

The PaykanArtCar, a Vehicle for Human Rights, Will Be on Display at the Magasins Généraux for the Utopi.e Exhibition

(Washington, D.C.) — PaykanArtCar - a non-profit organization collaborating with artists to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and human rights in Iran - will be exhibiting its 1974 Paykan Hillman Hunter at the [‘Utopi.e’ exhibition](#) in Paris. The PaykanArtCar will be on display from the 17th to the 19th of May at the Magasins Généraux in the Paris suburb of Pantin.

Created in 2021, the Utopi.e exhibition seeks to promote a common vision of emancipation within the art world by encouraging and promoting the LGBTQ+ community. The jury has selected 10 finalists, including PaykanArtCar, which will participate in the collective exhibition at the Magasins Généraux within the new Pantin art hub. In addition to the finalist exhibitions, the event will include workshops, performances and concerts centered around LGBTQ+ representation.

The inaugural PaykanArtCar was commissioned by the organization and completed by LGBTQ+ artist and activist, Alireza Shojaian, to highlight the persecution of LGBTQ+ people in Iran and give voice to those who are silenced by the Iranian government’s systematic repression. The organization’s objective is to collaborate with exceptional Iranian artists to use artistic expression to advocate for human rights and dignity for all in Iran no matter their race, religion, gender or their sexual orientation.

In the first edition of the PaykanArtCar, artist Alireza Shojaian uses the car as a canvas to highlight the death and silencing faced by LGBTQ+ people in Iran through his reinterpretation of the ancient Persian literature. Using traditional folklore, the Paykan car has been transformed to interpret Article 234 of the Islamic Penal Code of Iran, which makes sexual acts between men subject to the death penalty.

The organization is presently calling for submissions from female artists to develop the second iteration of the PaykanArtCar, which will advocate for women’s rights while shedding light on gender inequality, repression, and domestic abuse in Iran. The call for a female artist can be found [here](#).

Commenting on PaykanArtCar’s selection as a finalist in the Utopi.e exhibition, Dr. Hiva Feizi, Executive Director of PaykanArtCar, said:

“We are thrilled to have been invited by the Magasins Généraux to exhibit the PaykanArtCar and the beautiful work of our inaugural artist, Alireza Shojaian. Our organization works relentlessly to raise awareness of the appalling persecution of the LGBTQ+ community in Iran and increase the visibility of marginalized and oppressed Iranian artists. Art is a powerful medium of resistance and activism and we look forward to displaying the PaykanArtCar alongside contemporary artists who challenge repression and promote dignity for all.”

About PaykanArtCar

The PaykanArtCar unites the talents of contemporary Iranian artists with a beloved symbol of Iranian national pride — the Paykan automobile — to advocate for human rights and dignity in Iran. The

non-profit, non-partisan PaykanArtCar is privileged to have acquired a historic Paykan Hillman Hunter limousine. Periodically, the PaykanArtCar will choose and commission an exceptional Iranian artist to use the vehicle as the canvas in support of the ongoing struggle in Iran for human rights. The purpose is simple: to use art and a beloved symbol of national pride to promote the rights of all Iranians no matter their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. For more information, visit paykanartcar.com.