

EVER GOLD [PROJECTS]

Kour Pour

Manzareh/Keshiki/Landscape

March 2 – May 4, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 2, 5-8pm

Ever Gold [Projects] presents *Manzareh/Keshiki/Landscape*, a solo exhibition of new work by Kour Pour. The exhibition includes paintings from a number of different series that Pour has developed over the past several years. Occupying both of the gallery's exhibition spaces, this group of works illustrates the variety of subjects and techniques explored by the artist.

Primarily working with painting and printmaking, Pour's works encompass diverse subject matter and culturally specific references, ranging from Persian carpets to Ukiyo-e prints, and Western Abstraction to Eastern landscape painting. These references are used as starting points for his paintings, in which a source image is often cropped, abstracted, or adjusted in palette to create vivid, intricate, and layered painting surfaces.

For Pour, any given process is not only a means to achieving a desired surface, but also a connection to specific art making traditions. This methodology can be seen in the block print paintings that stem from the artist's investigation into Japonisme, the Japanese influence on Western art and culture. These works combine techniques and imagery used in Japanese Ukiyo-e printmaking to create large scale paintings on canvas that resonate with Modernist art traditions of the West. Kour's synthesis of image and process often connects different art histories in an attempt to highlight the cultural exchanges that lead to artistic innovation and disrupt the notion of singular originality.

Treating the history of painting as a framework to explore the products of cultural exchange and the possibilities for creativity and hybridization within the medium, Pour often inserts non-Western, ornamental, and craft practices back into Western traditions of painting which have eradicated or ignored such conventions in the past. In this regard, his paintings evoke the sensibilities of the Pattern and Decoration artists of the 1970s and '80s.

Manzareh/Keshiki/Landscape is the first overview exhibition of the artist's work and includes paintings that roughly fit into three categories: figuration, landscape, and image/abstraction. Part a product of the artist's multicultural biography, and part product of his interest in broader histories of migration concerning people, objects, and images, Pour's work shares a vibrant energy through the use of rich colors, dynamic compositions, and various processes.