



PORTFOLIO

Interdisciplinary Artist
&
Independent Curator

Arezu Zargar

2012-2025

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Arezu Zargar is an interdisciplinary artist based in Tehran, Iran, who practices in ceramics, video art, and installation. She has a background in paleontology and a master's degree in Art Research from Tehran University of Arts. Arezu's work often engages with the natural sciences to discuss ideas of body, transformation, and memory.

Arezu's works have been exhibited internationally, including the Sorrento Contemporary Art Festival, Italy (2022) and Asian Art Biennial Bangladesh (2023). Her solo artwork, *Harmony Galaxy*, has been exhibited at the Albert Hall Museum in January 2025 during the 4th Jaipur Art Week. Arezu participated in Romanian Creative Week in Iași in May 2025 within the frame of the project 120 Steps to White.

Arezu has also been actively engaged in art education and curatorial practice. She was the research coordinator of the 11th National Ceramic Biennial Iran and educational coordinator of the 12th. In 2024, she co-authored two official Iranian high school art textbooks: *Firing and Glazing*; and *Technical Knowledge*.

She curated the international group exhibition *Countdown: 100 Nights + 1 Extra Night* at the ASR Gallery in Tehran, featuring conceptual photographs by more than 100 foreign photographers.

Arezu founded her own platform, BON Art Project, in 2020 that engages in international artistic exchange through virtual exhibitions and symposiums. Having executed three programs, including the juried exhibition *Transformation*, she began a new chapter involving artist residencies and collaborative projects.

www.arezuzargar.com

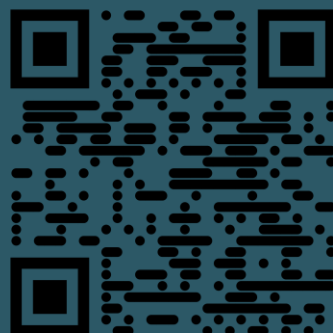
First Name: Arezu

Surname : HajialimohamadZargar

Artist's Name: Arezu Zargar

Nationality: Iran

Gender: Female



Artist statement

My work is rooted in language—its exposure, its memory, and its ongoing transformation. I explore this with ceramics, video, and installation, often starting with a tactile, familiar operation using clay. The material is an unseen witness to pressure, time, and exposure, leaving impressions of contact, and the tensions between softness and resistance.

As a paleontologist, I think of the body not merely as something physical but as an archive—a stratified system in which geology and affect converge. I am drawn to moments in which materiality and meaning disintegrate: where clay is flesh, where object becomes memory, where a surface fissures like a wound or a landscape.

Today's cross-border partnerships, such as 120 Steps to White in Romanian Creative Week and the Jaipur art week, are opening up new ways of experiencing community, process, and place. The experiences are affirming my love of crossing contexts and cultures through material as bridge, not barrier. In parallel with my studio practice, I've initiated BON Art Project—an independent platform for curatorial and collaborative experiments. This project, evolving from online exhibitions to artist residencies, reflects my belief in the necessity of dialogue in contemporary art: not just between artist and audience, but among artists themselves, across distance, discipline, and identity.

Through all I do, I attempt to make room—for the in-between, the close, and the not resolved. I believe in art that listens as much as it speaks.

Educations

- 2018 M.A Research in Handicraft, Art University of Tehran,
- 2006 M.Sc. In Paleontology, Islamic Azad University Science and Research Branch,
- 2003 B.Sc In Geology, Islamic Azad University Tehran North Branch

Professional Development & Official Certificate

- 2022 Moma ; Seeing Through Photography, Online Course,
- 2021 The University Of Maryland, College Park, The Cycle: Management Of Successful Arts And Cultural Organizations, ,
Moma; What Is Contemporary Art, Online Course,
Moma; Modern Art & Idea, Online Course,
How To Write Artistic Proposal, Online Course, Empty Space Studio Education Association,

Solo / Two person

- 2025 Harmony Galaxy, Jaipur Art Week, Albert Hall museum, India
- 2023 Two person Exhibition, In the nth Factor, Yafteh Gallery, Tehran,
- 2021 Solo Short Film, Nostalgia Film Festival, Milan,

Curatorial Project

- 2024 Countdown;100 nights + 1 extra night, Asr Art Gallery Tehran, Iran
- 2020 3rd Virtual International Ceramic Competition Transformation, Bon Art Project" [\[2\]](#)
- 2018 Pangea, Group Installation, Abad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Kolet Ceramic Art Event, Behshahr, Iran
Romanian Creative Week, Golia Tower, Iasi, Romania
Touch, Ceramic Group Exhibition , Zagreb, Croatia
- 2024 The 13th Persbook Contemporary Art Event , Iranshahr Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
Dispersion, Group exhibition, Itook cinema association, Tehran, Iran
Nature Art Cube Exhibition, Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, South Korea
My Microcosmos, Group Exhibition, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2023 Eighth Day: Silence; Group Exhibition, Sheydaei Gallery, Tehran, Iran
Self Known; Group Show, Yazd, Iran
Two-person Exhibition, In the nth Factor, Yafteh Gallery, Tehran, Iran
Polyvocality; Phase3, Women Working With Clay Symposium, Usa
Sayart Festival, International Meeting Of Contemporary Art, Sorrento, Italy, Special Edition
Re-Discovered; Group Exhibition , Yafteh Gallery, Iran
Polyvocality; Phase 2, Nceca Annual Conference Current, Virtual Exhibition Usa
Video Art Group Exhibition, Yafteh Gallery, Tehran, Iran
Artaxis; Polyvocality; Invited Artist To Group Virtual Exhibition, Usa
- 2022 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Syart Festival, International Meetings Of Contemporary Art, Villa Fiorentina, Sorrento, Italy
Express Yourself With Color; The International Ceramic Group Exhibition, Slovenia
Wisdom Of Homo Symbiosis, International Group Exhibition, Palbok Art Factory, South Korea
Matres Festival, International Women Ceramic Festival, Cava De Tirreni, Italy
Express Yourself With Color; The International Ceramic Group Exhibition, Glineraj Association, Croatia
Nature Art Cube Exhibition, Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, South Korea

