

## EVERYBODY ANNOUNCES

Nazafarin Lotfi

*Real, Possible, or Imaginary*

August 24<sup>th</sup> - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm

Everybody is pleased to present *Real, Possible, or Imaginary*, Nazafarin Lotfi's first solo exhibition with the gallery and her third time working with Everybody. *Real, Possible, or Imaginary* marks periods of transition for Lotfi—both in methods of working and places lived. Exhibited here for the first time, the paintings from 2018-20 are when Lotfi first began adding relief and three-dimensionality to her traditionally flat surfaces. While still paintings hung on a wall, these surfaces shift and reveal new contours as the viewer passes each piece. At the moment of writing this, Lotfi is also marking an end to her time in Tucson, AZ and will be relocating back to Chicago, IL shortly after *Real, Possible, or Imaginary* opens.

Despite the fact that they are abstract, Lotfi's paper mache sculptures often recall bodies. This bodily nature can be found in their scale, their wrapped shapes, and their pseudo-representational qualities. Viewed in Tucson, they might also bring to mind the ever-present debris found in streets, yards, and washes across the city. These sculptures, much like Lotfi's entire project, are inherently political without concerning themselves with the politics of the day. Politics here can be found in the tension between abstraction and representation, shifting perspectives and layers in the works, or that Lotfi lives and works in the United States—far away from her home and family in Iran. *Real, Possible, or Imaginary* is paradoxically a testing ground and affirmative statement for Lotfi's work, and for herself, a homecoming and going away party.

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**Nazafarin Lotfi** moved to Chicago from Iran in 2008 to earn an MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Lotfi has exhibited at Artpace San Antonio, Illinois State University Galleries, MOCA Tucson, Tucson Museum of Art, Phoenix Art Museum, Soon.tw, Elmhurst Museum of Art, Regards, and Ditch Projects, among others. At Everybody, Lotfi was included in *Drawings, paintings, maybe a sculpture 2* in Tucson in 2018 and curated *Between Land and Sky* at Everybody's Chicago location in 2019. In 2022 in Tucson, AZ, where Lotfi lived from 2017-2024, she founded the Hamrah Arts Club as a creative community and safe space to improve the lives of refugee-status youth. Lotfi is represented by Regards in Chicago, IL.

**Everybody** is a gallery in Tucson, AZ that primarily works with emerging and perpetually-emerging artists. Its beginnings in Tucson started as a warehouse project space from 2016-2018, followed by an iteration in Chicago, IL from 2019-2020. Everybody's activity has been featured in ARTnews, Arizona Public Media, Contemporary Art Daily, Vulture, and more. Everybody is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance.