

The Role Played by Paris in the Avant-gardism of Modern Iranian Art

Sunday 26th October 2025 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in the Focus Tunisia 2025 space

This round table explores Paris's historical role as a global art capital and a hub for modern art movements. It examines the city's influence on non-Western artists, particularly from the MENA region, and the impact of Paris-trained Iranian modernists on avant-garde art in Iran from the 1940s to the 1970s. The discussion also considers how exhibitions and curatorial practices in Tehran and Paris, before and after the 1979 Revolution, have shaped artistic exchange and challenged reductive global narratives.

Moderated by **Aida Mojallal**

Aida Mojallal holds a Master's degree (M2) in Art Market Management and a university diploma in Anthropology and Digital Image. A graduate of the Émile Cohl School of Art, Illustration, and Animation, she combines artistic and academic perspectives in her research. She currently serves as Artistic Research Manager for the Iran section of MENART Fair 2025 and works as an independent art adviser.



Cathrine David is an art historian, Chief Curator of the National Museums of France, and curator of numerous exhibitions at the MNAM – Centre Georges Pompidou, the Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume, and internationally. She notably directed documenta X in Kassel in 1997, Contemporary Arab Representations – Beirut / Cairo / Iraq (Witte de With Rotterdam, Fundació Tàpies, KW Berlin, Bildmuseet Umeå, 2002–2005), she co-organized with Morad Montazami Unedited History. Iran 1960–2014 at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

Hamid Keshmirshakan is an art historian, critic, and Senior Scholar at Columbia University, as well as a Senior Lecturer at SOAS, University of London. He previously held a long-term position at the University of Oxford as an Associate Fellow in the Department of the History of Art (2004–2021), and served as Associate Professor and Head of the Department of the History of Art at the Iranian Academy of Arts (2010–2017). He has been awarded multiple postdoctoral fellowships and prizes in recognition of his scholarly work. Since 1994, he has taught extensively in both British and Iranian institutions, convened and curated several international conferences and exhibitions, and contributed widely to scholarly publications, some of which have been translated into multiple languages.

