

Interaction

By Sofia Yeganeh

20th February – 26th April 2025

Opening reception: Thursday 20th February from 5pm to 8:30pm
(in the presence of the artist)



Courtesy of GOWEN, Geneva and Sofia Yeganeh. © Claude Cortinovicis

Until next time, 2024, Hand embroidery, acrylic and photo transfer on canvas, 115 x 136.5 cm

GOWEN is excited to present ***Interaction*** by British-Iranian artist **Sofia Yeganeh** (b. 1996, London). Marking her very first solo show with a gallery, the exhibition comprises selected works taken from the artist's eponymous, ongoing, image-based series begun in 2021. The show builds on Yeganeh's participation in three of the gallery's recent group exhibitions *REVIVAL I - XVIIIe siècle*, *NEXT* (2023), and *Salutation* (2024) and demonstrates a notable evolution in her experimental artistic process.

Working in mediums of embroidery, collage and painting, Yeganeh's practice is defined by expressive and instinctive characteristics as she deals with personal themes based around identity, human nature and body, and the natural world. The natural form is a running thread in her oeuvre, particularly the female body and the way in which it is often depicted idealistically in collective imagination and contemporary culture.

In this series, Yeganeh uses thermal images to explore the emotional and energetic connections between humans. Specifically, the work engages with the intangible, physiological interactions between individuals which emerge in the process of forming love for someone.



When time ran out, 2024, Hand embroidery, acrylic and photo transfer on canvas, 88 x 88 cm

"Love is one of the many components that nurture human attachment. My thermal photographs capture the energy, body heat and inner reaction that remains invisible to the human eye but which we perceive with our senses. Even in the absence of the person, the emotional bond you feel is ever-present."

Developing a mixed media process, Yeganeh layers, or translates images - taken during a state of emotion of a person with whom the artist is deeply connected - with paint and hand stitched embroidery. In these translations, dynamic lines are sewn over the photographs printed onto canvas to emphasize the multi-layered, energetic interrelatedness between beings.

In her unique pictorial language, Yeganeh continues to balance and juxtapose multiple elements, blending figurative aspects with abstraction to create depth and adding nuance. Experimenting with various techniques to capture the movement of the body, the artist creates stark contrasts between light and dark, motion and stasis, pushing the limits of perception to encapsulate that which emanates from the body beyond the visible. In her customary style, Yeganeh's vivid colour palette, incorporating blues, yellows, oranges or violets is a both a contemporary echo of the colours abounding in Iranian fabrics, and the colours observed by the lens of the thermal camera. Some of the works in the show have been produced from the artist's studio in the Middle East and incorporate certain techniques, notably embroidery and sewing in a reflection of the cultural and traditional techniques and materials of the region.

In an intriguing translation of the ideas explored in her works, the show includes a live, large scale thermal installation *"like a live performance between the viewer and the artwork"*. In doing so, Yeganeh prompts active engagement with the audience, creating a layer of intimacy between the viewer and the core component of her wider Interaction series.

Around twelve works are included in the exhibition.



Sofia Yeganeh was born in 1996 in London, UK, where she lives and works. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons Fine Arts, New York, USA. Her exhibitions include: *Interaction*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH (2025); *Merging boundaries*, Zaal Gallery, Toronto, CA (2024); *Salutation*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH (2024); *Connect #3*, Maki Gallery, Tokyo, JP (2024); *The Flow*, Dastan Gallery, Teheran, IRN (2024); Art Fair Tokyo with Maki Gallery, Tokyo, JP (2024); *Next*, GOWEN, Geneva, CH (2023); *Revival I - XVIIIe Siècle*, co-curated by Laura Gowen and Rachel Cole, GOWEN, Geneva, CH (2023); *Lux Feminae, The Light of Woman*, Queens, New York (2022) and *Visual Unpredictability*, Patrick Parrish Gallery, New York, USA (2021).

Sofia has been represented by GOWEN since 2023.