



WILDER

DANCING ON A
KNIFE'S EDGE

FA RAZAVI

22 FEB - 11 MARCH 2023
PV WED 22 FEB 7-9PM

77 COLLEGE ROAD
LONDON NW10 5ES

Fa Razavi paints throughout the night.

She paints until the sun rises.

Her body of work evolves from the very real dreams and nightmares in our world of hope and war.

Fa has listed her dreams to me:

The dream of equality,

the end of the patriarchy,

and of seeing people smile.

Dancing on a Knife's Edge is Fa's debut solo exhibition. This showcase is brought into particular poignance following nationwide protests in Iran that shook the country in Autumn 2022. This revolution directly responded to the shocking death of 22 year old Mahsa Amini while in custody of the so-called 'morality police'. This is the nightmare that Fa references.

Months of revolution have ensued, and continue to this day.

Within the body of works, Fa presents 'knife paintings', alongside ethereal portraits. The hands that brandish these knives belong to the protesting women. They are holding a destiny that has been forced onto them. They do not want to clasp these knives, either in fear or defence. It hurts them too. It is chaos and war, with hands projecting from an amalgamation of striking patterns taken from Islamic art.

These large scale paintings reflect and symbolise the turmoil of experience under this regime.

Through these works, Fa reflects on her memories of being born and living in Iran. The works explore the experiences of her mum, grandma and friends. "Living in Iran was a combination of pleasure and pain" she describes, "the pleasure was being around strong men and women – pain of living under the regime that has done nothing but destroy."

The title of the works originates from the traditional, The Persian Knife Dance (Ragshah Chagoo). This dance is common at weddings. During this good humoured dance, the wedded couple must retrieve a knife from their guests to be able to cut the cake. Beauty has turned into fear, a power struggle and defence.

The beautifully sensitive portraits are those same brave women. These women can see, but cannot speak. They are faded through their forced repression. They demand our empathy and action.

All across the planet, where patriarchy surges, women have been oppressed. Within Fa Razavi's portraits, faces aren't clear. They are blurred, muddied, and devoid of senses other than sight. These women see all, but are unheard. Unknown. "The figures in the portraits are everyone. They are women. They are all of us."

Palettes of red run throughout, synonymous with sacrifice, danger, but also courage, passion and love. Fa's women are unfulfilled, though they don't shy away from your sight. These women are waiting. They are preparing to win. "And they will", Fa assured me, "together, we are poised for change, and stronger than at any other time."

Fa is passionate that art is vital in similar times of conflict. It is a mirror reflecting the society around us, and, without reflection, we cannot change. "Imagine a house without a mirror", she describes, "you would survive, but never truly know who you are. Many artists - many have risked their lives to create - I am inspired by their bravery." She goes on, "The revolution is an art piece in itself - inspiring and brave and angry. So angry. It's not only for Iran. Women Life Freedom".

While her knife paintings are a story, a consistent battle between pain and freedom, her portraits are a moment – a glance.

This is a body of work of two parts; anonymous limbs, and anonymous eyes.

However, there is hope.

When the war ends in Iran, Fa tells me how her portraits are going to begin smiling,

and how the knives will drop from the canvases.

Wilder gallery, in collaboration with Mollie Barnes are pleased to present *Dancing on a Knife's Edge*, the first of a series of three exhibitions that spotlight incredible emerging voices in Contemporary Art. This is the artist's first solo and first exhibition with the gallery. Text by Mollie Barnes.

Website: www.wilder.gallery

Instagram: [@wilder.gallery](https://www.instagram.com/wilder.gallery)

For Enquiries contact: info@wilder.gallery

Fa Razavi (b.1996, Bushehr, Iran) lives and works in London, UK. Razavi is a multi-disciplinary artist that works with film, performance and object-making as well as painting. Fa's work explores ideas and experiences of displacement and memory. Razavi recently graduated from Middlesex University, with a Fine Art BA (Hons). Previously, Razavi also studied Iranian Fashion and Clothes, and was a sculpture associate at Art University of Tehran.

