

ARTogether x The Pigeon Keeper Exhibition Catalog

The cover features a blue background with a portrait of a man and a stylized boat icon. Text includes the OperaParallèle logo, the title 'THE PIGEON KEEPER', the composers and librettist names, and a quote about the work. An orange banner at the bottom describes the exhibition's focus on refugee and immigrant artists.

OperaParallèle **Op**
PRESENTS

**THE
PIGEON
KEEPER**

David Hanlon
COMPOSER
Stephanie Fleischmann
LIBRETTIST

A modern fable of kindness in a fractured world.

**Featuring a Visual Arts Exhibition
and Art Market**
with Bay Area Refugee and Immigrant artists
weaving stories of belonging and resilience.
Curated and presented by ARTogether



ARTogether



The Exhibition

ARTogether, in partnership with Opera Parallèle’s “The Pigeon Keeper,” presents a pop-up exhibition featuring Bay Area refugee and immigrant artists weaving stories of belonging and resilience. This show is a reflection on the transformative power of compassion and shared humanity, in conversation with “The Pigeon Keeper,” a modern fable of kindness in a fractured world.

About ARTogether

ARTogether’s mission is to provide art programs that foster compassionate communities where refugees and immigrants can flourish. We envision a world where there are no barriers—or borders—to art and creative expression, where everyone is welcomed and their stories have impact. [Learn more at artogether.org](http://artogether.org).

The Artists

[Eva Agus](#)

[Dalar Alahverdi](#)

[ARTogether Afghan Women Group](#)

[ARTogether Shadow Movements Youth Cohort](#)

[Nimisha Doongarwal](#)

[Sarah Espinosa \(Shooting Within\)](#)

[Abdul Hakim Karimzada](#)

[Sunroop Kaur](#)

[Hargun Mahal Mann](#)

[Arina Sarwari- Stadnyk](#)

[Ujjayini Sikha](#)

[Jun Yang](#)

[Romina Zabihian](#)

Eva Agus



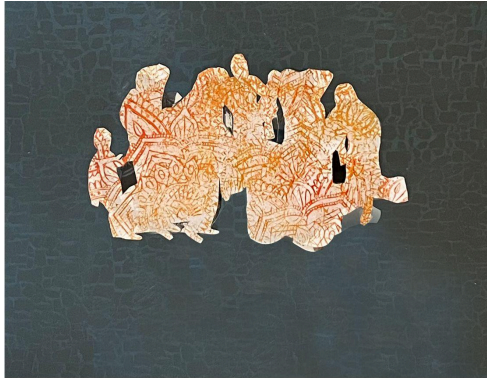
Around the Jewel
Gouache, acrylic, ink on birch panel
24" x 36"
2024
\$1,980



When in the Morning
Gouache, acrylic, ink on birch panel
24" x 36"
2024
\$1,980

Eva Agus (b. 1978 Jakarta, Indonesia) is an artist and environmental engineer working in Oakland, California. Eva explores themes of ecosystem harmony, migration experience, and fragility of life in her art practice. She blends a modern high-precision feel of her technical training with cultural elements from Indonesia and the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia. Eva holds a doctorate in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and serves on the de Young Museum Flower Committee in San Francisco.

Dalar Alahverdi



The Mass III
Series: The Mass
Mixed media
12" x 15" x 3.5"
2023
\$700



The War
Series: The Mass
Mixed Media
12" x 15" x 2.5"
2023
\$700

Dalar Alahverdi is a contemporary visual artist of Armenian descent living in California. Growing up in Iran as a woman in a minority group, she developed a deep appreciation for social justice and freedom. Her work explores untold human stories through social, cultural, and political lenses. Using metaphor, her paintings reveal deeper narratives beyond their first impression. Dalar holds a BA in Painting from Tehran University, an MA from Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts, and a second MA in Art Education from California State University, Long Beach. She exhibits internationally and teaches art in the San Francisco Bay Area.

ARTogether Afghan Women Group



Tekah Tekah
Fabric and cyanotype
45" x 25"
2022
NFS

The Tekah Tekah Project led by Afghan American artist Gazelle Samizay and Iranian artist Katayoun Bahrami was a community textile art project designed to connect Afghan and Mensa artists with women from the Afghan refugee community to explore creative art forms such as embroidery, textile painting, cyanotypes, quilt-making, and visual storytelling.

ARTogether Shadow Movements Youth Cohort



The Alchemy of Home
Shadow puppetry animation,
video, mixed media
2024

This short film is the culminating project of ARTogether’s “Shadow Movements” program for newcomer, immigrant, and diasporic youth. This past year, professional artists mentored youth to write and record personal stories, create shadow puppets based on original character-designs, and bring those puppets to life through animation.

