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*Vancouver-based artist **Rojina Farrokhnejad** makes **SUM** gallery debut with **Gods and Monsters** solo exhibition*

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Sept 28, 2023 | SUM gallery (#425-268 Keefer St.), Canada's premiere Queer-mandated art gallery, presents its fall 2023 exhibition, **Rojina Farrokhnejad: *Gods and Monsters***, a multidisciplinary solo show exploring the connection between mythology and the human condition. ***Gods and Monsters*** opens Saturday, October 14 with a reception hosting the artist in attendance, and runs until December 1.

Farrokhnejad's ***Gods and Monsters*** uses mythological figures like Gods, centaurs, mediators, angels, and demons to explore transcendent and timeless emotions and experiences like love and lust, envy and rage, rejection and loss, violence and death.

"Myth demands to be transplanted into the present, reinterpreted according to present-day ideas or anxieties. Myths should be thought of as constantly-moving turnstiles. To retell is to metamorphose. Meaning is never fixed, but ever fluid — as likely to be arrested as the reflection in water that entranced Narcissus." – Rojina Farrokhnejad, ***Gods and Monsters***' artist statement

The Vancouver-based, Iran-born painter, sculptor and filmmaker uses figurative art created in varied mediums to explore themes of queer sensuality, religiosity, and isolation in her work.

Gods and Monsters employs elements of animation, acrylic and oil paintings, and clay and ceramic sculpture to blur the line between the representational and abstract; the grotesque and divine; mythological symbolism and religious devotion. In ***Gods and Monsters***, Farrokhnejad takes on the role of mediator to initiate a non-verbal dialogue where audiences are able to interrogate their own stance: Are we all simply Gods *and* Monsters, one or the other, or neither?

For more information on this exhibition and other SUM gallery events, please visit www.sumgallery.ca.

About Rojina Farrokhnejad

[Rojina Farrokhnejad](#) (RJ) lives in Vancouver, BC. Originally from Iran, she came to the city in the early 2000s and quickly connected with the LGBT community and found like-minded people, now proudly calling Vancouver home. RJ is renowned for her evocative images of memories & metamorphosis, expressions of solitude, and moments of importance that connect with the audience's experiences. She uses myth to explore the darker side of human nature and as allegory to encrypt hidden meanings. A painter, sculptor and filmmaker, she works using multiple mediums and techniques like oil, acrylic and clay in layers through a variety of motion, colours, tones and textures, to help provide a sense of narrative. Her most recent works push the boundaries of representation, integrating abstraction within imaginative figurative compositions. Her works have been exhibited at grunt gallery, Gallery Gachet, and the Cultch.

About **SUM gallery** sumgallery.ca

As one of the only permanent spaces worldwide dedicated to the presentation of Queer art, SUM gallery brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation, and celebrate the rich heritage of Queer artists and art. Founded in 2018 as the year-round programming arm of Vancouver's summer [Queer Arts Festival](#), SUM produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking multidisciplinary art that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue.

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