Selected Group Exhibitions/Fairs

- 2023 Shame Gallery, Brussels | Belgium
- 2022 Freelands Painting Prize
Beyond the Line, Middlesex University
Moment in the Ether, Nunnery Gallery
- 2021 Synergy, Online Exhibition
- 2020 Blastoff, Middlesex University
Balcony Project Space, Middlesex University
- 2017 Exhibited sculpture at the Iranian Artists Forum Gallery, Iran

Awards and Acknowledgements

- 2022 Freelands Painting Prize 2022

Mollie Barnes is an independent Curator, whose exhibition-making, programming and research lives at the intersection of contemporary art, queer and feminist histories. She is dedicated to championing artists across all sectors. Her Curatorial practice has been praised internationally. Her work has been featured in Christie's, Apollo Magazine, Art Normade, F Word Mag, Matrons & Mistresses, The Wick, Living Etc... Glass Magazine, The Courtauld and many more. In 2021 she curated and led programming for 'YOLK!', a digital showcase of the Taurisano Collection. Together, the 21 works explored the current 'rediscovering' of historically underrepresented artists to a global audience. In 2020, Mollie designed 'The Fundamentals of Art Business' with Christie's Education for those without a traditional background, like herself.

in the background ~~in the background~~
there is a world that may
seem beautiful, but, ~~at~~
at the same time.
it is full of war and
chaos.

Wilder Gallery, was founded during the December lockdown in 2020 and opened its doors to its Kensal Rise gallery in April 2021. The gallery was founded by Michelle Lee Medjeral-Tomas, a Curator with over 10 years industry experience and mother of three. The independent gallery showcases and champions emerging and contemporary art. Their physical exhibition program specialises in solo and duo presentations with an emphasis on showcasing the works of female-identifying artists. They use their online exhibition program to fundraise for artist and gallery nominated charitable causes. To date they have fundraised for the Trussell Trust, Cancer Research UK, The Brain Tumour Charity, Bees & Refugees, Burma CampaignUK, Mind Charity and TreeSisters.

Moving away from the traditional artist representation model, Wilder Gallery instead invite collaboration with artists, curators and organisations to provide a dynamic exhibition programme, and support and create opportunities for an artist's career.



