



MAD

PORTFOLIO / 2024



Mehdi Athari (A.K.A MAD)

Born in 1987 in Tabriz, Iran, Mehdi Athari, known as MAD, is a self-taught artist renowned for his captivating wall murals. Since 2008, MAD has been using intricate stencils and spray paint to transform urban spaces into vibrant narratives, blurring the lines between surrealism, science fiction, and symbolism.

MAD's art has transcended borders, with exhibitions in Iran, the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Norway, Turkey, and Indonesia. His work invites viewers to contemplate the fusion of old and new, earthly and cosmic, and the profound connections between humanity, nature, and technology.

As a self-taught artist, MAD's creative process is marked by a relentless pursuit of innovation and storytelling. His works are enigmatic, thought-provoking, and visually stunning, leaving an indelible mark on the global art scene. MAD's art invites you to explore uncharted territories of the mind, where mysteries have no solution, and the possibilities are endless.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

2011 Bachelor of Computer Science in PNU (Payame Noor University)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

2023 Featured Artwork at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Norway.
One of my artworks was prominently displayed on stage during the event "Iran: Burning for Democracy," part of the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. This recognition underscores the intersection of art and activism on the international stage.

SOLO EXHIBITION

2014 Walls Have Ears | Seyhoun Gallery | Tehran - Iran

GROUP EXHIBITION

2021 Anka | 62 ST. | Marmaris - Turkey
2021 Kemiklerin Üstüne Sarkılar | Eksibir | Istanbul - Turkey

2020 Mikrotopya | In an abandoned building | Istanbul - Turkey
2018 All for Heidi | Mecra | Istanbul - Turkey
2018 Yeraltımdan notlar | Palto | Istanbul - Turkey
2017 Stencil Bastards | Allcaps Gallery | Bali - Indonesia
2016 Fighting Walls | New Art Exchange Space | Nottingham - UK
2015 Outsidersin | Skur2 and Reed Project Gallery | Stavanger - Norway
2014 Reunion | ABC Treehouse Gallery | Amsterdam - Netherlands
2014 TEH To NYC | TBA Brooklyn Gallery | NYC - USA
2013 Final Encore II | Dastan's Basement | Tehran - Iran
2012 Final Encore I | At An Old House In Tehran | Tehran - Iran
2011 Stencil | Dastan's Basement | Tehran - Iran
2011 Expo For Matia | Palazzo Filangieri | Napoli - Italy
2009 From The Streets Of Iran | Crewest Gallery | LA - USA
2009 Urban Art | Arte Gallery | Tehran - Iran

PROJECT

2015 Bogaziçi University Residency, Istanbul, Turkey

DOCUMENTARY

2016 "City Walls", A Documentary About Street Art In Iran, 27 April

Artist Statement: Enigmatic Narratives and Infinite Imagination

My mural art transcends the boundaries of time and tradition, weaving enigmatic narratives that beckon viewers into a world of limitless imagination. Through the canvas of my creativity, I explore the profound connections between humanity, nature, technology, and spirituality. Each piece is a tapestry of stories, rich with mystery and ambiguity, inviting diverse interpretations that ignite the viewer's intellect and emotions. Whether it's an old man harnessing a futuristic device to commune with nature, desert wanderers mourning the demise of a mechanical companion, or an astronaut shepherding sheep gathered around a mystical jug, my murals challenge conventional narratives, pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling.

I delight in crafting compositions that transcend the ordinary, prompting audiences to unravel the enigmatic threads that run through my work. With each can, I seek to transport viewers into a realm where the past meets the future, and the earthly merges with the cosmic. My art is an invitation to embark on a journey, where the destination is not a fixed point, but a multitude of interpretations, emotions, and reflections. I believe that true art has the power to awaken the mind and stir the soul, and I am committed to creating murals that do just that. Join me in exploring the uncharted territories of imagination, where the stories are boundless, the mysteries profound, and the possibilities endless.

