

PRESS RELEASE- January 2017

Contact: Oliver Fuke  
T: 020 7654 0179  
E: oliver.fuke@jerwoodspace.co.uk

[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

## Jerwood Visual Arts presents a new commission by Soheila Sokhanvari



Soheila Sokhanvari, *Paradise Lost*, 2016.  
Crude oil on paper. Image courtesy the artist

**Soheila Sokhanvari**  
**Paradise Lost**

**9 January – 13 May 2017**  
**Project Space, Café 171, Jerwood Space, London, SE1 0LN**

*Paradise Lost* is an exhibition of 20 framed drawings, which are installed in a grid on the back wall of Café 171. Born in Iran and now living in London, these works draw on Soheila Sokhanvari's personal history in order to explore how political events in the Middle East might have wider implications in the West.

The medium of the drawings, crude oil and gold which are considered two of the most precious commodities in the world, connects the two regions and reflect on the materials and the role they have played in historical, political events. These events had personal implications for Sokhanvari and her family, and led to the artists' decision to move to Britain.

The majority of the drawings in the exhibition are recreations of Sokhanvari's family photographs taken in Iran, many of which represent the artist as a young child. Amongst them, within the grid arrangement, are two exceptions: a recreation of an iconic photograph of Benno Ohnesorg and a collaged drawing combining a family photograph with an image taken from the media. Benno Ohnesorg was a German student who was shot in Berlin by a police officer while participating in a protest against the Shah of Iran's state visit to Germany. A photograph taken after he was shot was widely circulated in the media at the time. Their inclusions amongst the artist's family portraits signify how political situations are not self-contained; events in one country can have wider effects in another.

Various degrees of blurring within the drawings are a result of the method in which they were made: the artist viewed the original photographs through a lens, manipulating the tilt-shift so they fell in and out of focus. This is intended as a metaphorical reflection on memory; whilst some remain sharp, others are faded. A series of patterned drawings, considered as self-portraits by the artist, are created within the negative spaces of photographed family members remaining in Iran, offering a reflection on displacement and the effect it might have on family life.

#### Listings Info

Artist: Soheila Sokhanvari  
Title: *Paradise Lost*  
Dates: 9 January – 13 May 2017  
Address: Project Space, Café 171, Jerwood Space, SE1 0LN  
Opening Times: Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm, Sat 10am – 2pm  
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays  
Admission: Free  
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

For further information please contact Jerwood Visual Arts: 020 7654 0179 or [jva@jerwoodspace.co.uk](mailto:jva@jerwoodspace.co.uk) or visit: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace)

#### Notes to Editors

**Soheila Sokhanvari** (b. Iran) graduated with an MFA from Goldsmiths College in 2011, Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design in 2006, and BA Art History and Fine Arts from Anglia Ruskin University in 2005. She is currently a studio artist at Wysing Arts Centre (since 2013). She has exhibited extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East, with recent exhibitions including *Champagne Life*, Saatchi Gallery, London, 2016; solo show *Boogie Wonderland*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, 2015; *The Armory Show 2015*, New York; *Hey, I'm Mr. Poetic*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, 2014; *Editions at Edge of Arabia*, Jeddah, 2014; and *The Future Can Wait* with Channel 4's New Sensations, Saatchi Gallery, London, 2013. Her work has been shortlisted for the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2015, The Future Can Wait 2013, The Catlin Art Prize 2012 and exTRAct 2011, as one of only seven artists selected from across Europe. Upcoming exhibitions include The New Art Gallery, Walsall Museum, 2017 and Venice Biennale, curated by Majid Abbasi Farahani, 2017. [www.soheila-sokhanvari.com](http://www.soheila-sokhanvari.com)

**Project Space** is part of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme and provides exhibition and development opportunities to emerging artists; offering a small grant to develop new experimental work, which is then exhibited within the unique environment of Café 171 at Jerwood Space, adjacent to the main gallery spaces. Since 2004 it has presented new work from artists including Jasmine Johnson, Keira Greene, Susannah Worth, Luke McCreadie, Alice May Williams, Paul Schneider, Rhys Coren, Anna Bunting-Branch, Emma Charles, Alec Kronacker, Meg Mosley, Sara Nunes Fernandes, Johann Arens, Matthew Johnstone, Katie Schwab and Jamie George, Ben Senior, Ralph Dorey, Mindy Lee, Patrick Coyle, Gemma Anderson, Annabel Tilley, Alice Browne, and Holly Antrum. For more information please visit: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace)

**Jerwood Visual Arts** is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)