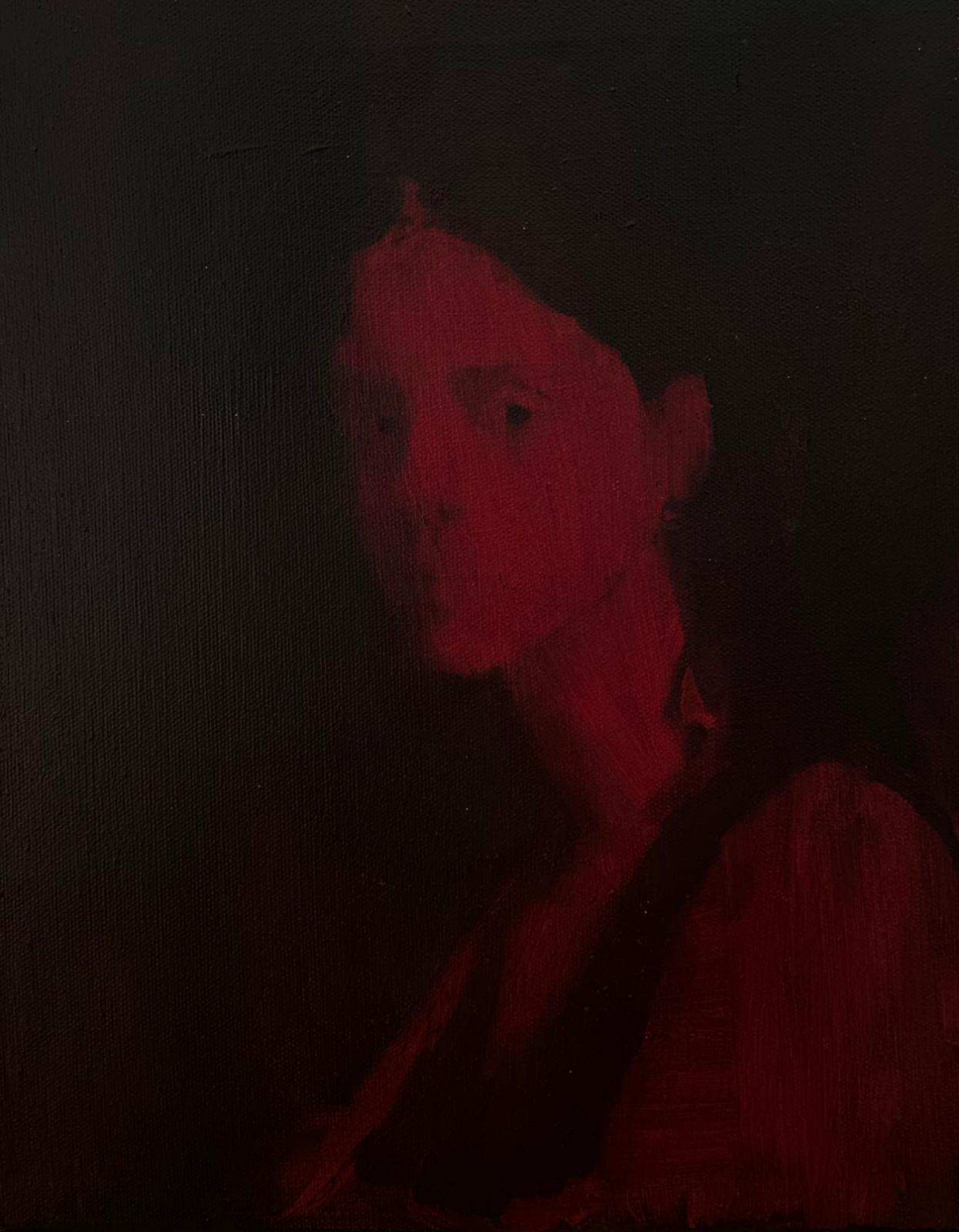
Fa Razavi

Untitled

2023

Oil on wood

20 x 20 cm



به این دلیل که این جنس، جنس زن
ساخته شده است
و همیشه در حالتی از انجام بوده

Fa Razavi

Untitled

2022

Oil on canvas

28.1 x 35.2 cm



«Knife Dance»

Known as Raghse chaghos
is a persian ~~Iranian~~
«Iranian»

wedding Tradition that
begins the cake cutting.