Enigmatic Narratives and Cosmic Blends

Immerse yourself in the world of captivating murals that transcend traditional narratives, sparking diverse interpretations. These pieces, born of my journey to Istanbul, reflect the profound connections between humanity, nature, technology, and spirituality, all set against the dynamic backdrop of this vibrant city. Delve into stories where the old and new, the earthly and cosmic converge, as the energy of Istanbul melds seamlessly with the very walls they adorn. Join us on a visual journey where mysteries abound, imagination knows no bounds, and the possibilities are endless.

Fall of Man
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2021





Mechanical Lament
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2023



District N 34°
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2021



T
Shephernaut
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2021

L
Untold Secrets
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2023



Harmonic Interface
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2023



T
The Oracle
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2021

R
Door No. 147
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2021





The Last Angel
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Türkiye
2022

Kopru Project

Kopru Project in Istanbul brought together street artists from Iran, Turkey, and Greece, creating a bridge of cultural exchange. Supported by Arts Club and Bogazici University, it featured stencil-graffiti-pasteup artworks, music, and documentary screenings. Artists like MAD, ILL, and CANAVAR showcased their talents on campus and in the streets, fostering a colorful dialogue of cultures. Despite some censorship, the project ended on a positive note, with a documentary screening celebrating Iranian street art. This unique endeavor left a lasting impact, transforming both buildings and people's perceptions.

Looking Back

Part of Bogazici University "Kopru" Project
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2019





Rise Against The System
Part of Bogazici University "Kopru" Project
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2019

Salvage Project

Salvage Project is a unique independent art initiative led by artists Mad and Ill, who ventured to car scrap and recycling facilities to transform broken and abandoned cars into vibrant canvases. With two individual artworks and one collaborative piece, their goal was to infuse life into these discarded vehicles through art and color, giving them a second chance at beauty and expression.

<https://vimeo.com/210264169>

MAD and ILL Tags
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Abandoned Cars
Tehran - Iran
2019





Power Game
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Abandoned Bus
Tehran - Iran
2019



Banana Hunters
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Abandoned Cars
Tehran - Iran
2019

MIKROTOPYA Project

The MIKROTOPYA project is created through the intervention of sixteen artists from various disciplines in a building slated for demolition. The building has become an experimental space where artists can freely explore its abandoned state, imbuing it with new meanings through their diverse technical and artistic approaches. In this dystopian era, where people are confined to their homes and daily routines have shifted, the MIKROTOPYA project invites viewers to experience this windowless and doorless building.

Runaway Stag
Part of Mikrotopya Project
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2020





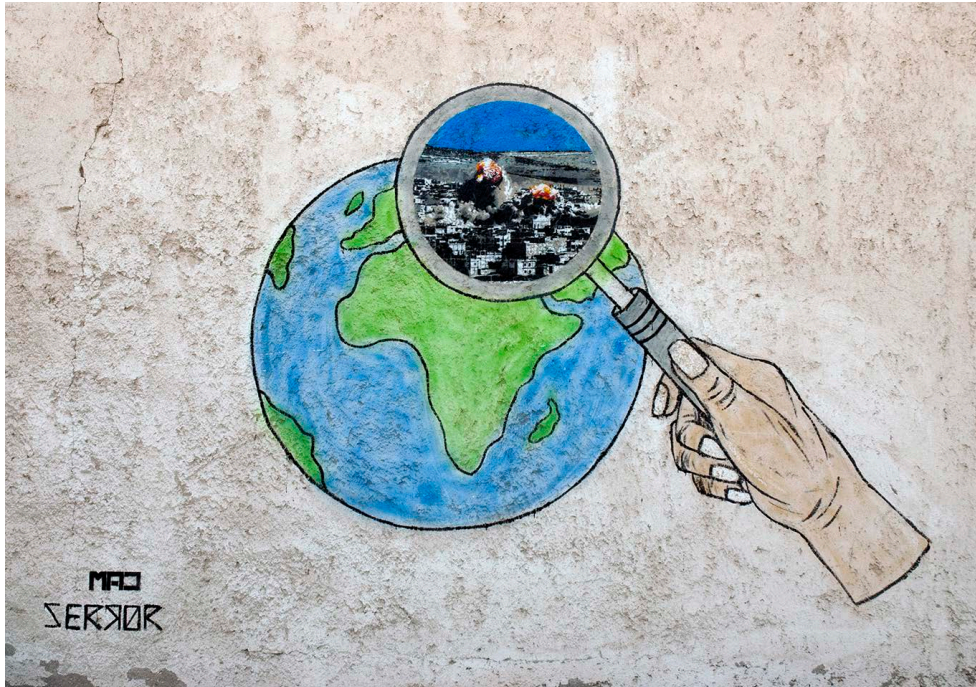
Hidden Reality
Part of Mikrotopya Project
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkiye
2020

