

Safarani Sisters Blog Blurb

Life watched from behind a curtain, arms outstretched for what lies beyond the window, met with only cold glass.

To stand before the Safaranis' work is to reside at a threshold. The painting holds its breath, a single moment suspended in emotion. Then there is the video, infinitely alive against it. Combined, they create a tension between stillness and motion.

The painting is a moment, frozen. The video is the life surrounding it. At the heart of the work is a woman, unnamed. In the paintings, she watches the world from within, waiting. In the video, her life is exterior. It is imagination. It is alive, and the viewer feels everything she feels: her rage, her pain, her joy, her desire.

Bahareh and Farzaneh Safarani are twins from Tehran, Iran, who have lived the same life twice. They came to Boston to study at Northeastern University, where making art beyond the canvas was expected. The video element fell into place at Northeastern, where, after their first test, classmates said their paintings were breathing. The collaboration mirrors the work itself: two people, one shared history, one visual language. They argue, they negotiate, and they arrive somewhere neither could reach alone. Viewers stand before their work for twenty minutes, against an industry average of eight seconds. They leave uncertain what they saw, what was painted, and what was projected, what was real, and what they imagined.

When the sisters returned to Tehran and saw their classmates' work, everything looked like it could have been made by one hand. Everyone had lived the same story. Experiencing in silence, behind a curtain.