The Collaborative Project, Ceramic Installation, During The Workshop Of Ceramic, Cucuteni, Romania
 The Collaborative Project "Empty Room" Residency, Mozambique, South Africa, Online
 Zero- Waste ,11th Annual Of Persbook, Iranshahr Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran

- 2021 Synthesis, Group Video-Performance , "Asst" Studio Art Residency, Yazd, Iran
 On The Snail's Circuit, Group Installation And Mix Media, Soo Contemporary Gallery, Iran
 2nd International Film Festival "Nostalgia" Short Film, Milan, Italy,
 Nature Art Cube Exhibition, Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, South Korea,
 Voice Of Mask, Selected International Mix Media Exhibition Online, India
 Water, Suleyman Demirel University International Exhibition ,Online, Turkey
 Matres, Matres Week Ceramica Femminile Diffuso, Ceramic Pandora Artiste Association Virtual, Italy
 Ego, The International Mix Media Exhibition Of Xartplatform Online, Turkey
 Nevruz ,Ceramic Exhibition Of Clayartplatfor Online, Turkey
 Pandemos, Ceramic Pandora Artiste Association Virtual, International Ceramic Exhibition Italy
 Walking, International Mix Media Exhibition Of ProjectI3 Virtual, Usa,
 Kadin & Kadina," Selected International Ceramic Exhibition Of Clayartplatform Online, Turkey
- 2020 International Group Exhibition Of Aware Art Gallery, Online, India
 International Ceramic Exhibition Of Bon Art Project, Online, Iran,
 International Ceramic Group Exhibition Of Clay Art Platform, Online, Turkey
 Sculpture Farm"Sixth Almon Event , Isfahan, Iran,
 Inima, International Exhibition, Iasi, Romania,
- 2019 Chang Or Exchange, International Ceramic Artist Group Performance Iranian Artist Forum, Tehran, Iran,
 Nature Art Cube Exhibition, Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, South Korea
 Human, International Symposium Of Visual Art, Romania,
- 2017 7th Annual Of Contemporary Art (Persbook 2017)", Bayan Art Gallery, Isfahan, Iran,
- 2015 The Inexpressive, The Group Exhibition Of Ceramic Art Sculptures, Hepta Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 Mid Sculpture, The Annual Exhibition Of Selected Sculptures Under The Age Of 35, Shirin Art Gallery, Iran,
 Ceramic Art Part Of 7th Fajr International Festival Of Visual Arts, Tehran, Iran,
- 2014 Mold, Group Exhibition Of Ceramic, Barg Gallery, Tehran

Publications

- 2024 *Firing and Glazing*, Co-Author, Iran Textbook Publishing Company, 2024 A high school textbook for the Technical and Vocational Education program (Handicrafts – Ceramic Arts) in Iran,
- 2024 *Technical Knowledge*, Co-Author, Iran Textbook Publishing Company, 2024 A high school textbook for the Technical and Vocational Education program (Handicrafts – Ceramic Arts) in Iran,

Media & Press

- 2025 *In search of possibility*, Monthly Journal of culture,art and litrture, Issue 38, Iran
Candles Started to flickering without Burning, Rajastan Patrika, Jaipur, India, February,2025 ([link](#)),
Artists From all over the world will Gather in Jaipur Art week on the first day, Rajastan Patrika, Jaipur, India, February,2025 ([link](#)),
- 2023 Intranational *Art Magazine Craftland* Vol.5 , Page 37-38,
- 2022 *About Of The 11th Anniversary Of Presbook Contemporary Art*", Pegah Rajaamand, Darzart Magazine,
- 2021 A Look At " *On The Snail Circuit*" In Soo Contemporary, Sale Sharifi, Darzart Magazine ([link](#)),
Women's Embodiment And Gender Themes Expressed In Ceramics: A Study Of Iran's Traditional & Modern Societies" Saba Khaneghaei, Elsevier, Women's Studies International Forum,
 "What Color Is The Sky? A Look At The Pangea Exhibition", Shargh Newspaper (By Dr. Dadkhah)

- About Arezu Zargar And Her Artistic Practices*," Eco-Aware Art Gallery ([link](#))
- 2020 Published Interview, SABA Press, Title: "*Ceramics Are An Intermediary For Expressing The Inner Artists*", ([link](#))
- Interview, Honaronline Magazine, "*Arezu Zargar: The Director Of The Biennial Ceramics Research Explained The Research Programs*", ([link](#))
- 2019 "*Change Or Exchange*", A Critical Review On Ceramic Group Performance, Catalog Of Performance, (By Rojhaneh Hosseini)
- Change Through Exchange Or About Art That Transcends Space, Time And Humanity, "Catalog of Performance" (By Maria Bilasevski)
- Guest Speaker: Interview With Radio Goftegoo, Culture Intersection Program
- 2018 "Shadow Of Migration; A Look At The Pangea Exhibition", Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper (By Mohammad Tajuddin)

Art Talk/ Interview

- 2025 Interview *Candels shimmering without burning*, Jaipur, India, 2025 ([link](#))
- 2024 Interview with *Art Cakula*, Coratioan Art Institute, Zagreb, Croatia, 2024 ([link](#))
- 2023 Art Talk "*The Scale Of Nth Factor*", Yafteh Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2022 Art Talk "*Zero-Waste*" And Relationship With My Artwork, Persbook Live, Online,
- 2021 Art Talk "*Creation And Walking*" Online, Usa,
- 2019 *Civilization And Pottery In The Two Famous Regions Of Amlash And Shush*," Romania, International
- 2018 *Form*, The Language Of The Unspoken, Iranian Artist Forum, Tehran,
- 2016 *Childish Imagination To Childish Imagination*; The Relationship Between The Creation Of Ceramic Artwork And Childhood, Iranian Artist Forum, Tehran