Art from the Streets: Exploring Social Themes

In this body of work, I seamlessly merge social commentary with humor and metaphors of war, peace, and freedom, all inspired by the unique environment of the Middle East, particularly my experiences while living in Iran. My art is a reflection of life within the country, showcasing the profound influence of this environment on my work. Some of these pieces were painted on walls in Turkey, further highlighting the lasting impact of my experiences in Iran on this collection.

Look Outside
Paste Up on Wall
Tehran - Iran
2019

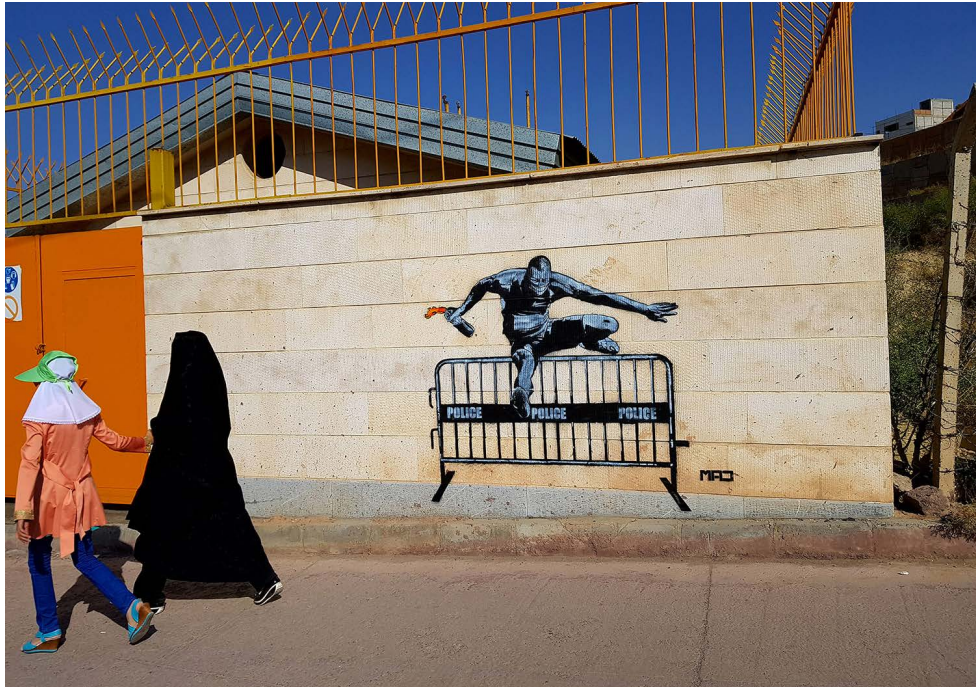




The Green Globe
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Collaboration with SERRØR (IR)
Tehran - Iran
2020



Kiddie Soldier
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkey
2020



Conquer
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Tabriz - Iran
2020



Picnic
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Wall
Istanbul - Turkey
2020



Pretense
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Wall
Tehran - Iran
2019

