

ALI TAHAYORI
LOOKING AT ME
LOOKING AT YOU

علی تحیری

به من نگاه می کنی
به تو نگاه می کنم

THIS IS NO FANTASY
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

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03 - 26 AUGUST 2023

LOOKING AT ME LOOKING AT YOU, Ali Tahayori's first solo exhibition at THIS IS NO FANTASY, coincides with the gallery's presentation of his work at Unseen Photo Fair Amsterdam.

The exhibition reflects the interdisciplinary nature of Tahayori's practice, featuring mirror works, photographic-based mirror pieces and multimedia installation.

LOOKING AT ME LOOKING AT YOU centres around the mechanics of looking. Blurring the boundaries between photography, drawing and sculpture, each medium informs and complements the others, and combine to reflect the complexity of human identity.

Tahayori's practice aims to provide a queer perspective on portraiture, and in queering the gaze, it gives the portrait a right of reply, an agency in looking back at the viewer. Complicating the ideas of ownership and agency, the works pose the question: Who owns the image, who looks at it and who is at the centre of the observer's gaze.

BIO

ALI TAHAYORI's interdisciplinary practice ranges from conceptual photography to the moving image, and installation. Tahayori uses archival materials, narrative fragments and performative modalities to explore themes of identity, home, and belonging. Combining fractured mirrors with text and imagery, his 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 Aine-Kari (mirror-works) into a contemporary visual vocabulary, his practice combines a discourse about diaspora and displacement with an exploration of queerness – in both cases, poignantly testifying to his experience of being othered.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, Tahayori currently lives and works in Sydney, Australia (Gadigal country). Raised in the oppressively homophobic climate of 1980s Iran, Tahayori assumed the identity of an outsider, further compounded by his migration to Australia in 2007. He holds a Doctorate in Medicine and MFA in Photomedia from National Art School. Tahayori has exhibited locally and internationally and has been a finalist and winner of several local and International art prizes.