Executive Activities

- 2024 Education Director of the 12th biennial of ceramic art of Iran,
- 2020 Research Director Of The 11th National Ceramic Biennial Of Iran,
- 2017-2019 Research Director Of Iranian Ceramic Artists Society,
- 2017- 2019 Vice-chairman and Member Of The Board Of Ceramic Artist Association

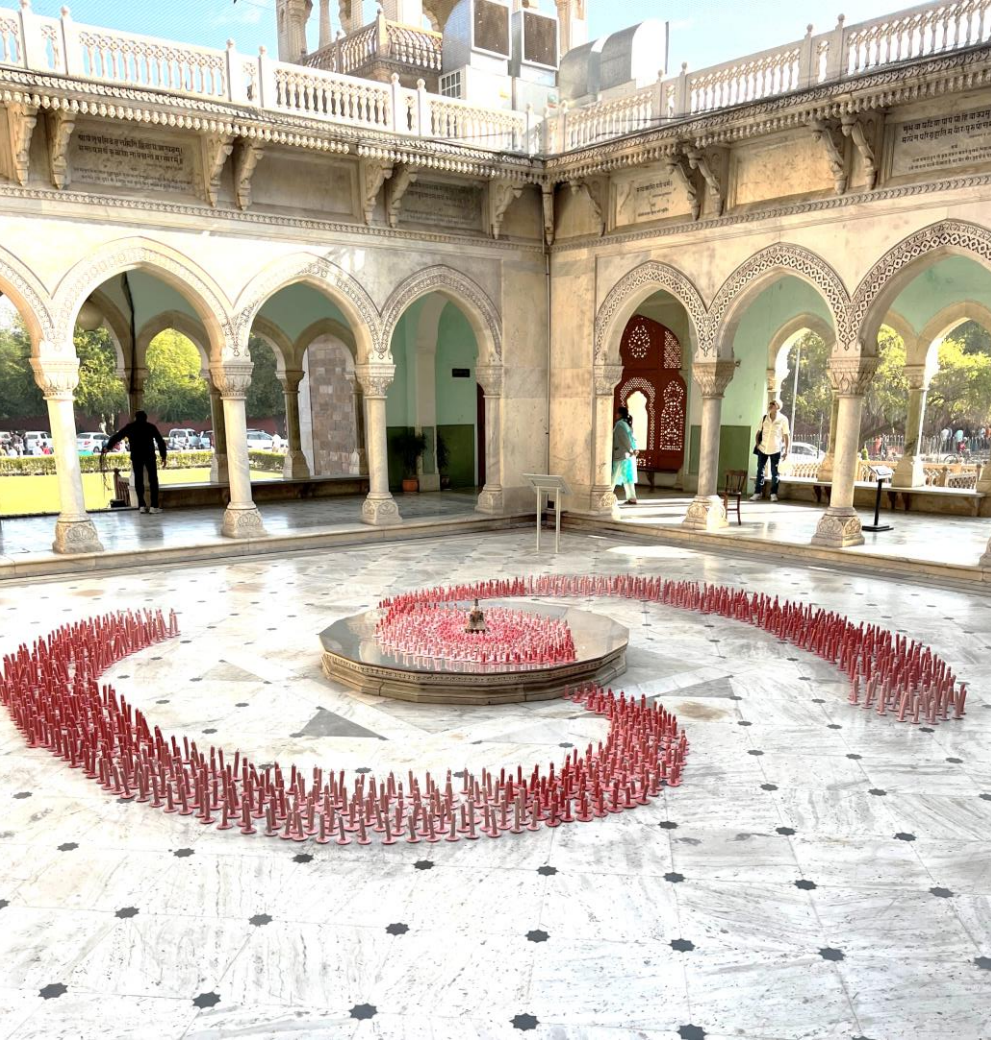
Residency

- 2023 Clay Heaven, Croatian Ceramic Association, Croatia
- 2022 Empty Room" Residency, Mozambique, South Africa
- 2021 Asst" Studio, Art Residency , Yazd, Iran

References

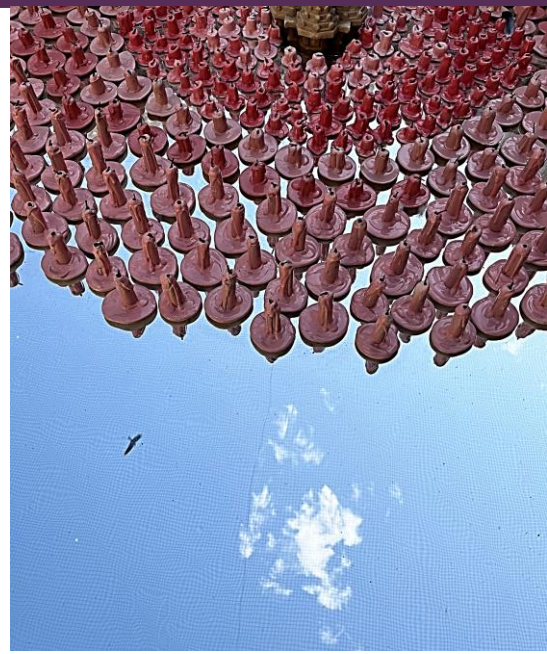
Rosella Savarese, Curator of SYART GALLERY, Sorento, Italy; (+39)-333-288-2217; info@syartgallery.com

Raheleh Filsoofi, Assistant Professor in Ceramics of Vanderbilt College of Art & Science, USA; (+1)- 305-299-9395; raheleh.filsoofi@vanderbilt.edu



Project 1 Harmony Galaxy

Ceramic Installation with 172 pieces of
Handmade ceramic Candles
Albert Hall Museum, Jaipur, India, 2025
Solo exhibition





Description of project

This installation of 1,727 ceramic candles transforms the simplicity of pink into a rich spectrum of depth and light. Each candle, though unlit, reflects sunlight through its shimmering glaze. Without flames, they create their own quiet brilliance, speaking of illumination not through fire, but through presence—a symbol of hope, remembrance, and renewal.

