

Ones to Watch: Ali Tahayori

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Outstanding artists to have on your radar right now. **Charlotte Middleton** writes.



Born and raised in the oppressively homophobic climate of 1980s Iran, **Ali Tahayori** assumed the identity of an outsider, further compounded by his migration to Australia in 2007. Combining fractured mirrors with text and imagery, his recent works draw on ancient Iranian philosophies about light and mirrors to create kaleidoscopic experiences; moments of both revelation and concealment hint at the conflicted nature of his identity. Translating the traditional Iranian craft of *Āine-Kāri* (mirror-works) into a contemporary visual vocabulary, his practice skilfully combines a discourse about diaspora and displacement with an exploration of queerness – in both cases, poignantly testifying to his

experience of being othered. He holds a Doctorate in Medicine, a Graduate Diploma in Photography, and a Master of Fine Arts in Photomedia from Sydney's National Art School. His work has been exhibited in Iran, the Middle East, and Australia.

Featured Image: Ali Tahayori, You&Me, 2022. Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on timber, 108 x 66cm. Courtesy: the artist.

Artworks for sale by Ali Tahayori