Students

Masouda Ahmadi
Alona Grechana
Justin Boyd
Yussef Padilla
Mariella Gutiérrez
Gia Ariela Pick Romero
Sumaya Ahmadi
Eyner Picado
Iris Mendoza
Gita Azizi
Maliha Karimzada
Natalie Tran
LiWen Huang
Stephanie He
Jia Yin Kuang
Cindy Liu
Mojgan Azimi

Teaching Artists

Jessica Nguyen
Paola Soyumi Ramírez Peña,
Angie Chaparro Romero

Guest Teachers

Fred C. Riley III
Lydia Greer
Sahba Aminikia

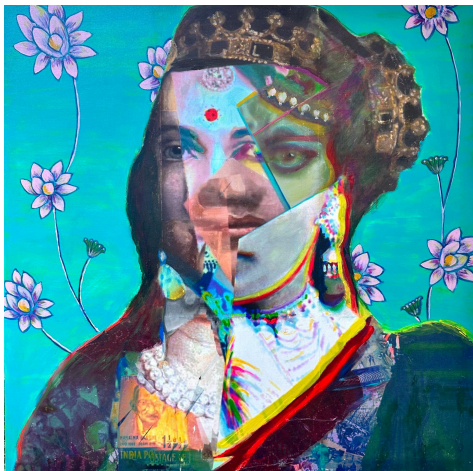
Lead Artist, Animator, Film Editor

Sabina Shanti Kariat

Nimisha Doongarwal



Faces of Unity
Series: Identity
Image transfer, fabric, acrylic, oil pastel, ink,
paper
36" x 36"
\$6,300



Mosaic of Humanity
Series: Identity
Image transfer, fabric, acrylic, oil pastel, ink,
paper
36" x 36"
\$6,300

Nimisha Doongarwal is an Indian immigrant and sociopolitical artist. She moved to the US for education in science but in 2014 decided to study art history and psychology at Stanford, followed by an MFA at Academy of Arts University. Nimisha's work is inspired by her surroundings and finding identity as a global-citizen. Her work has been featured in many publications and magazines including Forbes, Suboart, Maake, and Artmarket magazine. She exhibited at 80+ group and solo exhibits including the DeYoung Museum, SF International Airport, UCSF Hospital, San Mateo City Hall and Library, MONCA. She painted public art, San Francisco's iconic Hearts sculpture.

Sarah Espinosa (Shooting Within)



Evidence of Things Unseen
Series: In Their Element
Photography
36" x 24"
2024
NFS

Shooting Within was founded in hopes to inspire others to notice their pockets of joy within the storms of life. When Sarah thinks about what makes photography so special for her, it's the ability to revisit memories she would have otherwise forgotten. It reminds her of who she was, where she has been, and the people she was lucky enough to share them with. By capturing snapshots of a life lived, she aspires to not only highlight the aesthetically pleasing moments but to also honor the full spectrum of what life has to offer—flaws and all.

Abdul Hakim Karimzada



Romi

Traditional calligraphy ink on canvas

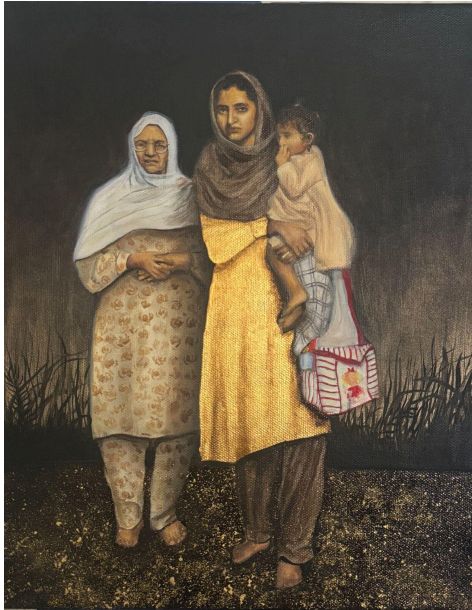
72" x 51"

2024

\$20,000

Abdul Hakim Karimzada, born in 1972 in Afghanistan, is a master calligrapher, who has over 30 years experience in different types of calligraphy and fine writing such as traditional and modern scripts. He started calligraphy in Herat Province of Afghanistan by learning different writing styles including Nastaliq, Kofie, Naskh and Thuluth scripts. He went on to create over thousands of works by using these scripts. He is the senior member of Herat Calligraphy Association's board and also the trainer of calligraphy for this association.

Sunroop Kaur



Gild My Mother's Tears

Oil and 24k gold leaf paint on primed canvas

2025

NFS

Sunroop Kaur (b. 1997, Calgary, AB) holds a BFA in Visual Arts from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2019). Kaur is an interdisciplinary artist currently working in the Bay Area. Her practice employs Eastern + Western iconography to decontextualize cultural materials, and create spaces that reclaim/subvert South Asian narratives.

The use of mediums such as textile/embroidery allows her work to serve as a distillation of familial and community history— through which she counteracts the legacies of colonial violence and theft. She hopes her work is a restorative force that can facilitate reconciliation and healing for her community.