The work is inspired by India's deep cultural spirit, where life is celebrated with vibrant energy and joy. Here, the candle becomes a tribute to the belief that light is a constant affirmation of life's beauty and resilience. The absence of fire allows the glazes to shine, inviting viewers to reflect on the profound meaning of celebration, the triumph of life, and the quiet brilliance that emerges when we embrace the radiance within.



Project 2

Countdown;
100 nights + 1 extra night



International Curatorial project
Conceptual photography
100 Artists from 36 countries,
Asr Art Gallery, 2024
Curator: Arezu Zargar

Description of project

Starting in December 2022, for 100 consecutive nights, I took a black-and-white photo of my hands holding an object. I began this project at a time when social media monitoring had intensified, and any action related to current events became highly challenging. The choice of "100 nights" for this project was inspired by ancient Iranian culture and their belief in the duration of enduring cold and darkness each year. They believed that 100 nights marked the period of coldness, and to endure it, people would gather, tell stories, and share tales to make this difficult time more bearable.



After completing these 100 nights, I've started to invite 100 artists with diverse artistic expertise from around the world to participate. I ask each artist to imagine that after seeing my photograph, they have no language—they cannot speak. I want them to respond to my photograph not with words, but with an image of their own. I will choose one object in my photo to represent my situation, but I won't explain it directly. Instead, I want the artists to interpret the meaning themselves and respond using their own chosen object. The object I use in my photograph will carry multiple layers of meaning, and the challenge is to reply visually, as if we had no language to communicate. This way, we explore how to respond to an idea or situation without relying on words. They were also asked to write (optional) a short text (max to 150 words) in their language about their photograph.





Project 3

In the nth Factor



Interactive kinetic installation with 5000
pieces of ceramic
Yafteh Gallery, Tehran, Iran, 2023
Two-person show with
Hanieh Khodabandehlu



Description of project

Our project is an interactive kinetic installation that explores the interconnectedness of human choices and their impact on society. The installation consists of 5000 ceramic pieces that have been individually crafted and fired. These pieces are suspended from the ceiling of a large gallery space using invisible thread, creating a visually striking and ethereal effect. To create a sense of movement and interaction, the ceramic pieces are connected to motors, which are in turn connected to four different sensors positioned at various angles within the gallery. When audience members enter the space and move around, their presence is detected by the sensors, triggering a response from the installation. As they walk through the hall, the suspended ceramic pieces begin to move, generating a unique and captivating sound. The speed and intensity of the movement are determined by the choices and movements of the audience. The installation serves as a metaphor for the ripple effect of individual decisions in society. Each choice made by a person can have far-reaching consequences, impacting not only themselves but also those around them. By engaging with the installation, viewers are encouraged to reflect on the interconnectedness of human actions and the potential for change that resides within each individual.



