**A stoic resistance[[1]](#endnote-1)**

**An exhibition by Alireza Jahromi at Artlab Gallery**

In his paintings, watercolors and pastels, Iranian artist Alireza Jahromi constructs a cacophonous space where forms are shattered, reflected, fractured and multiplied. Animal and human bodies are fragmented and interwoven with architectural elements, allowing the warmth of flesh and the cold of steel to reverberate in tense proximity. The palette reflects multiple light sources and origins both natural and artificial. In certain paintings the sun set and dusk seem to coexist, producing a strange temporal disorientation.

The influence of Symbolism, Neo expressionism, cubism and Futurism are evident in the work and the dynamism of the compositions bring to mind most vividly Carlo Carra’s “The Funeral of the Anarchist Galli” and Umberto Boccioni’s “The City Rises”. These paintings depict universal themes, such as the fundamental struggle between man and nature, as well as more particular struggles of modern life such as urban uprisings, where the individual body loses its boundaries and becomes a collective body of force within the canyons that are our modern streets.

The fragmentation of space in Jahromi’s work corresponds to the sonic and temporal pulsations of the confrontation of various forces. In his work one views the aftermath of such dramatic encounters. Images of horses substitute for the human figure. They huddle in groups leaning and pushing up against one another in a desperate effort to withstand an assault. In certain compositions, the drama is over and their ghostly presence reminds the viewer of the lonely horses that roam the battlefields after their riders have been slaughtered. They also remind us of something wild and beautiful that is being lost.

The paintings are thickly layered and the brush strokes swoop, curve, and dab in a rhythmic dance that carves the forms with precision and sensitivity.

The luminosity of the open areas in the watercolors is breathtaking. The light obscures and conceals what's there, producing a very subtle tension. A softness and looseness of touch are vividly present.

While Jahromi tends to work with strong and complex color, he also explores the possibility of a highly restrained pallet of browns, whites and blacks that recall George Braque's Still Lives painted during the war, whose stillness express a stoic resistance.

1. . Gueorguieva, I. (2017, April 4). Moghāvemat-e saburāneh: namāyesh-e āsār-e Alireza Jahromi dar Gālerī-ye ārtlab [A stoic resistance: an exhibition by Alireza Jahromi at Artlab Gallery] (R. Karimi Trans.) *Tandis Visual Arts Magazine, 346.* 16. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)