as a decorator and stylist, since 1990 has dedicated herself to a painting whose Mediterranean style is made with a mixed technique.

Patrizia Benedetta Fratus is a multi-material artist who uses waste materials to launch participatory works in which people become a living part. Beyond all stereotypes, in the language maps you look for the roots of the possible imaginary.

Stories & Ismaele was born from the collaboration between Stefano Giordano, co-founder and designer of Stories, and the artistic research of Ismaele Nones, who creates new places in the intersection of current themes and languages, techniques and subjects drawn from the iconographic world.

Valentina Pagano wrote her first poems at the age of seven. She has been in love with poetry since she was a child, this art allows her to observe the world with the eyes of the heart.

Valeria Meliadò, an expert in sustainable fashion, is an artist who uses waste and recycled objects. In London she began to use art as a means of rebellion to express the emotional suffering that women all over the world still experience today due to a patriarchal, male-dominated and restrictive mentality.

Ziba Pashang suffered from eating disorders rooted in fears from her childhood. The production of her includes the use of different materials (bronze, ceramic, wood, etc.) and bears the signs of personal as well as social wounds and anxieties.

Radical Voice is mainly composed of a group of activists from the Fashion Revolution Iran team and Vida Diba, product and supply chain manager of **WRÁD**, a consultancy and design studio specializing in fashion sustainability. Gathered to trigger change through the power of art, they launched a call to action and invited international artists to show their solidarity with the Iranian protesters and to use their talents to present the Women, Life, Freedom revolution to the world.

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fashionrevolution.org/asia/iran

Fondazione Sozzani was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Gallery has supported since 1990. Since 2021 Sara Sozzani Maino has curated and coordinated projects dedicated to education, responsibility and the next generation of creatives.

thanks to



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