Project 4

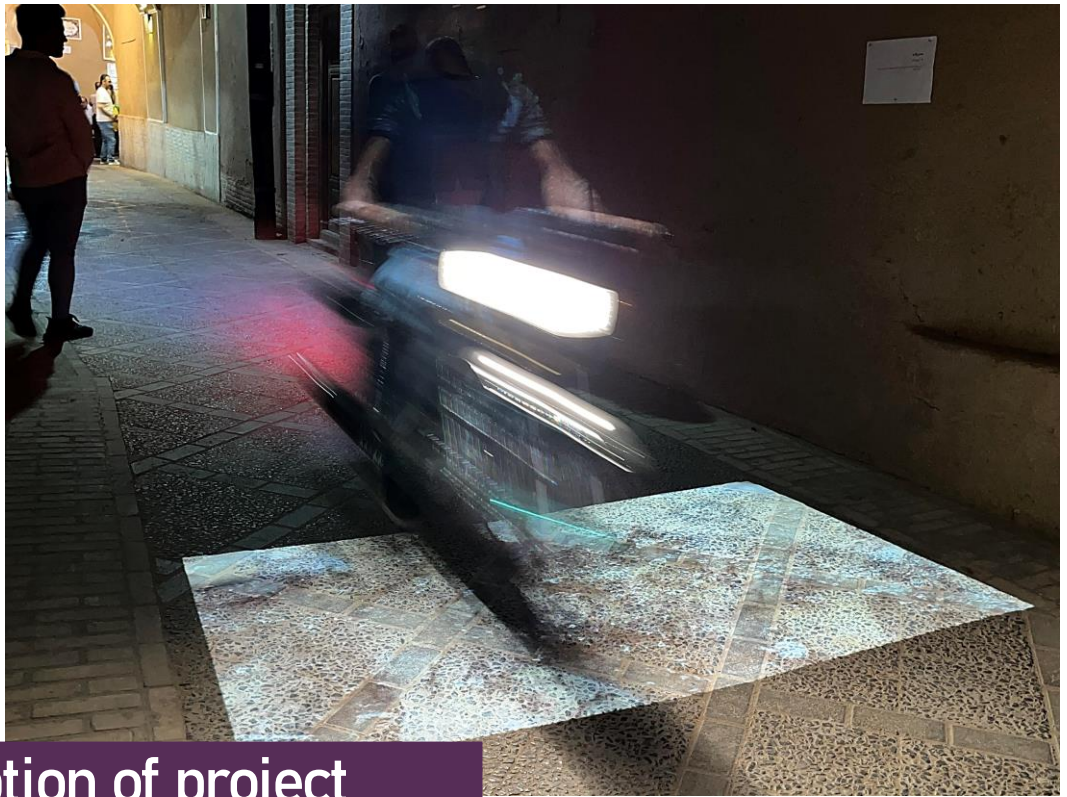
Mirage

Video Art

Duration of Video: 45" 16:9,
colored with voice
Yazd, Iran, 2023

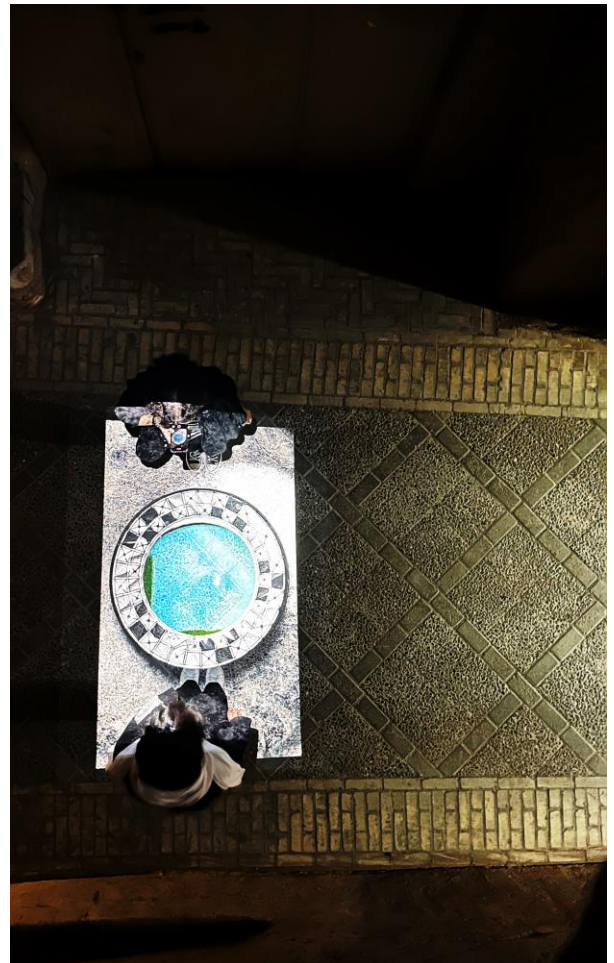
Statement: You are like a sweet
fantasy that appears between
sleep and wakefulness and
disappears in the blink of an
eye; So delusional

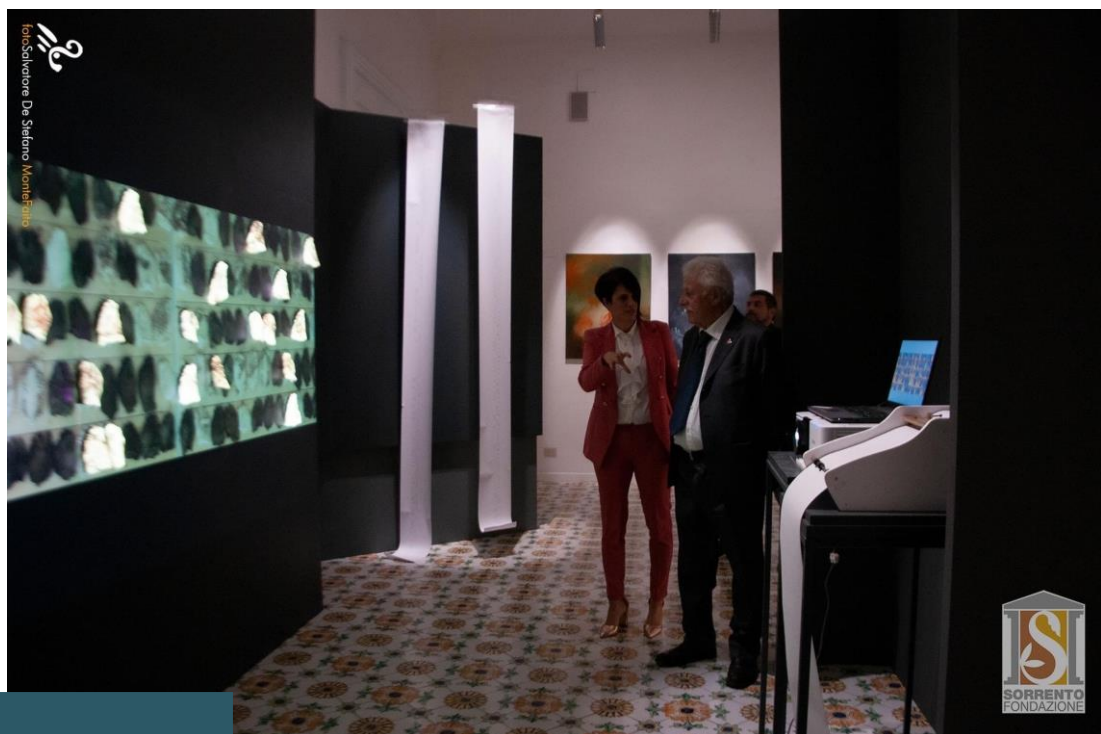




Description of project

Mirage is a captivating video art installation located in the narrow streets of an ancient alley in Yazd, Iran. This immersive project invites viewers to pause and contemplate as they encounter a mesmerizing video screen embedded in the floor of the sidewalk. Through the lens of traditional ceramic pot-making processes, "Mirage" delves into the interplay between tradition and modernity, shedding light on the environmental consequences that accompany progress. It serves as a poignant reminder of the cultural heritage that often goes unnoticed and neglected amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life. As viewers navigate the alley, "Mirage" prompts them to ponder the purpose and meaning of their existence. It evokes introspection, urging individuals to question the extent to which they may be disregarding their culture and environment in the pursuit of their daily routines.