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ALI TAHAYORI

Looking At Me Looking At You

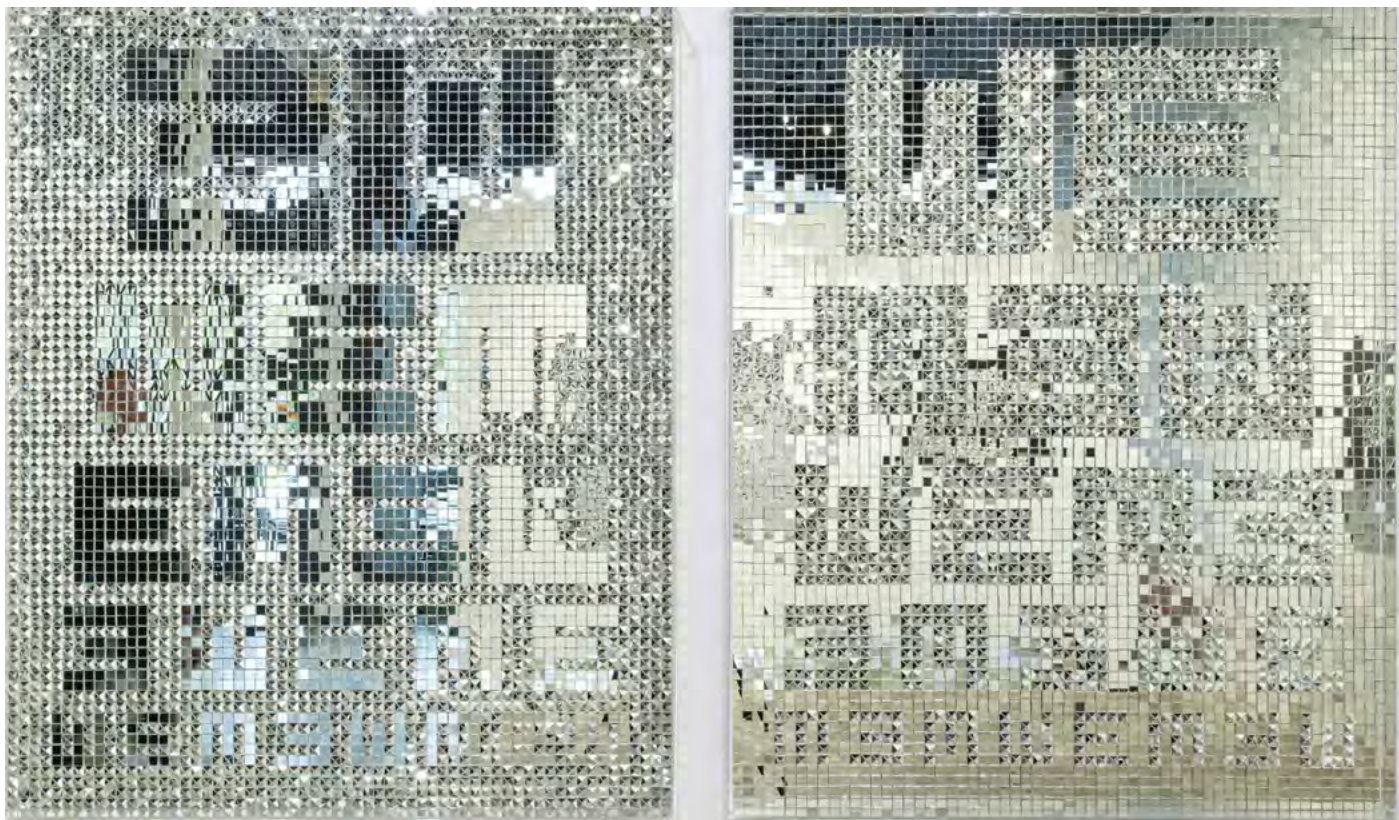
Installation View

THIS IS NO FANTASY

Photography: Simon Strong



ALI TAHAYORI
Key To The Field, 2022
Hand-cut mirrors & plaster on vintage window frame
86 x 76 cm
NFS



ALI TAHAYORI
WE Are Many, 2023
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on Aluminium Di-bond, framed
120 x 95 cm, each
\$6,500 (each)