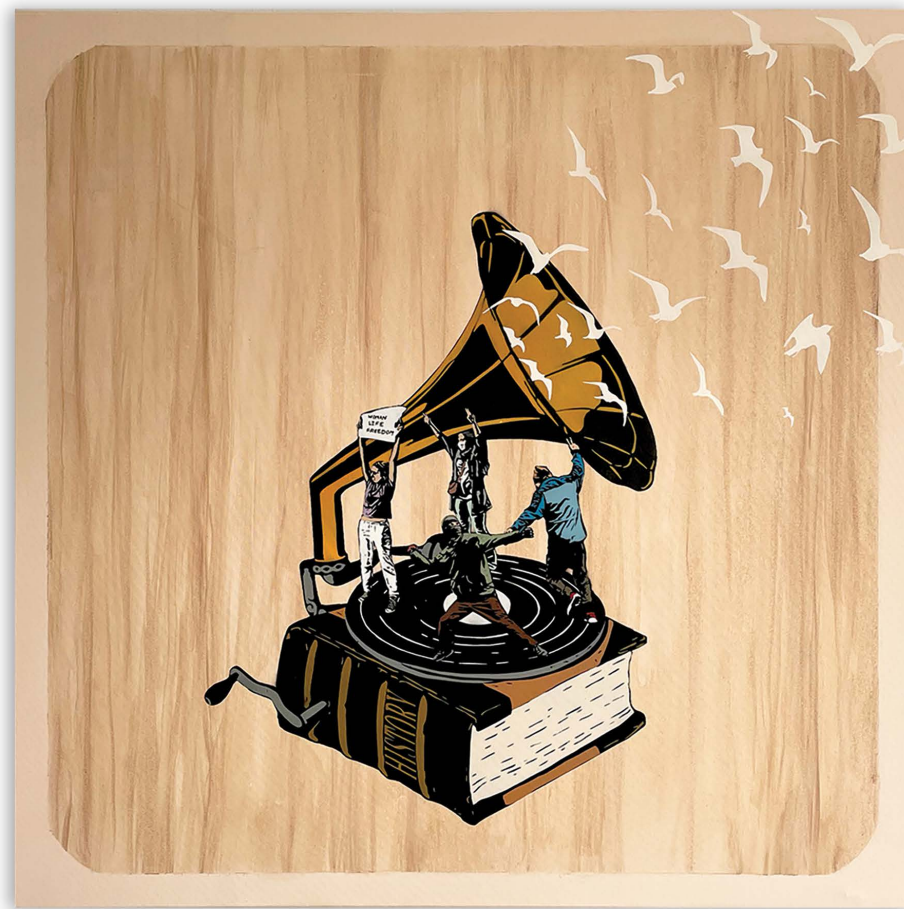
Indoor Expressions

Untold Secrets
Aerosol Spray, Acrylic and Stencil on Canvas
90 x 70 cm (35.4 x 27.5 Inch)
2023





Harmonic Interface
 Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Canvas
 70 x 70 cm (27.5 x 27.5 Inch)
 2023

