

دیگرگونه
Another Kind
 Elyas Alavi

Gertrude Glasshouse
 Friday 17 November – Saturday 16 December 2023

In this exhibition, Elyas Alavi presents a selection of drawings and paintings that act as a visual diary. Through these works, Alavi has documented and processed his feelings and memories connected to his queer identity.

The word دیگرگونه / Digar-gooneh holds a special significance in the Farsi/Dari language. It translates to “another way” or “another kind.” For many queer individuals, versions of this word have become a poignant descriptor of their identity— it signifies as an alternative way of existence.

The drawings are inspired by dreams, poems as well specific events. There is a story behind each work.

Elyas Alavi is a poet, curator and visual artist with a multidisciplinary practice that spans painting, sculpture, installation, moving image, poetry and performance. His practice often examines the complex intersections of race, displacement, gender, religion, and sexuality accounting for hyper invisibilities and troubling received notions of culture and belonging. More specifically, his work complicates histories in the South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region and thinks through the links between the globalised condition, settler colonialism and who is implicated in mobility and displacement of Black and Brown bodies.

Acknowledgements

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Government of South Australia
 Arts South Australia

Gertrude acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and waters and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Supporting Partner

Event Partner



1. North Wall:

Elyas Alavi
گوش کن با لب خاموش سخن می گویم
Listen, I speak with silent lip, 2023
Oil and wax on canvas, neon light

Courtesy of the artist

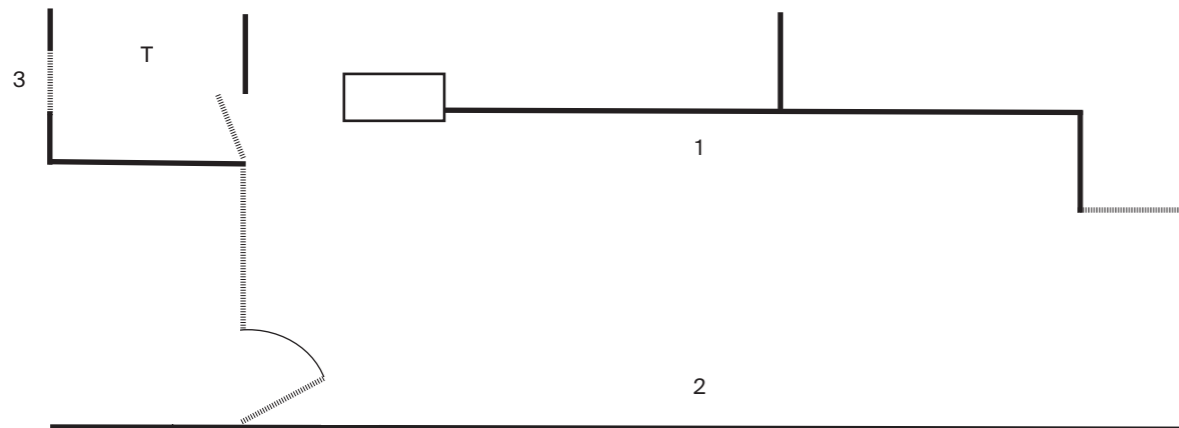
2. South Wall:

Elyas Alavi
از مجموعه دیگرگونه
from *ANOTHER KIND* series, 2013-2023
Pen on paper, 40 pieces

Courtesy of the artist

3. Elyas Alavi
Untitled #1 and #2, 2022
Ink on paper

Courtesy of the artist



دیگرگونه

Another Kind

آن شب
آن شب که دراز کشیده بودی
نگاه کردم بر تو
و سرم را میان دستانم گرفتم
که چگونه خوابیده ای در اتاقم؟
که بیست و یک ماه از هم دوریم.
یک تکه ماه هم باریده بود از کلکین
و می توانستم تنت را ببینم
که گس بود و غزل بود.

آن طرف تر نشسته بود "موتزارت" بر چوکی پلاستیکی
پیانو می زد
و دیگران بسیاری نگاه می کردند از میان چوب های سقف
تمام شب نگاه کردیم تو را
و زیبایی تو را.
صبح
صبح رفتن بود
پرسیدی: "برمی گردی؟"
نگاهت نکردم
" - نمی دانم "
و نشستم در تاکسی
تاکسی دور شد.

That night as you were laying there
I looked at you
and held my head in my hands
and wondered how it is that you're sleeping in my room
when we we've been apart for twenty-one months

A piece of the moon poured through the window
and I could see your body
which was bitter-sweet and an ode.
And over there, Mozart was sitting on a chair
playing piano
and others were looking through the wooden ceiling
all night we looked at you
at your beauty.

Morning
it was the morning of departure
You asked: "Are you coming back?"
I couldn't look at you
- "I don't know"
and I sat in the taxi
the taxi drew away
and I didn't look back
since our love was another kind
and was sad and secret.

*Translated from Farsi
into English by Timothy Johannessen*