



makes you happy, as you please. Whatever it is, just let it go...’ and from there we started to do the shooting and while doing it I asked them to be natural. I’m not a control freak, I didn’t tell them what to do. Once the shooting was done, based on our conversation I chose how to proceed.” Sassan uses diverse patterns to create luminous, coloured and detailed collages.” There is a bit of everything in it. A lot of it comes from my own mind and is fictional. The rest of it is literally how I see that person in my head and try to recreate it.”

Sassan’s *oeuvre* is also greatly inspired by Persian mythology, specifically the *Shahnameh* (*The book of kings*). An unlikely source of inspiration for *Invincible* was Mr. Ahmadian, the artist’s Farsi literature teacher in middle school when he was 11 years old and living in Tehran. To teach his class, Ahmadian decided to use a book written and illustrated by himself instead of using the

standardised Farsi literature textbook. In his book, he appropriated famous literary characters from classic Persian Literature such as Rostam and Sohrab. “He even made illustrations of them in his own particular style,” adds Sassan.

“Inspired to actually put a custom on my subjects, I found out that I could give a lot of vibes and feelings to them,” says the artist. Due to the high demand of the people wanting to be involved with the *Invincible* series, Sassan decided to make it ongoing. “I’ll probably be doing it till the remaining days of my life,” says the artist. *Invincible*, it holds something for all of us. ■

*The Invincible series will be featured at the Contemporary Istanbul art fair from November 3rd to 6th 2016 with Janet Rady Fine Art. Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery in London will hold a solo show of Sassan Behnam Bakhtiar’s Invincible series opening in January 2017. sassanbehnambakhtiar.com*