



five more minutes of collective agony

SHAGHA ARIANNIA

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five more minutes of collective agony is LA-based artist Shagha Ariannia's first solo exhibition in France. The artist will present a series of new works on canvas that imagines a world in which spaces of collective assembly provide fertile ground for camaraderie, tenderness and kinship amidst upheaval and feelings of isolation, a space in which crowds transform into communities.

These paintings compose bodies in various states of solitude and embrace. The intimacy is violent, the expression of support is sexual — bodies expressing exhaustion become capable of asphyxiating each other. Ariannia proposes a bodily voracity in which self-pleasure and support exist in an insatiable black vacuum. In the context of today's political violence against female sexuality and freedom, the paintings reclaim the female collective body as one to be feared.

For this series, Ariannia studied the isolated motions and movements of female soccer players, stripping them of their contexts and removing environmental factors such as the pitch and the crowds, in order to get closer to the emotional landscape of bodies that withstand agony in pursuit of the collectivity. *five more minutes of collective agony* explores the female body as a conduit and vessel for artistic expressions of camaraderie and collective nurturing.

Energy radiates off of Ariannia's canvases, for it is the connection between individuals (or lack thereof) that is the subject of these works. The allegorical figures evoke feelings ranging from shared jubilation, exhaustion, defeat, and consolation.

Born and raised in Iran, Ariannia grew up in a country familiar with revolution, disaster, and war; experiences of collective assembly that, unlike a sports game, have no timestamp, no countdown, no running clock. There are no coaches or referees, no shirtless fans covered in body paint to cheer us on as we go about our lives. Ariannia's *five more minutes of collective agony* offers a sense of timelessness and universality, reminding us of the importance of turning to one another for comfort, guidance, insight, and motivation — lest we lose our minds.

BIOGRAPHY

SHAGHA ARIANNIA (b.1984) is an interdisciplinary visual artist born and raised in Iran. Ariannia grew up in an authoritarian regime, where public behavior was under government control. As a result, her interests lie in the contrast between public and private behavior, examining the politics of the body and its desires in relation to sexual norms. Inspired by feminist writers such as Kathy Acker or Kris Kraus, as well the poets of Iran (Forough Farukhzad), Ariannia uses auto-fiction as a strategy for image making. Her practice at large continuously engages with questions of vulnerability and doubt, intimacy and desire, shame, love and awkwardness. Her works have been exhibited at the Vincent Price Art Museum, Meliksetian Briggs Gallery, University of California Irvine; LAXART; 18th Street Art Center; Commonwealth and Council; the Torrance Art Museum, Galerie der Hochschule, Braunschweig, Germany and Gallery MOMO, Capetown. She received her MFA from CalArts and BA from the University of California, Irvine. She is a 2016 recipient for the California Community Foundation Fellowship and attended Bemis Residency in fall 2018.

INFORMATION

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