Fa Razavi

Knife Dance

2022- 2023

Oil on canvas

101 x 190 cm



الین دست کا زنا نہ اند

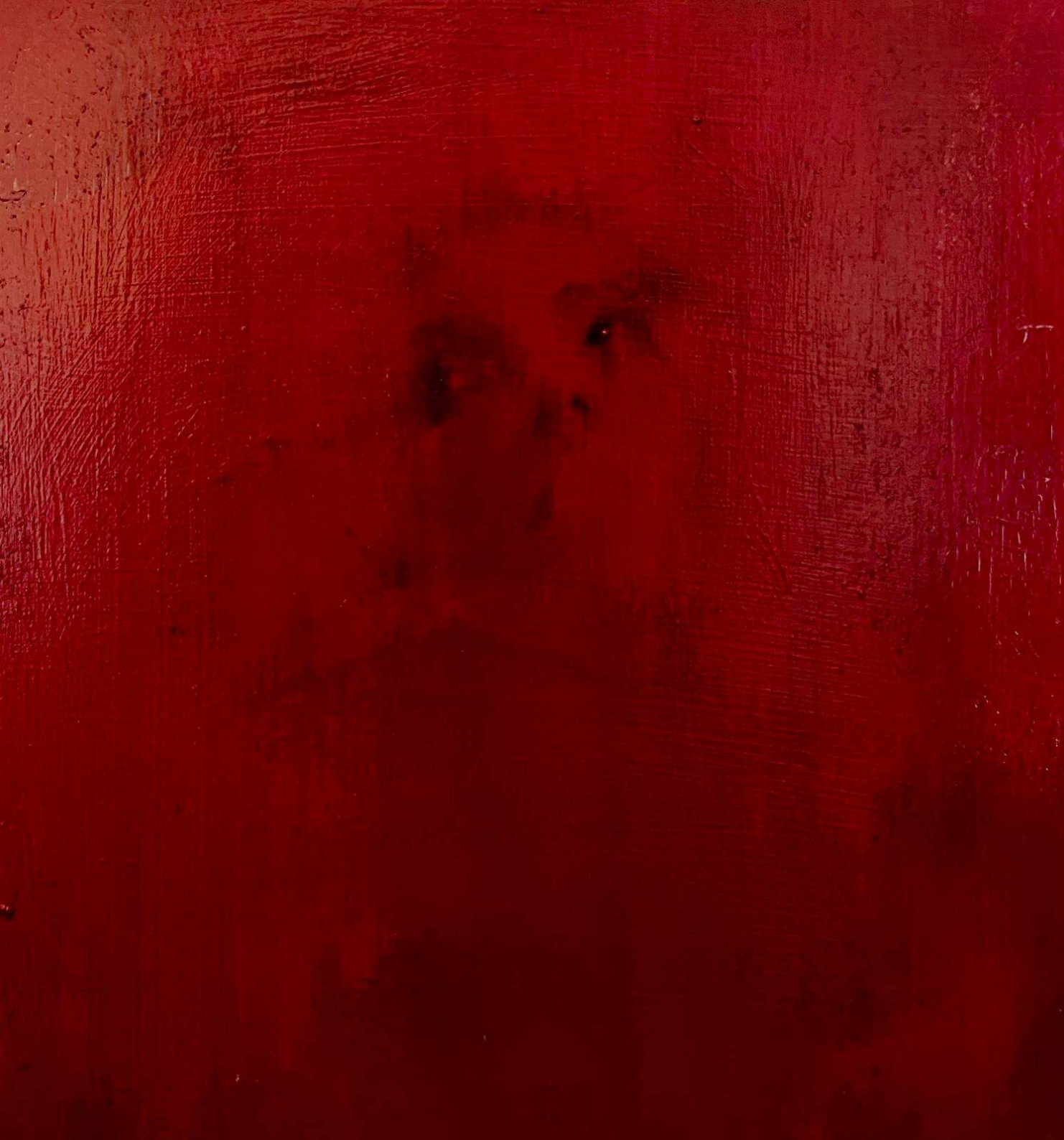
Fa Razavi

Knife Dance

2022

Oil on canvas

115 x 90 cm



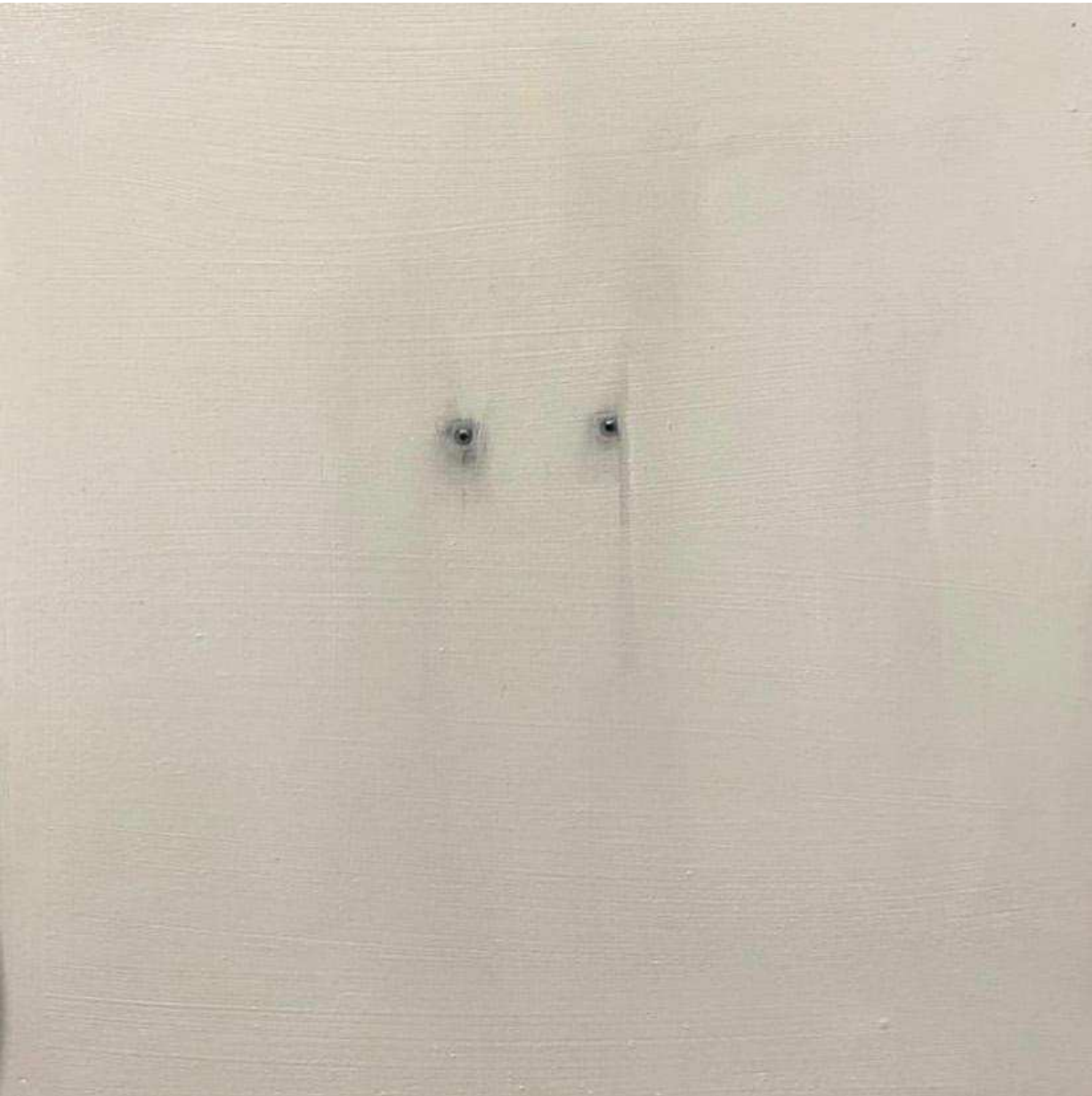
Fa Razavi

Untitled

2022

Oil on canvas

21.6 x 22 cm



انتظار + ناموسی
زیربیره
آرزوهای که به سرانجام نرسیده اند
آرزوهای که هنوز بروز پیدا نکرده اند

Fa Razavi

Untitled

2022

Oil on wood

20 x 20 cm



Fa Razavi

Knife Dance

2022

Oil on canvas

154 x 156 cm



Knife dance
Oil On Canvas
2022

154cm x 156cm
Chaghsoo
(Knife Dance) known as Raghise Chaghsoo
is a Persian (Iranian) wedding tradition
That begins the cake cutting.





Fa Razavi

Untitled

2023

Oil on wood

20 x 20 cm

رقصی حاقو
تقابل بین فردکسا و زندگی

تقدیری که توی دست آدم هاست
اها به دست خودشان رقم نص خودر.

