SHIVA AHMADI
b. 1975, Tehran, Iran
Lives and works in the Bay Area, CA

EDUCATION
2005 MFA, Painting, Cranbrook Academy of Arts, Bloomfield Hills, MI
2003 MFA, Drawing, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2000 MA, Drawing, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
1998 BFA, Painting, Azad University, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS
2026 *Crown of Flames*, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2025 *Shiva Ahmadi: Fable of Fire and Water*, University Art Gallery, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, CA
2024 *Shiva Ahmadi: Tangle*, Shoshana Wayne, Los Angeles, CA
Shiva Ahmadi: Strands of Resilience, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA
2023 *Shiva Ahmadi: The Courage of Eve*, Gallery Rosenfeld, London, UK
Shiva Ahmadi: Unbound, Saint Joseph's Arts Foundation, San Francisco, CA
2020 *The Body Politic*, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA (online)
Labyrinths, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2018 *Burning Song*, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2017 *Ascend*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
Ascend, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
2016 *Shiva Ahmadi: Spheres of Suspension*, Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University, NY
2014 *Lotus*, Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University, NY
Shiva Ahmadi: In Focus, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY
2013 *Apocalyptic Playland*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
2012 *Throne*, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, OH
Throne, Leila Heller Gallery, Art Dubai, UAE
2010 *Reinventing the Poetics of Myth*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
2005 *Oil Crisis*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
2026 (upcoming) *Reimagine Contemporary Art*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
2024 *Sweaty Armpits*, Gallery 120710, Berkeley, CA
...I Kept The Night Vigil..., Lelia Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
M is for Water, Di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA
Auditions, Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, CA
2023 *Being and Belonging*, Royal Ontario Museum of Art, Toronto, Canada
Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
2022 *The Temple of Artemis*, Analix Forever, Chêne-Bourg, Switzerland
From Moment to Movement: Picturing Protest in the Kramlich Collection, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA
2021 *Inspirations From the Ancients*, Rosenfeld Gallery, London, UK
Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY
Recent Acquisitions: Modern and Contemporary Prints and Drawings, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY
With Eyes Opened: Cranbrook Academy of Art Since 1932, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Epic Iran, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

A Boundless Drop to a Boundless Ocean, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL

2020 *UnRealism*, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (online)
Dreaming Together, collateral exhibition of the Asia Society Triennial, New York Historical Society, New York, NY
Painting the Figure, Rosenfeld, London, UK
Sanctuary, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada

2019 *Shrine Room Projects: Shiva Ahmadi / Genesis Breyer P-Orrdige / Tsherin Sherpa*, Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY
A Bridge Between You and Everything: an Exhibition of Iranian Women Artists, curated by Shirin Neshat in collaboration with Center for Human Rights in Iran, The Highline, New York, NY
Encounters: Honoring the Animals in Ourselves, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
how the light gets in, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Parallel Visions: Curated Group Exhibition of Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellows from 2009-2019, Wasserman Projects, Detroit, MI
Once at Present: Contemporary Art of Bay Area Iranian Diaspora, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA

2018 *Revolution Generations*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
Catastrophe and the Power of Art, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Long, Winding Journeys: Contemporary Art and the Islamic Tradition, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY
The Channel of Democracy: Womanhood, Power & Freedom in Video Art, PHOTOFAIRS San Francisco, CA
This Land is Whose Land?, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum, ID

2017 *Exquisite Corpse: Moving Image in Latin American and Asian Art*, Manna Contemporary, Miami, FL
Sanctuary, FOR-SITE Foundation, San Francisco, CA
Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians, Agha Khan Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2016 *Homeland Security*, FOR-SITE Foundation, San Francisco, CA
Fireflies in the Night Take Wing, The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Athens, Greece
Global/Local 1960 – 2015: Six Artists from Iran, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, NY
A Heritage Transposed, The Box Freiraum Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2014 *Artist in Exile: Creativity, Activism, and the Diasporic Experience*, Dr. M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery, St. John's University, Queens, NY
10th Cologne International Videoart Festival, Berlin, Germany