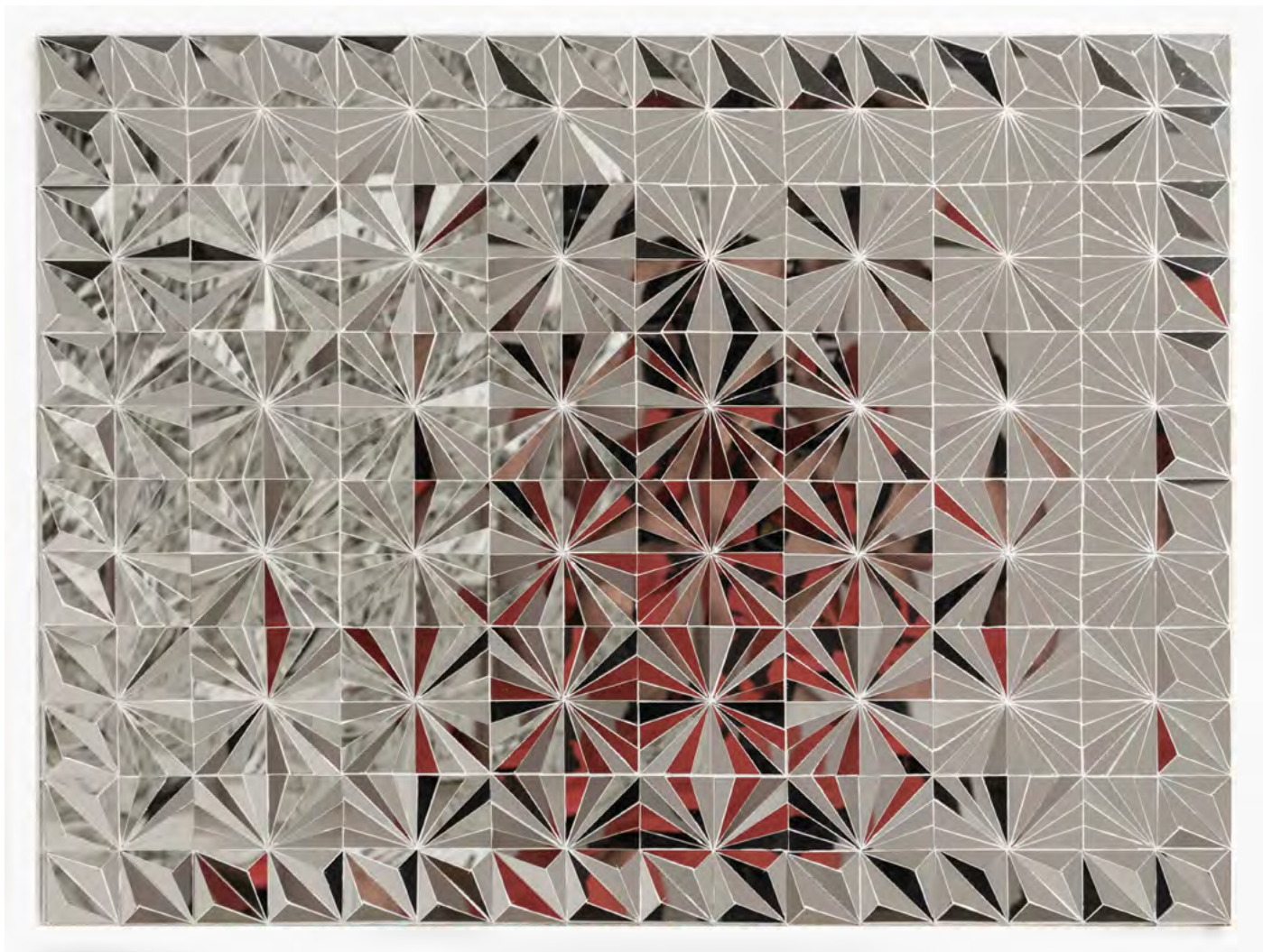
ALI TAHAYORI

Looking At Me Looking At You

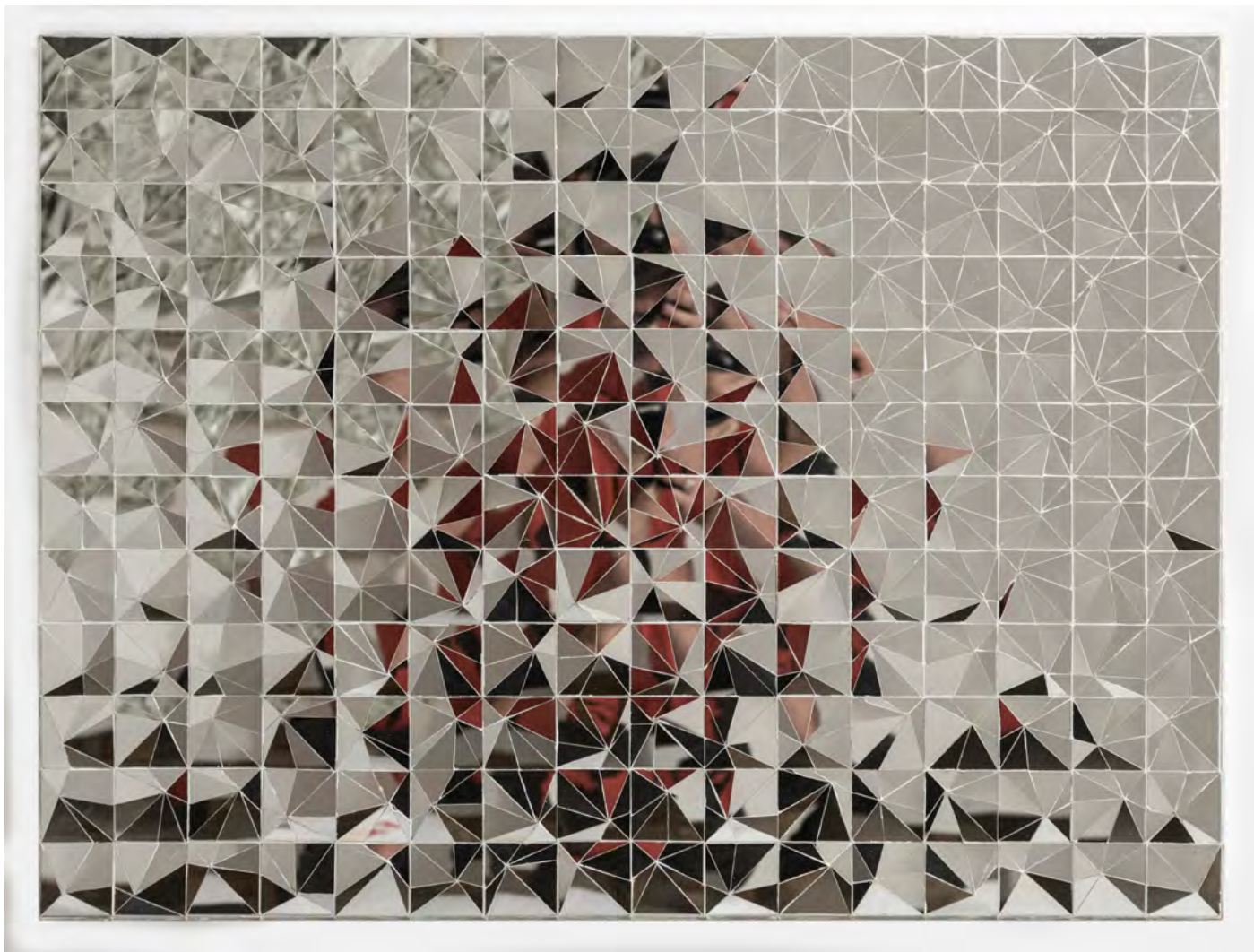
