

The PaykanArtCar will be exhibited at the Salon Richmond in Montréal from March 10 to 12

(Montréal, Québec) — The PaykanArtCar will be exhibited in Montréal at the Salon Richmond for three days, from March 10 to 12. PaykanArtCar is a non-profit, non-partisan organization which unites the talents of contemporary Iranian artists with a symbol of Iranian pride, the Paykan automobile, to advocate for human rights and dignity for all in Iran, no matter one's race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The PaykanArtCar project was launched in the Summer of 2021 after the organization acquired a historic Paykan Hillman Hunter car, which once belonged to the Shah of Iran and the brutal Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu, with the aim of transforming this symbol of repression into a beacon of freedom.

The inaugural PaykanArtCar is painted by Iranian LGBTQ+ artist and activist Alireza Shojaian and shines a light on the persecution of the LGBTQ+ community in Iran, a country which outlaws homosexuality. At the mercy of a brutal and authoritarian regime, members of the community are ostracized and discriminated against on a daily basis. They live under constant fear of being arrested, tortured and sentenced to death on the basis of trumped-up charges and pretexts of sexual abuse.

Suffering first-hand the regime's oppressive policies towards the LGBTQ+ community, Alireza Shojaian's work reflects on the queer history of the Middle East, the present context, and his own experiences. Using traditional images from Persian literature, Shojaian turns a well-known folk tale of soldiers into a romantic moment between two men, in a Persian garden under the starry sky of Shiraz.

After a successful tour in the United States, the PaykanArtCar will be exhibited in Montréal at the Salon Richmond from 11:00am to 5:00pm on March 10 and 11:00am to 8:30pm on March 11 and 12. For VIP access, please contact directly PaykanArtCar.

Commenting on PaykanArtCar's new exhibition, Dr. Hiva Feizi, executive director of PaykanArtCar, said:

"We are thrilled to be exhibiting the PaykanArtCar in Montréal. Alireza Shojaian's beautiful work of art is giving a voice to those who are silenced by Iran's oppressive regime and who live under a sword of Damocles because of their sexual orientation. The treatment of the LGBTQ+ community and other minorities is a profound violation of the dignity and rights of Iranians. By transforming a car once owned by brutal dictators into a vehicle of human rights, we will inspire people and demand that governments around the world hold Iran accountable."

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.