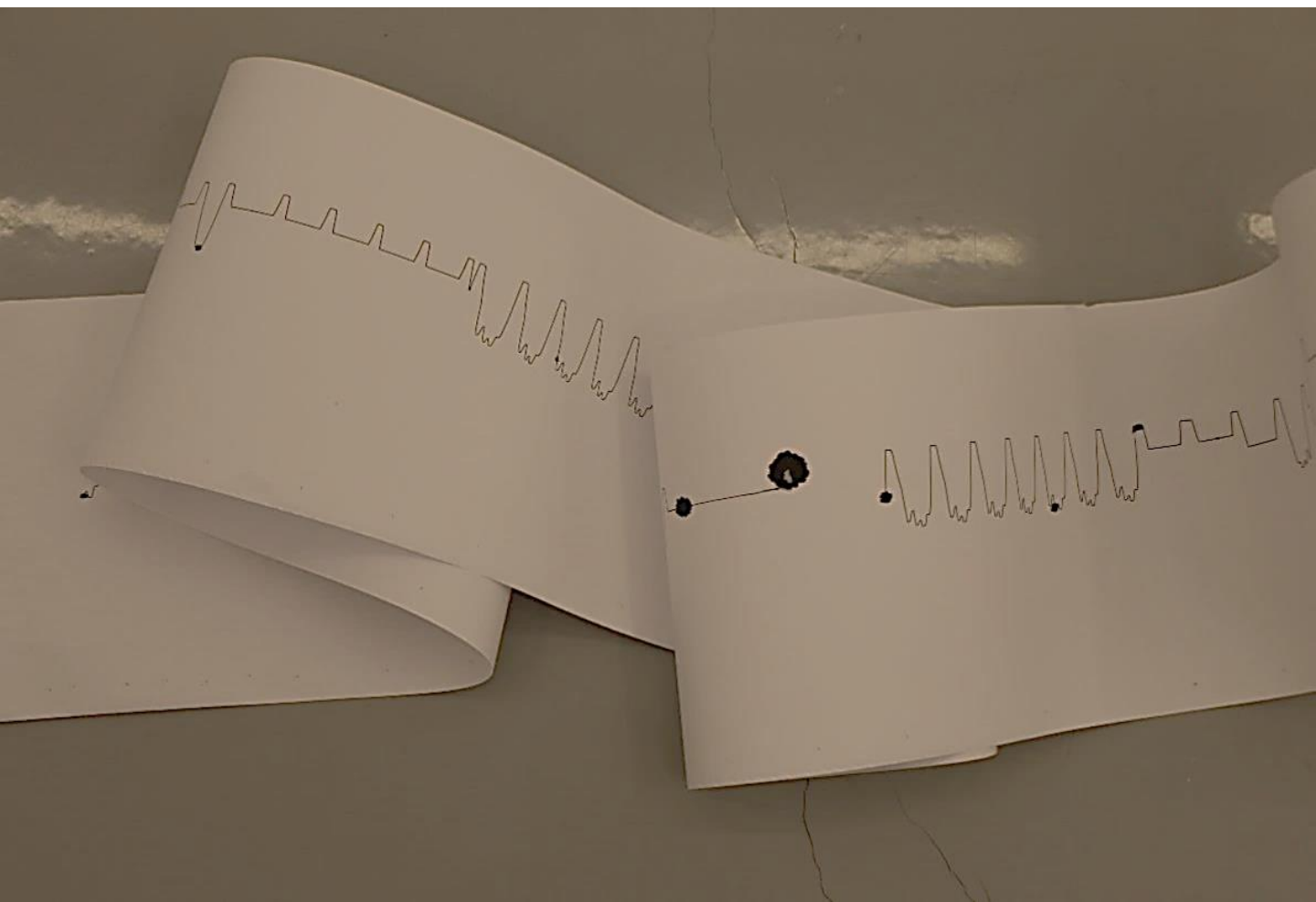




Project 5 We Were There!



Interactive Video Installation
Syart Festival, International
Meeting of Contemporary Art,
Sorrento, Italy, 2022
Curator: Rossella Savarese



Description of project

"We Were There" is an immersive installation art project that builds upon the concept of my previous exhibition, "Polarity." The installation combines video footage from "Polarity" with interactive elements such as mobile ceramic feet, a paper roll machine, and a video projector. A video projection, synchronized with the movements of the mobile feet, showcases footage from "Polarity." The projection is adjusted to match the size of the feet, blurring the boundaries between reality and the recorded past. "We Were There" emphasizes audience engagement and their role in shaping the artwork. By combining interactive elements, technology, and visual media, the installation creates an immersive experience that invites viewers to reflect on their presence, interactions, and impact within the shared artistic environment.

Project 4 Mach will be broken

Kenotic Installation,

Size: 200* 50* 50 Cm

IRANSHAHR Art Gallery,
Tehran, Iran, 2022



Interactive Wooden Box with Ceramic Feet for Environmental Awareness The Interactive Wooden Box with Ceramic Feet for Environmental Awareness is a project designed to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices. The surface of each wooden box is adorned with ceramic feet that have been meticulously molded and crafted. These ceramic feet represent the impact of human consumption on the environment. Each ceramic foot is connected to a sensor and a motor. The sensors detect motion or presence, while the motors enable dynamic movement of the ceramic feet when triggered by the sensors. make more sustainable choices in their daily lives.



