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Greenway Commissions Artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo for Debut American Artwork

*Fifth Greenway Wall Mural in Dewey Square Park is first solo curation
by the Greenway Conservancy*

October 2, 2016 – BOSTON, MA – The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy (rosekennedygreenway.org) today announced a new commission for a public installation on The Greenway by artist **Mehdi Ghadyanloo**, an emerging star in the international art community. Mehdi Ghadyanloo has become internationally known for painting surrealist city-scale murals in his native Tehran, and the artist's upcoming Greenway mural represents his American debut. Titled **Spaces Of Hope**, it is the fifth mural to adorn the highly-regarded Greenway Wall at Dewey Square Park, across from South Station.

Ghadyanloo's *Spaces Of Hope* mural is slated to be painted by the artist beginning October 7, and viewers are invited to come and watch Ghadyanloo create the work of art over a several week installation period. The mural is the first to be curated entirely by the non-profit [Greenway Conservancy](#); four past murals were the result of co-curated partnerships with Boston-area art institutions.

"Ghadyanloo's Greenway Wall will showcase the incredible visual illusions and concepts that set his work apart," offered Greenway Conservancy Public Art Curator **Lucas Cowan**. "We are thrilled to curate the fifth Greenway Wall mural and introduce this international star's trompe l'oeil style paintings to a new audience."

The 76'x70' Greenway Wall's autumn rotation is an award-winning and eagerly-awaited annual focal point in [The Greenway's contemporary public art efforts](#). Two murals previously exhibited, *Seven Moon Junction* by Shinique Smith and *The Giant of Boston* by Os Gemeos, were recognized by Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network as among the best public artworks in the country in 2014 and 2012, respectively. Ghadyanloo's *Spaces Of Hope* will be the eighth and final temporary installation of [The Greenway's 2016 public art season](#), which includes sculptures, murals, and sound installations from local, national, and international artists.

Mehdi Ghadyanloo (mehdighadyanloo.com), 35, worked as a farmer before moving to Tehran to study Painting at the University of Tehran. After graduation in 2004, Ghadyanloo answered an open call from the Municipality of Tehran's Beautification Bureau to promote public art in the city. Ghadyanloo submitted 10 proposals for murals, all hope-filled utopian designs that played with gravity and perspective. Ghadyanloo was selected by the Bureau to paint all 10; he ultimately painted more than 100 murals between 2005 and 2012. Today, Ghadyanloo is pursuing public art projects and exhibiting his works of art internationally. Foregoing political commentary in his public art, Ghadyanloo is more interested in communication, and the dreams and imagination that people all over the world share.

"We view our public art program, and especially the Greenway Wall in Dewey Square Park, as a high-profile opportunity to bring thought-provoking contemporary art into the daily lives of those working, living, and visiting the City of Boston," said **Jesse Brackenbury**, Executive Director for the Greenway Conservancy. "We're delighted that private support can bring a rising star and his ground-breaking, perspective-altering murals to the U.S."



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Ghadyanloo's American debut follows recent projects in Europe. These projects included Ghadyanloo's first London solo exhibition entitled *Perception* with [Howard Griffin Gallery](#) in 2015. The artist's first visit to the United States will also encompass lectures, gallery shows, and further public art projects. Alongside the *Spaces Of Hope* mural there will be a print exhibition surveying Ghadyanloo's collected print works to date at the Lesley University College of Art and Design's Lunder Art Center; the exhibition will also include a public lecture on October 5, 2016. Further Ghadyanloo murals are planned in California, Michigan, and Washington, D.C. Additional lectures will occur in 2016 with New York University, Stanford University, the University of Michigan and the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. An exhibition of Ghadyanloo's new body of original paintings entitled [Spaces Of Hope](#) is planned for London November 2016.

Arts and education programming will accompany the Greenway mural throughout the 12-month exhibition period, including stationing volunteer Art Ambassadors in the park during peak seasons (May to October) to interact with curious park visitors and answer questions. Thousands of daily visitors already flock to Dewey Square Park throughout the year to enjoy the Greenway Mobile Eats food trucks, the Thursday Boston Calling Block Parties, and the twice-weekly Boston Public Market's farmers market.

Ghadyanloo will also temporarily exhibit an original painting at Boston City Hall and publish a limited edition screen print in Boston. Both will be thematically linked to the artist's Greenway Wall mural.

Media Day: At a to-be-scheduled date and time during the painting of the mural at Dewey Square Park on The Greenway, artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo, Greenway Conservancy Curator Lucas Cowan, and Greenway Conservancy Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury will be available for media interviews.



Folded Walls, 2008



Bolts, 2005

What They're Saying

"Mehdi Ghadyanloo's canvas is the skyline. His illusions make use of the vast blue expanses beyond to create windows to other – more magical – worlds."



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– [CNN](#)

"These paintings are colorful, mischievous, charming."

– Yaniv Halili, *Yediot Aharonot*

"The prolific artist has introduced us to the realm of public art possibilities..."

– Katherine Brooks, [The Huffington Post](#)

"Ghadyanloo's murals in Tehran open windows in the sky. He sees them as a utopian protest against the city's pollution and smog."

– Jonathan Jones, [The Guardian](#)

Mehdi's murals "are thoughtful, highly inventive works making interventions into everyday lives and landscape."

– Cait Munro, [Artnet News](#)

"The most powerful aspect of Ghadyanloo's work is its exquisite beauty."

– Dr. Pamela Karimi, Assoc. Professor of Art History at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

About The Greenway

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a mile-and-a-half of contemporary parks in the heart of Boston. The Greenway is a rooftop garden atop a highway tunnel that connects people and the city with beauty and fun. The non-profit Greenway Conservancy maintains, programs, and improves The Greenway on behalf of the public and in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Greenway welcomed 1.19 million visitors in 2015 for The Greenway Carousel, events, Wi-Fi, and Mobile Eats food trucks, plus millions more visitors who enjoyed the fountains, plazas, and gardens. The Conservancy has won numerous awards, including for our organic landscape care and park programming.

The Greenway Conservancy Public Art Program, which recently showcased traveling and commissioned major works by Janet Echelman (*As If It Were Already Here*), Ai Weiwei (*Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads*), Lawrence Weiner (*A TRANSLATION FROM ONE LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER*), and Matthew Hoffman (*MAY THIS NEVER END*), is committed to exhibiting thought-provoking temporary installations of contemporary public art. Kyu Seok Oh's *Wandering Sheep* (2015) was the third Greenway artwork in four years to be recognized by Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network as among the country's best. Past exhibitions can be viewed [on The Greenway's website](#).

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