

**Amir Hossein Zanjani**  
**17 March – 31 August 2014**



**Amir Hossein Zanjani**  
**Solo Exhibition**

Salsali Private Museum (SPM) is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Iranian artist Amir Hossein Zanjani. The exhibition will open on 17 March and end on 28 August 2014.

Rendered with the vibrant and expressionistic brushstrokes that Amir Hossein Zanjani is renowned for, the works in this exhibition revolve around the philosophical and social idea of the submission to power. Depicted within Zanjani's canvases are mass parades of individuals mobilized by the military; loyal soldiers marching in unison to the commands of an authoritarian officer and bizarrely semi-nude figures of soldiers gathered together in blind obedience – all representations of human conflict and submission to a greater power. The show also presents a specially-commissioned installation work consisting of 700 pieces depicting the faces of soldiers from all over the world.

While Zanjani's portrayals give off piercing visions of the powerful persuasion of military force similar to real-life events such as the German 3rd Reich and the dictatorship of North Korea, they also refer to the social conflicts of the paradoxical and innate human subconscious desire to follow, submit and be conquered.

The idea of submission to an outside and more powerful force is part of daily life. This ever-present conquest of the individual by the forces of love and power, elements which are out of our control, are questioned within Zanjani's stirring works. Perhaps we should not consider our submission as an act of failure, but as one of surrendering to fate and destiny and enjoy the beauty and the freedom that comes with our surrender? The works in this show prompt us to ask the question: are we ready to accept these facts in our life?

"These unique works are the result of over 18 months of intellectual and critical discourses with Amir-Hossein over one of the key question in our life *Submission in any form,*" says Ramin Salsali, Founder of the Museum. "Admiring Amir-Hossein's artistic skills, I am honored to be exhibiting his works at Salsali Private Museum (SPM). The works serve as powerful statements with which to reflect upon the conflict that confronts us in our everyday lives: that of submission and fight for independence."

Through their bold symbolism and expressive brushstrokes Zanjani's works lead us to briefly take part in the scene that lies before us. Whether it be that of massive destruction, a troupe of soldiers marching in unison to the commands of an unknown officer or the miserably looking semi-nude group that has clearly succumbed to their unfortunate fate, we momentarily participate in the event and empathize with the figures before us. And then there are signs of hope seen through the vibrant colors that Zanjani uses to grace his works – aesthetic proof that the conflict that we bear within us each day is surmountable – if only we can accept it. There is a happy ending to the story of submission.

Amir Hossein Zanjani was born in 1980 in Esfahan, Iran. He received his BA and MA in Painting from the University of Tehran. In 2009 he was shortlisted for the Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize (MOPCAP). He has recently received a grant from the Getty Foundation in Italy. Zanjani's works can be found within major collections in Europe and Middle East.