همان میانه خوردن
اها... کورنسی
این کورنسی

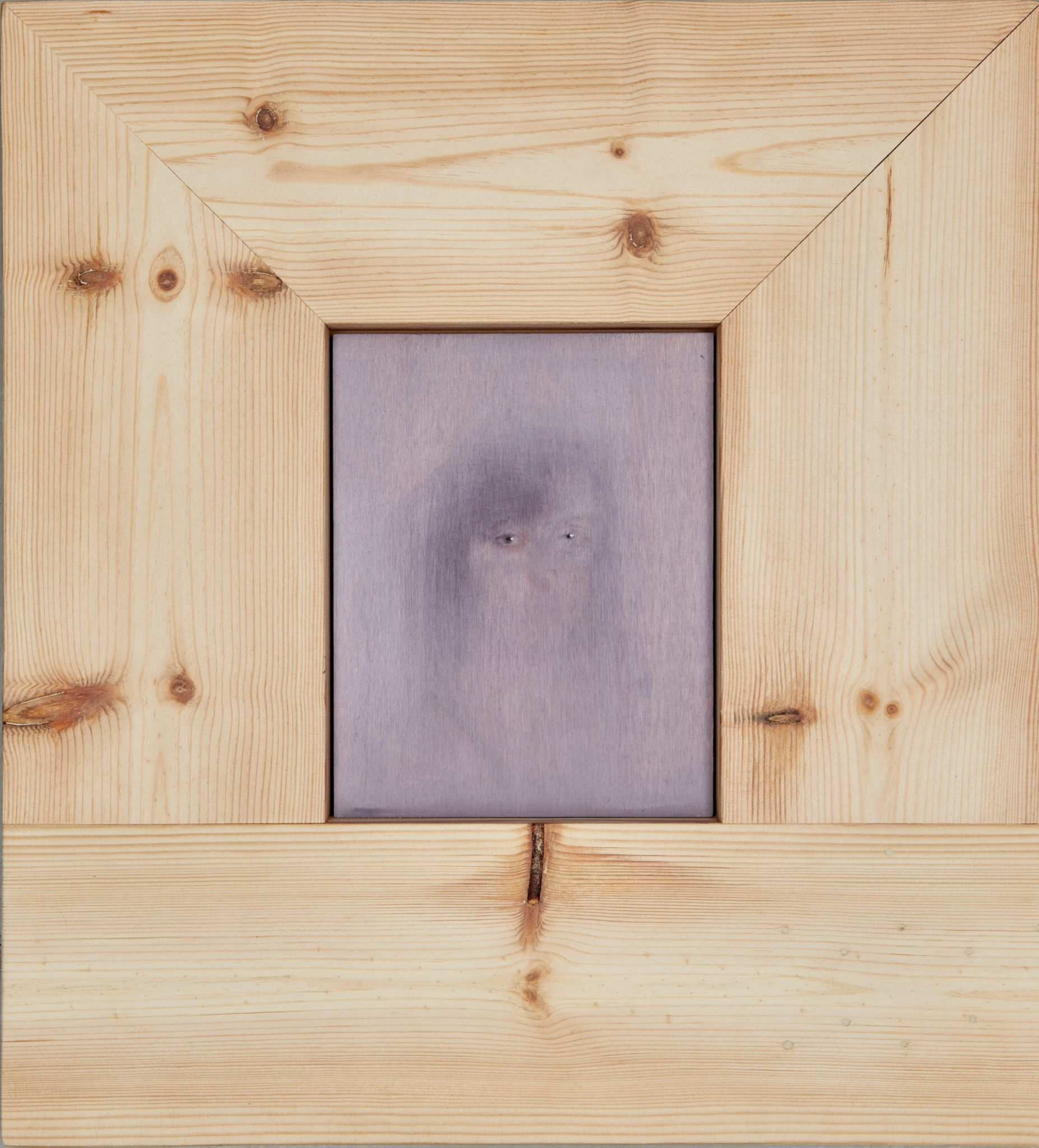
Fa Razavi

Knife Dance

2022

Oil on canvas

99.8 x 99.9 cm



Absent / غائب

~~شیر~~

شیر
شیر
شیر
شیر

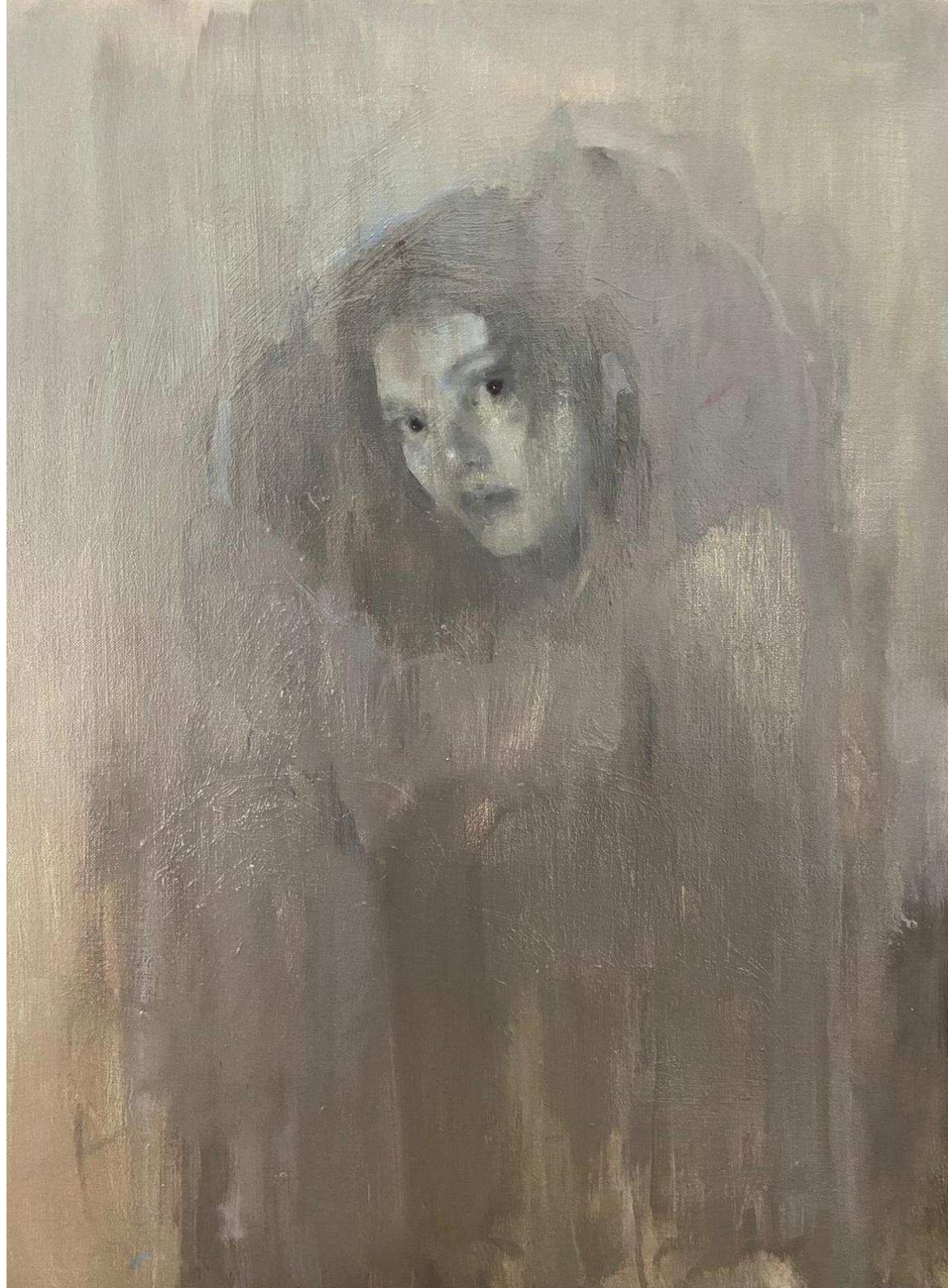
Fa Razavi

Absent

2021

Oil on wood

22 x 18 cm



Fa Ravazi

Self Portrait

2022

Oil on canvas

60.9 x 45.9 cm



Blue / آبی

~~آبی (آبی) با کلمه آبی است~~
~~آبی (آبی) با کلمه آبی است~~

Fa Ravazi

Blue

2022

Oil on canvas

28 x 35.5 cm

Partnership Programmes:



Wilder Gallery partners with Own Art, enabling art buyers from the UK to acquire work between £100 - £2,500 over a 10 month interest free period. The artwork is delivered immediately and available to enjoy before the first instalment is paid. If you would like to purchase with Own Art or find out more please email Michelle info@wilder.gallery.



Wilder Gallery partners with Art Money, enabling art buyers from the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand to acquire work between £1,000 & £100,000 over a 10 months interest free period. The works is available to deliver immediately. To follow the simple sign up process please [click here](#).

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