Installation View

THIS IS NO FANTASY

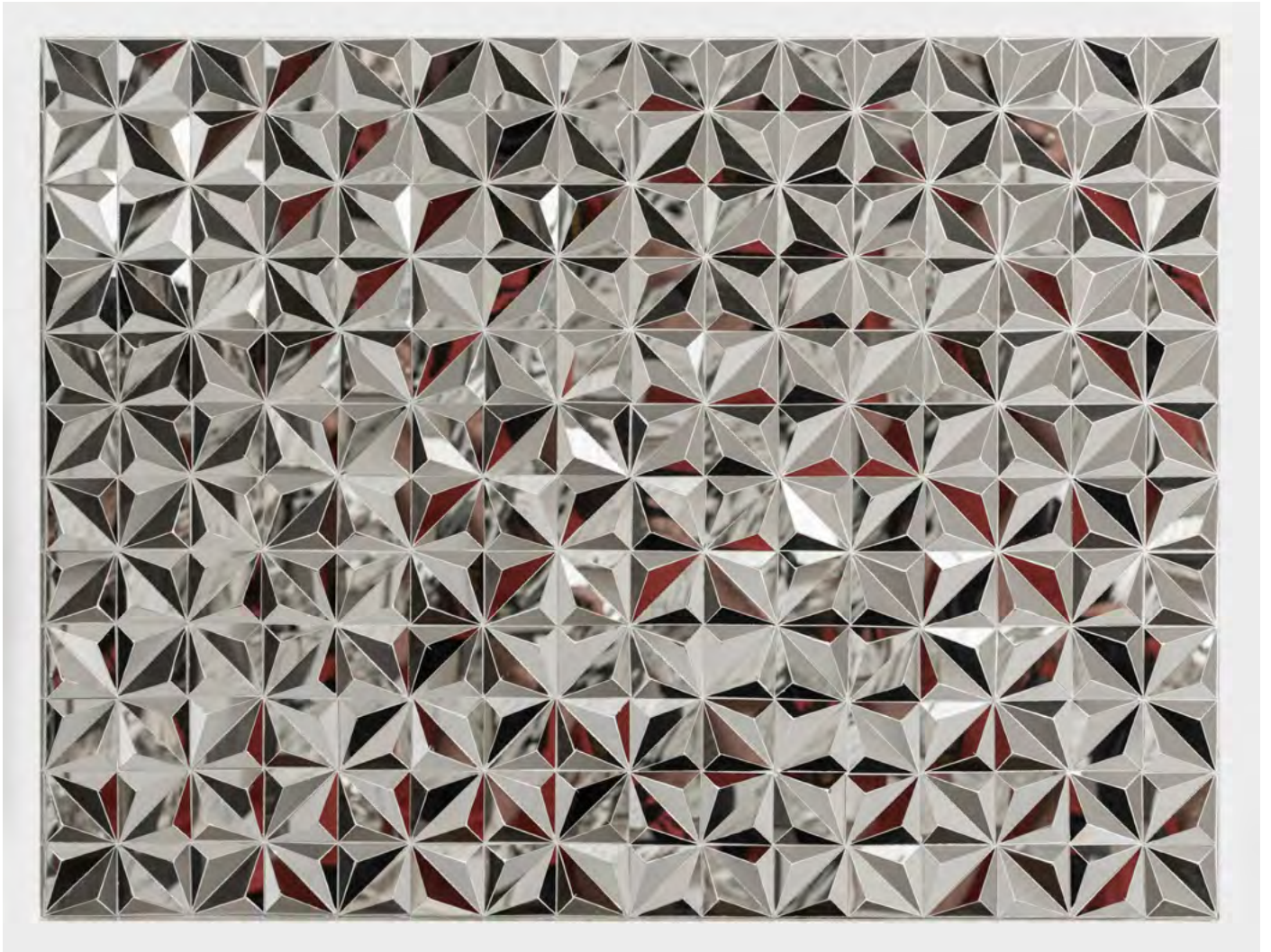
Photography: Simon Strong



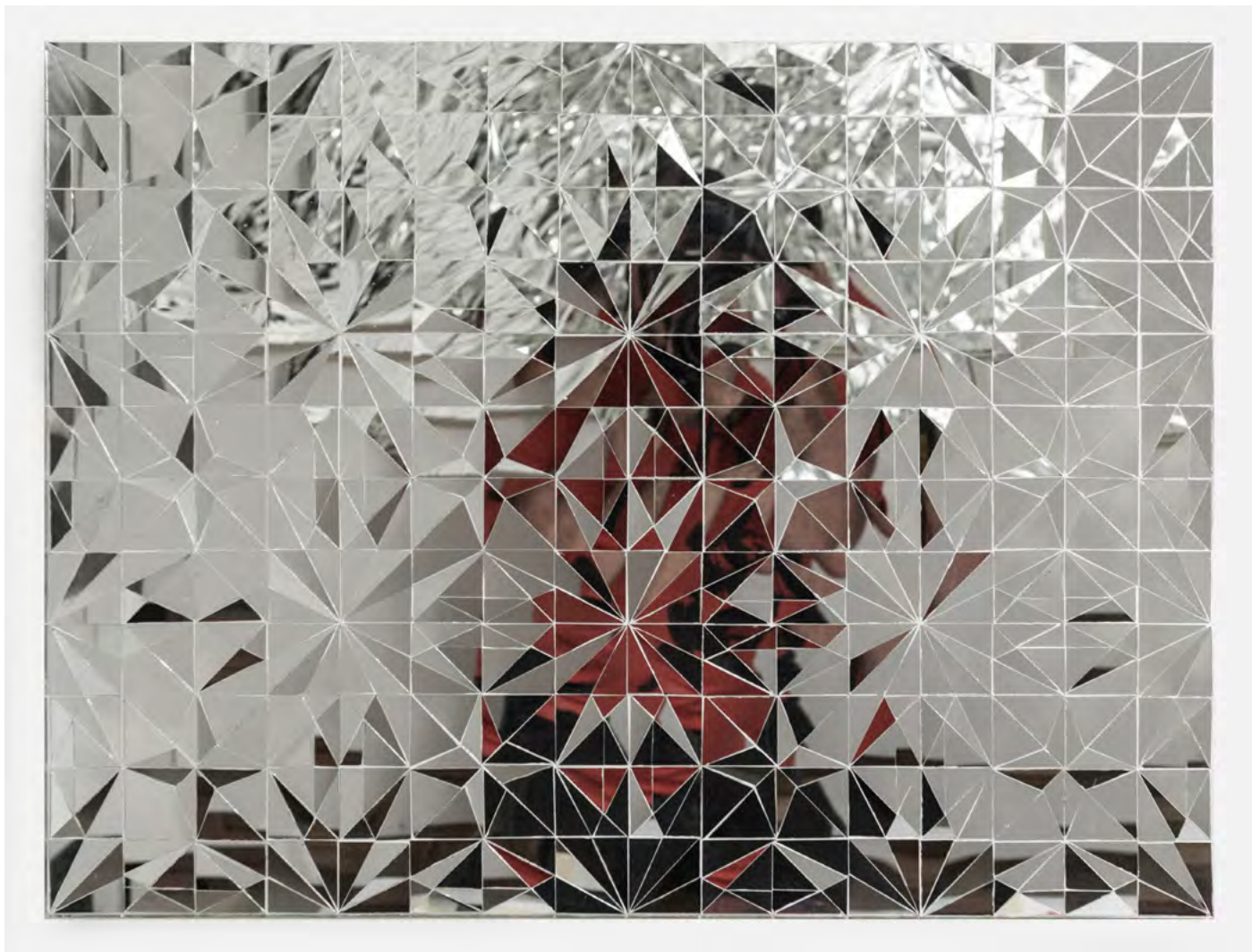
ALI TAHAYORI
Four Elements (Fire), 2021
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
80 x 60 cm
\$3,500