When someone is detected near the box, the sensors send a signal to the motors, causing the ceramic feet to move in an eye-catching and attention-grabbing manner. This movement serves as a powerful visual metaphor for the effects of human actions on the environment. It highlights the interconnectedness between our choices and their consequences. The objective of the project is to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire individuals to take action.





Project 7 Nowhere

Video Installation

Duration of Each Video: 1 minute

19th biennial of Asian artists, Dhaka, Bangladesh

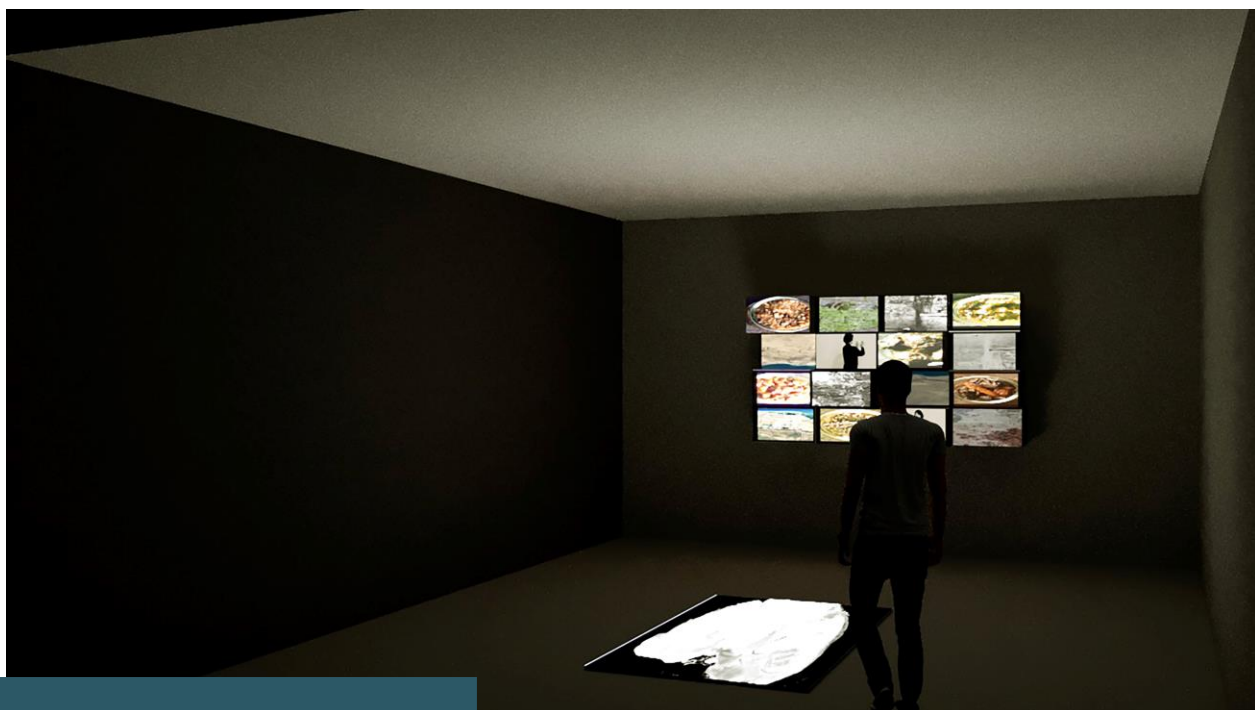
Curator: Monjur Ahmed

2022

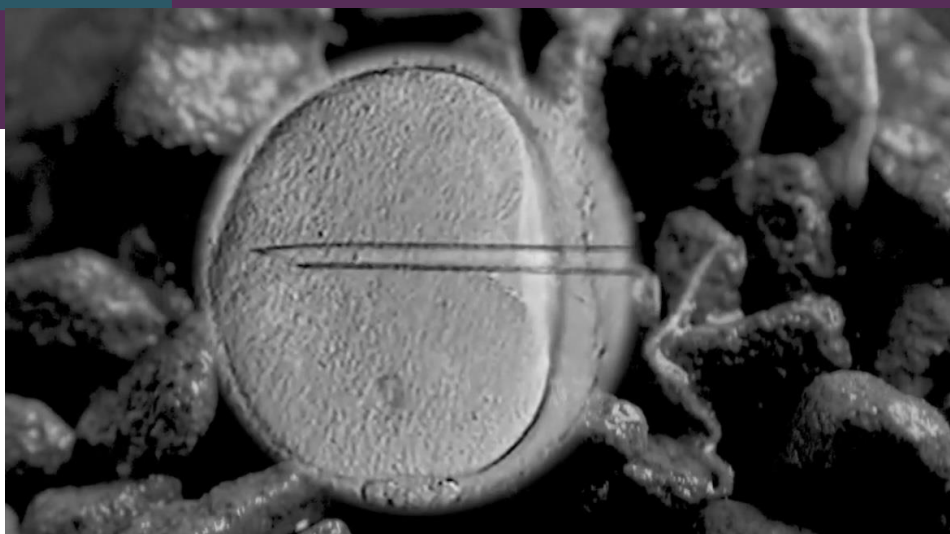


Description of project

“Nowhere” is an immersive video installation that explores the profound connection between human identity, place, and displacement. Drawing inspiration from phenomenology, the project delves into the inseparable relationship between individuals and their surrounding world. Using papier-mâché as its primary material, the sculpture takes center stage within the installation. Suspended between two videos, the sculpture casts captivating shadows that merge with the projected imagery, symbolizing the intertwining of human identity and the constructed meaning of place. The project delves into the concept of place, highlighting its significance in sociology, anthropology, and human geography. It distinguishes between space and place, emphasizing that meaning is bestowed upon a space when people, groups, or cultural processes exist within it.



