



Image: Democracy, Bita Masoumi

Orenda Art Works is pleased to present **Untold II**, a virtual exhibition of 'recycled painting' by Bita Masoumi. According to the Recycled Painting Manifesto Masoumi wrote herself: "Packages and waste papers are not trash, but my canvas." Her manifesto goes on to state: "Recycled Painting is painting on any discarded (or garbage) materials such as paper packaging. Recycled painting is against waste, such as food waste. Good art doesn't need to come from expensive material and tools. Recycled Painting is against empty consumerism. Recycled Painting does not follow any traditional, regular materials and styles to paint. A painting is not only a visually beautiful piece to hang on museums walls. Paintings can create change. Art can give a face to the unseen. Art is limitless."

The works Masoumi created for **Untold II** are each accompanied by a poem in Farsi, translated by Shole Wolpe. This juxtaposition allows the pieces to speak, and pairs the elevated style of poetry with the pedestrian medium of recycled packaging. Bita Mokhtar Masoumi grew up in Tehran with her painter grandfather—a student of the well-known Kamalolmolk. She learned painting from the reputable teacher such as Ms. Nami, Ms. Minoo Asadi. With the encouragement of her father, skills and brushes from her grandfather, and years of formal training—Masoumi was accepted in art school; however, it wasn't painting she pursued. By the time she began university, Masoumi had lost her father, and painting had become a strictly emotional experience for her. This led her to pursue graphic design in college, and keep painting as a private practice—a therapeutic and emotional outlet. Masoumi graduated from Alzahra University with a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design.

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