2013 Venice Biennale, Small Works Project, Collaboration of Library Street Collective, Detroit MI and Benetton, Venice, Italy

2012 *The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art and Society in the Middle East Diaspora*, Rutgers University Museum, Newark, NJ
The Rule and Its Exceptions, Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, TX

2011 *Jasmin: Oriental Summer*, Sabine Knust Gallery, Munich, Germany
Art X Detroit, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
[Dis]Locating Culture: Contemporary Islamic Art in America, Michael Berger Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

2010 *Tehran – New York*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY

2009 *Iran Inside Out*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY
Selseleh/Zelzeleh: Movers & Shakers in Contemporary Iranian Art, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY

2008 *Just Paper*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
Ahmadi & Zhang: Looking Back, Feldman Gallery, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
Distant Shores: Cultural Exchange in Contemporary Art, McIninch Art Gallery, Manchester, NH
Splash, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY
Conference of the Birds, Leila Heller Gallery, in cooperation with B & S Projects, London, UK

2007 *Merging influences*, *Eastern Elements in New American Art*, Montserrat Art Gallery, Boston, MA

2006 *Figuratively Speaking*, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, NY

2005 *Three Positions*, Lombard/Freid Projects, New York, NY
Atomica, Lombard/Freid Projects and Esso Gallery, New York, NY
Portland Museum of Art Biennial, Portland, ME
Cross Current, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, MI

2003 *Detroit Now*, Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Rochester, MI
Biennial Art Competition, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, IN
Exchange, Forum Gallery, Bloomfield Hills, MI
2002 *New Shoes*, Tangent Gallery, Detroit, MI
Academics 2002, Paint Creek Center for Arts, Detroit, MI

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2026 Maria Porges, "Shiva Ahmadi," *Artforum*, Summer 2026
Jonathan Curiel, "Shiva Ahmadi, Crown of Flames, Haines Gallery," *Roborant Reviews*, April 10, 2026
Mary Corbin, "For Iranian artist Shiva Ahmadi, 'ornamentation becomes a form of resistance'," *48Hills*, March 19, 2026
2025 "Wayne State University bestows alumna Shiva Ahmadi with Career Achievement Award in Art, Art History, and Design," *Wayne State University*, October 10, 2025
Omid Memarian, "Power, myth, and the personal: A conversation with Iranian-American artist Shiva Ahmadi," *Global Voices*, January 20, 2025
2024 David M. Roth, "Bloody Testaments to Female Resilience," *SquareCylinder.com*, February 25, 2024
Jeffery Day, "Essay: Working out the personal and political in paint with Shiva Ahmadi," *Sacramento News & Review*, January 30, 2024
Laura Compton, "'Shiva Ahmadi: Strands of Resilience' Opens Jan. 28 at Manetti Shrem Museum," *UC Davis*, January 9, 2024
2023 Hilarie Sheets, "What Would Ben Franklin Say? Artists Weigh the Dream of Democracy," *The New York Times*, March 23, 2023
Riccardo Freddo, "Shiva Ahmadi is the Iranian artist who gives body to protesting women," *Vogue Italia Magazine*, January 31, 2023
Tony Bravo, "San Francisco's 'unofficial art week' returns. Here are 12 highlights not to miss," *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 18, 2023
2022 Sierra Jimenez, "'From Moment to Movement': art and protest," *The California Aggie*, April 7, 2022
Jaimie Baron, "The Art of Resistance @ Manetti Shrem," *SquareCylinder.com*, March 3, 2022
2021 Matthew J. Palm, "Unique partnership unites Orlando. Middle East through art," *Orlando Sentinel*, January 28, 2021
Eleanor Heartney, "Diversity East," *Art in America*, January 25, 2021
2020 Naomi Falk, "Contradictions and Tensions: Shiva Ahmadi Interviewed by Naomi Falk," *BOMB Magazine*, May 22, 2020
Jonathan Curiel, "Fall in Love With These Nine Works of Art During the Coronavirus Shutdown," *SF Weekly*, April 14, 2020
Glen Mannisto, "Labyrinths: Shiva Ahmadi @ Elaine L. Jacob Gallery," *Detroit Art Review*, January 30, 2020
2019 Gabriella Angeleti, "Shirin Neshat curates exhibition of all-women Iranian artists in New York," *The Art Newspaper*, July 29, 2019
2018 Jonathan Curiel, "The Pressure Cooker: Shiva Ahmadi's Animation of the Syrian War," *SF Weekly*, September 20, 2018
Maria Porges, "Shiva Ahmadi @ Haines Gallery," *SquareCylinder.com*, September 19, 2018
Cy Musiker, "Tales of Seeking Sanctuary Woven into 36 Rugs at Fort Mason," *KQED*, February 14, 2018
Andy Kerstetter, "Whose land is it, anyway? The Center's new exhibit explores topics of refugees, immigration," *Idaho Mountain Express*, January 24, 2018
2017 Jean Nayar, "Mana Contemporary Takes Over Wynwood and Miami Art Week," *Ocean Drive*, December 1, 2017
Ahalya Srikant, "Cheryl Haines' Magic Carpet Ride," *San Francisco Magazine*, October 2017
Brandon Yu, "Asian Art Museum program draws on real-world issues," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 22, 2017
Anna Brady, "Shiva Ahmadi Combines The Beautiful And The Violent," *Harper's Bazaar Arabia*, April 12, 2017
2016 Werner Bloch, "Die Kaiserin als Elefant (The Empress as an Elephant)," *Der Tagesspiegel*, December 2016
Jonathan Curiel, "FOR-SITE Is 20/20," *SF Weekly*, September 21, 2016