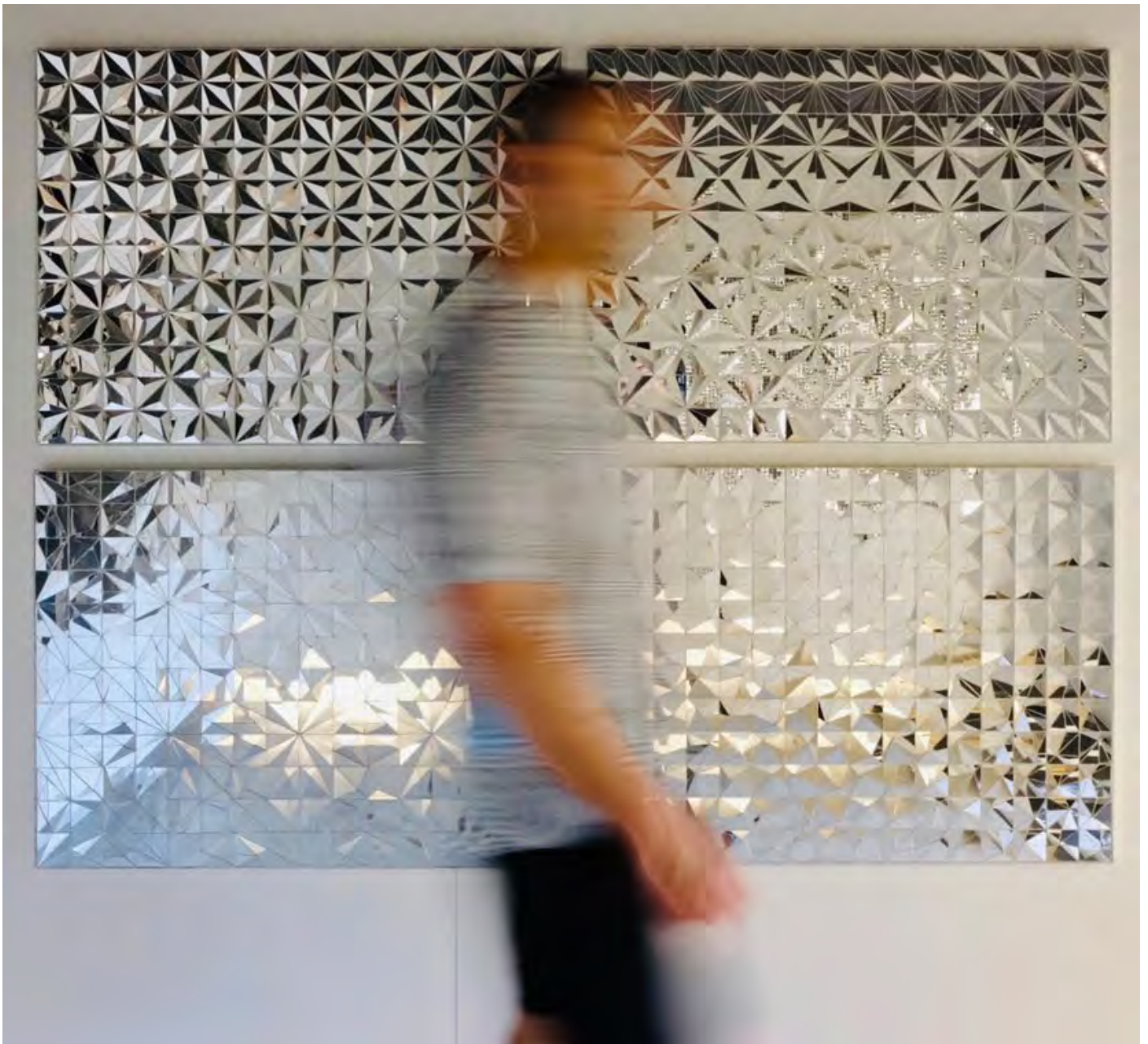
ALI TAHAYORI
Four Elements (Air), 2021
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
80 x 60 cm
\$3,500



ALI TAHAYORI
Four Elements (Earth), 2021
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
80 x 60 cm
\$3,500



ALI TAHAYORI
Four Elements (Water), 2021
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
80 x 60 cm
\$3,500



ALI TAHAYORI
Four Elements (Earth, Air, Water, Fire), 2021
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
80 x 60 cm each
\$12,000 set of 4