Project 8 Grounded



Video-sound Installation

Project mentor Gemuce

Collaboration Arezu Zargar & Hendrik Klatte

Mozambique 2022



Description of project

"We come from soil and will return to soil one day. The relationship between man and so-called nature has undergone various changes and events in different periods. From the distant years when humankind took refuge in caves to escape the dangers of nature or an era when man traveled and experimented more and more with the tools and weapons he built. Until, nowadays, humanity has maximized – and seemingly mastered – its use of natural resources. What is nature? Does it exist? Are we part of nature? Questioning matters of scale, temporality, and the anthropocentric world, "grounded" doesn't give answers but invites us to experience and rethink our position as humans. Set to mechanical soundscapes and human frequencies, timelapse footage and MRT scans morph into each other challenging different perspectives." Planned as a multichannel video and sound installation, "grounded" is compromised of a continuous audiovisual loop running against another, unsynchronised multimedia loop to enhance an experience of relativity. Arzezu Zargar and Hendrik Klatte channel both their scientific background, as well as their artistic vision to explore their common ground.

Project 9

pangea

Media: Interactive Installation, 200 * 300 cm

Group exhibition, Abbad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Year: 2017

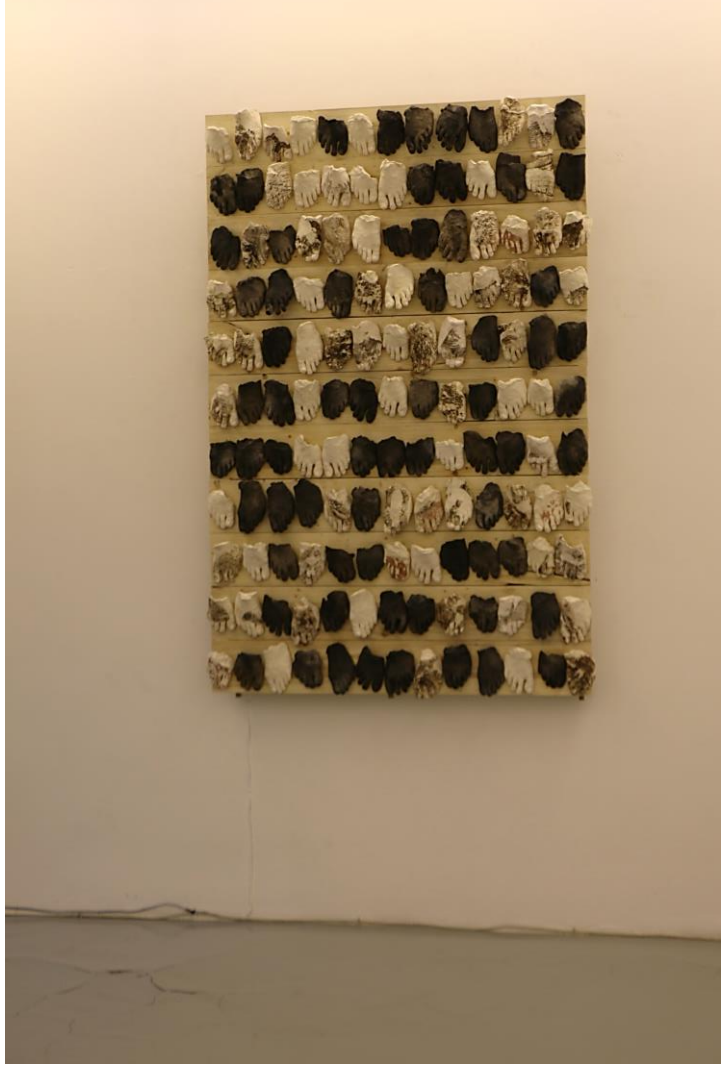


Statement: Survival, a desire for a better life, and experience can lead to immigration. Individual motivations are a way of distinguishing between human migration and geological and biological migration. Immigration is a twofold change; besides, it can transform social relations such as capital, knowledge, development, and modernization, it transforms customs and traditions, changes in the pyramid and genetic structure into populations. Human migration for any reason is a unique experience and life for immigrants before and after this. However, all the emotional consequences of this transformation cannot share with those who have not experienced migration. Perhaps only the great and unknown soul that left this way can be spoken and maybe seen it from far. Pangea is a geological term and is called the first continent that was around 250 million years ago. For millions of years, this great continent has been broken, and the continental shape of today has been created due to the movement of the sheets. This continental migration is still ongoing.

Description About Installation and interactive project

In this interactive installation, the audience was invited by a sound they heard from headphones to put a piece or object of their own into a box. This piece should represent the worldview of the people. The voice explained that the project would be presented at a university in Canada and that two participants would be selected. After finishing the exhibition, 250 boxes were filled by numerous audiences. We were shocked by the results, which most contained pills. In the end, the audience did not realize that what they had heard was a lie. I tried to show how people believe anything for migration and validation; another hand, how asylum seekers affect society.





Project 10

Polarity

Interactive Installation
Tehran, Iran, 2022

Statement: Consciousness is the result of the regular and rhythmic presentation of neuron messages. But sometimes, the basic system of this stage becomes like a circus I will not be the only audience!

**Polarity is a set of three activities: receiving, integrating, and transmitting a neuron message.





Description of project

"Polarity" is an interactive art project consisting of two parts. On the second floor of the gallery, there is a large wooden frame with motors and over 140 ceramic foot. When visitors enter the gallery, sensors activate the motors, causing the ceramic feet to move and create unique sounds. Unbeknownst to the audience on the first floor, a machine connected to the wooden installation records the audience's presentation when someone is in the second-floor room.

"Polarity" explores interconnectedness and hidden dynamics within the gallery space, blurring the boundaries between the physical and virtual realms

