

Artist Name: Mahnaz Nezarati

Title of the animation: "حرف نوش" *Harf Noush*

Length: 45 seconds

Year of production: 2020-2021

ARTIST STATEMENT-short:

Focusing on female identity, "حرف نوش" *Harf Noush* is a short experimental mixed media animation using traditional paint on glass technique and frame by frame animation in Photoshop exploring the complex relationships between women through a common and seemingly mundane ritual of having tea. This animation continues a larger body of work from *Women's* series, in which I have been mainly zooming in on female interactions and revealing the impact of different factors on the relationships amongst and between Iranian women. "حرف نوش" *Harf Noush* utilizes elements associated with femininity, particularly teacups, textile patterns and female figures in a dreamy-like space by employing representational and abstract painting techniques throughout this short animation.

"حرف نوش" *Harf Noush* is a combination of a noun, حرف Harf (word, speech), and an infinitive verb نوش Noush (to drink). Through conversations, which can have a positive or negative impact on us, we unconsciously absorb the words much in the same way as we drink the tea, and through this simple ritual we take each word to our hearts. (Booklet 6th – verse 72):

حرف گوی و حرف نوش و حرفها

هر سه جان دارند اندر انتها

مولوی

"The speaker of the word and the hearer of the word and the words (themselves)—all three become

spirit in the end." *Rumi (1207–1273)*

BIOGRAPHY

Mahnaz Nezarati is a multidisciplinary artist, based in Toronto Canada. Her recent area of focus is observing, analyzing, and defining female identity. As a woman born and raised in Iran who immigrated to Canada in 2014, Nezarati started to look deeper into social and cultural placement of women in her homeland. She references to her own experience and memories as a foundation for her research around diasporic Iran. She questions and investigates many of the cultural facts, expectations, standards, and beliefs, which were forced upon her as a female. In her diverse practice of drawing, painting and illustration, Nezarati also experiments with traditional oil-paint on glass animating technique and different forms of installation, which allow her to use a variety of visual languages in communicating her narratives and concepts.