Jean Schiffman, "New Presidio Exhibit Explores & Illuminates Complex Social Issues," *SF/Arts*, September 2016
Michael Krasny, "Presidio Hosts Artwork Examining Human Cost of National Security", *KQED Radio*, September 13, 2016
Livia Alexander, "Tracing Tradition in a Survey of Six Iranian Artists," *Hyperallergic*, March 18, 2016
Bansie Vasvani, "Global/Local 1960-2015: Six Artists From Iran," *ArtAsiaPacific*, March 2016
Ozana Plemenitash, "The Best of Iran at NYU's Grey Art Gallery," *Art Versed*, February 22, 2016
Hilarie M. Sheets, "Shiva Ahmadi's Subversive Beauty," *Introspective Magazine*, February 8, 2016
Michael FitzGerald, "From Shah to Supreme Leader", *The Wall Street Journal*, February 3, 2016
Holland Cotter, "Six Artists From Iran at Grey Art Gallery," *New York Times*, January 14, 2016
Julia Rooney, "A Closer Look: Shiva Ahmadi's Pipes," *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, January 5, 2016

2015 Katherine Brooks, "13 Artists You Should Fall In Love With This Spring", *Huffpost Arts*, March 12, 2015

2014 Laura C. Mallonee, "Using Beauty to Examine Ugly Political Truths", *Hyperallergic*, July 14, 2014
Sehba Mohammed, "Graceful Grenades," *Modern Painters,* June 2014
Mark Guiducci, "An exclusive Preview of Lotus, Shiva Ahmadi's New Video Installation," *Vogue*, June 2014
"Shiva Ahmadi: In Focus," *NY Magazine,* June 2014
"Lindsey and Michael Fournier," *Canvas Magazine*, May 2014

2013 Heather Ecker, "The Flowers of Evil," *Manor House Quarterly*, October 2013
Elizabeth Pandolfi, "Rising in the East," *Art & Antiques Magazine*, September 15, 2013
"Chelsea Art," *Bloomberg*, March 21, 2013
Heather Ecker, "Flowers of Evil," *Apocalyptic Playland* Exhibition Catalogue, Leila Heller Gallery, February 2013