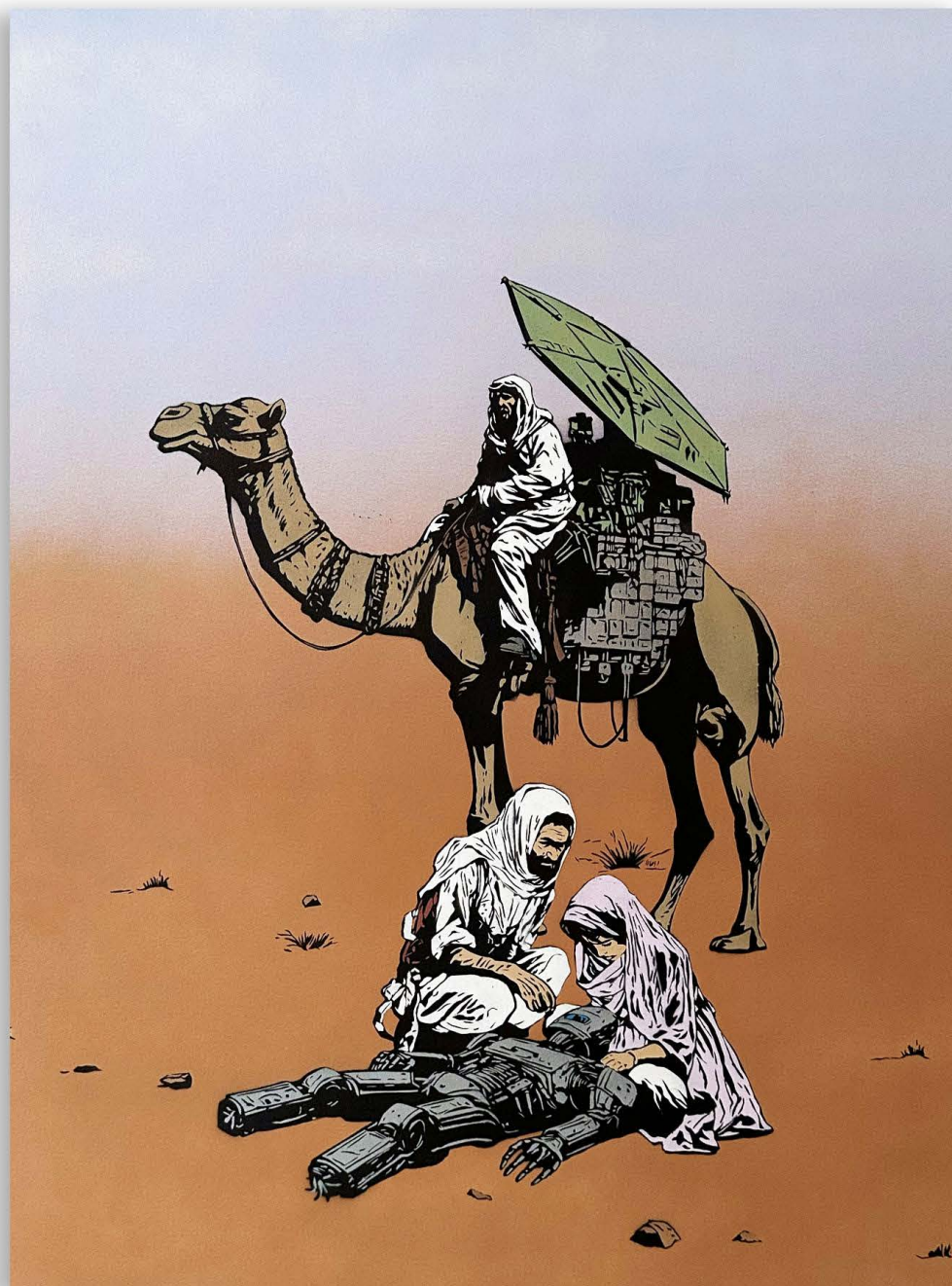


Crescendo
 Aerosol Spray, Coffee and Stencil on Canvas
 100 x 100 cm (39.3 x 39.3 Inch)
 2023



T
District N 34°
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Canvas
100 x 70 cm (39.3 x 27.5 Inch)
2022

R
Mechanical Lament
Aerosol Spray and Stencil on Canvas
90 x 70 cm (35.4 x 27.5 Inch)
2023





Quarantine
Aerosol Spray and Stencils on Wood, Intricately Cut and Placed
Within Glass Jar
137 mm Height x 86 mm Diameter
2021



Rise Against The System
Aerosol Spray and Stencils on Wood, Intricately Cut and Placed
Within Glass Jar
137 mm Height x 86 mm Diameter
2021



T
Pretense
3 Colour Screen Print on 300 Gsm Paper
50 x 70 cm (19.6 x 27.5 Inch)
2021

R
Hidden Reality
3 Colour Screen Print on 300 Gsm Paper
50 x 70 cm (19.6 x 27.5 Inch)
2021