Hargun Mahal Mann



Knitting A Community
Ink and watercolor
Unframed: 22" x 30"
Framed: 25" x 37"
2024
\$2,500



All That She Carried
Ink and watercolor
Unframed: 20" x 14"
Framed: 17" x 21"
2024
\$1,500

Hargun Mahal Mann is an artist born in India, currently residing in California with her husband and two kids. Watercolor, ink are her mediums of choice. Drawing from her multinational background and personal history as an immigrant, her work focuses on the myths surrounding women, migration and home.. She has BFA and MFA degrees in Graphic design from Chandigarh College Of Fine Art, Punjab University in India.

Arina Sarwari- Stadnyk



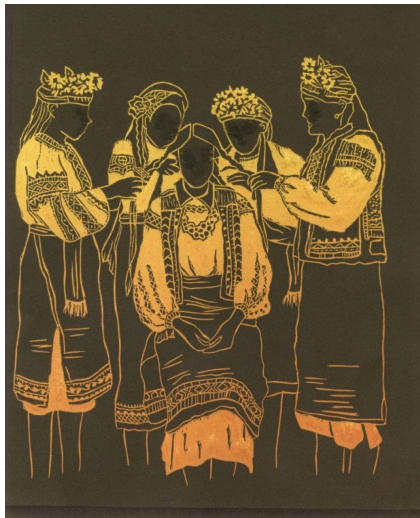
[Leila and Majnun] لیلی و مجنون

Linocut block print

11" x 14"

2023

NFS



Покоління / From My Mother Backwards

Linocut block print

11" x 15"

2023

\$250

Arina Sarwari Stadnyk (any pronouns) is an Afghan-Ukrainian illustrator, linocut printmaker, and writer. Arina was born in Kharkiv and currently lives on unceded Ohlone Lisjan land. She aspires to create work that uplifts queer and refugee ancestry. Her drawings, linocut prints, poems, and lyrical essays celebrate diasporic memory and intergenerational joy. You can find more of her creations on instagram at [@absurdistan_](https://www.instagram.com/absurdistan_)

Ujjayini Sikha



When I rolled and you fried
Oil and acrylic on canvas
34" x 56"
2024
NFS

Ujjayini Sikha, an Indian immigrant, is a painter-filmmaker, who calls the Bay area home now. After working for more than a decade in the tech industry Ujjayini switched careers towards art and attended the now closed San Francisco Art Institute for her MFA studies. Like the hyphenated existences she embodies, her art traverses geographies and cultures, that on the face of it may seem removed and divergent, but they all chart and interpret our shared human experience. Drawn to the feminine - form, existence and consciousness - untold stories of women are often a central theme in her works that show the strength in women along with their triumphs and tribulations.

Jun Yang



Self Love

Acrylic on canvas, thread, fiber stuffing

35" x 24"

\$1,200



Woven Fragment Collage No.2

Acrylic, canvas, fabric scraps, threads

17.5" x 16"

\$790



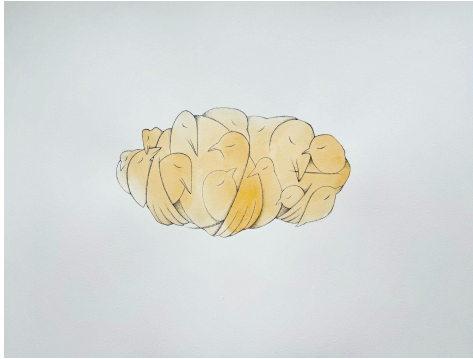
Between Us

Acrylic, varnish on recycled vase

(L) \$275 (S)\$135

Jun Yang (b. Seoul, South Korea) is a self-taught artist whose multidisciplinary practice spans painting, murals, and textile sculptures. Their work draws on personal experiences of trauma, migration, grief, and the Queer immigrant experience, exploring themes of identity, belonging, and healing. Having lived in Ireland, Belgium, and France before settling in San Francisco, Jun's art reflects both the dislocation and resilience of their journey. Jun's work engages with activism, advocating for LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights, while celebrating the solidarity they have found in San Francisco.

Romina Zabihian



The Song We Haven't Sung
Series: "Dots: The Tale of Unity"
Media and ink on paper
24" x 18"
2025
\$1,200



The Song We Haven't Sung
Series: "Dots: The Tale of Unity"
Media and ink on paper
24" x 18"
2025
\$1,200

Romina Zabihian is an Iranian visual designer and artist based in San Francisco. Her background in psychology, along with her firsthand experiences of discrimination as a woman and her observations of the struggles faced by minorities, deeply inform her work. She explores themes of identity, complex emotions, resilience, justice, and unity, using various techniques and mediums to tell stories of connection. She adapts her visual language and materials to each project, allowing the narrative to shape the form and medium.