2012 "50 Next Most Collectible Artists", *Art and Auction*, June 2012
Laura Stewart, "Passion for Art: Leila Heller," *Art Bahrain*, May 2012
"Leila Heller," *Harper's Bazaar Art*, Spring 2012

2011 Fereshteh Daftari, "Altered Miniatures: Shiva Ahmadi", *Canvas Magazine*, March/April 2011

2010 Benjamin Genocchio, "Shiva Ahmadi," *Reinventing the Poetics of Myth* Catalogue, Leila Heller Gallery, February 2010

2009 Benjamin Gennochio, "Import/Export in the Heat of the Moment," *Art in America*, November 2009
Nazi Nazhand, "Abu Dhabi Report," *Artnet Magazine*, November 2009
Lori Waxman, "Art Galleries: Iran as You've Never Seen It Before," *Chicago Tribune*, October 2009
Lilly Wei, "Selseleh/Zelzeleh at Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery", *ARTnews*, October 2009
Carol Kino, "Iranian Shine, Assisted by Expatriate", *The New York Times*, August 2009
Melik Kaylan, "The View From Here," *The Wall Street Journal*, August 2009
Holland Cotter, "Iran Inside Out", *The New York Times*, July 2009

2008 Benjamin Genocchio, "A Dialogue Between Tradition and Innovation," *The New York Times*, November 7, 2008

2007 Joel Brown, "New American Art, informed by the East," *The Boston Globe*, September 2007

2006 Mathew Biro, "Contemporary developments in Drawing," *Contemporary 21*, August 2006
Lynn Crawford, "The Mind's Eye," *markszine.com*, March 2006

2005 Ben Rutter, "It's pronounced nu-cle-ar," *NY Arts Magazine*, September 2005
Bryony Roberts, "Art in the City 'Why Don't We Do It In the Road'," *L Magazine New York*, August 2005

2004 Natalie Haddad, "Displaced," *Real Detroit Weekly*, April 2004
Ellen Pilgian, "Expats on show," *Metro Times*, April 2004

2003 Luise Bolleber, "Gallery Welcomes Detroit Now," *The Oakland Post*, June 2003
"Review of On the Wall at Tangent Gallery", *Real Detroit Weekly*, June 2003
George Tysh, "Wild at Heart", *Metro Times*, June 2003

2002 "Room for Interpretation," *Real Detroit Weekly*, December 2002
"Review of Exchange at Forum Gallery", *TheDetroiter.com,* 2002
"Review of New Shoes at Tangent Gallery" *TheDetroiter.com,* 20002

RESIDENCIES

2018 Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Umbertide, Italy
2003 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Career Achievement Award in Art, Art History, and Design, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2019 Chancellor's Fellow, University of California, Davis, CA
2016 The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
Anonymous Was a Woman Award
2009 Kresge Artist Fellowship, Kresge Foundation
2008 Nominated for Altoid Award by The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
2004 First Prize, NYC 6th National Juried Exhibition, New York, NY
First Prize, Biennial Art Competition, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN
2003 First Prize, Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, MI
2002/03 John & Irene Sowinski Scholarship, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Graduate Professional Scholarship, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2002 Second Prize, 2002 Michigan Drawing Biennial Exhibition, Ford Gallery, Ypsilanti, MI
2001 Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

PUBLICATIONS

2017 *Shiva Ahmadi.* Skira, Milan, Italy.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Asia Society Museum, New York, NY
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
Black Gold Museum, Riaz, Saudi Arabia
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Collection of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
DePaul University Art Museum, Chicago, IL
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
The Farjam Collection, Dubai, UAE
Grey Art Gallery, New York, NY
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Morgan Library, New York, NY
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
TDIC Collection, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Wayne State University Art Collection, Detroit, MI