ALI TAHAYORI
Looking At Me Looking At You
Installation View
THIS IS NO FANTASY
Photography: Simon Strong



ALI TAHAYORI

Impossible Desire, 2022 (series)

Hand-painted photographs, gouache paint & bodily fluid

31 x 22 cm each, framed

HR Video: 4:48min

\$6,000



ALI TAHAYORI, Impossible Desire (detail)



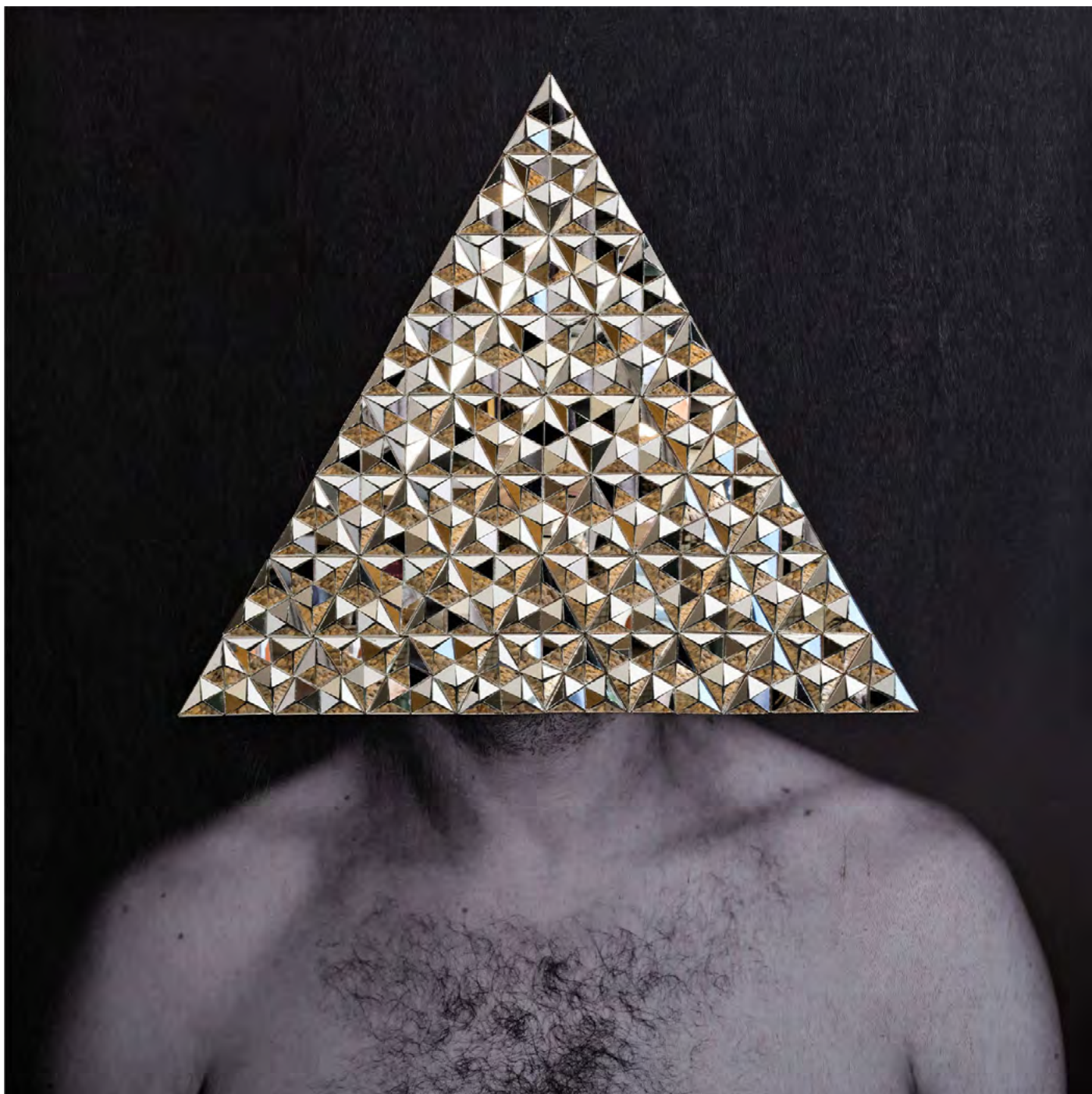
ALI TAHAYORI

Looking At Me Looking At You

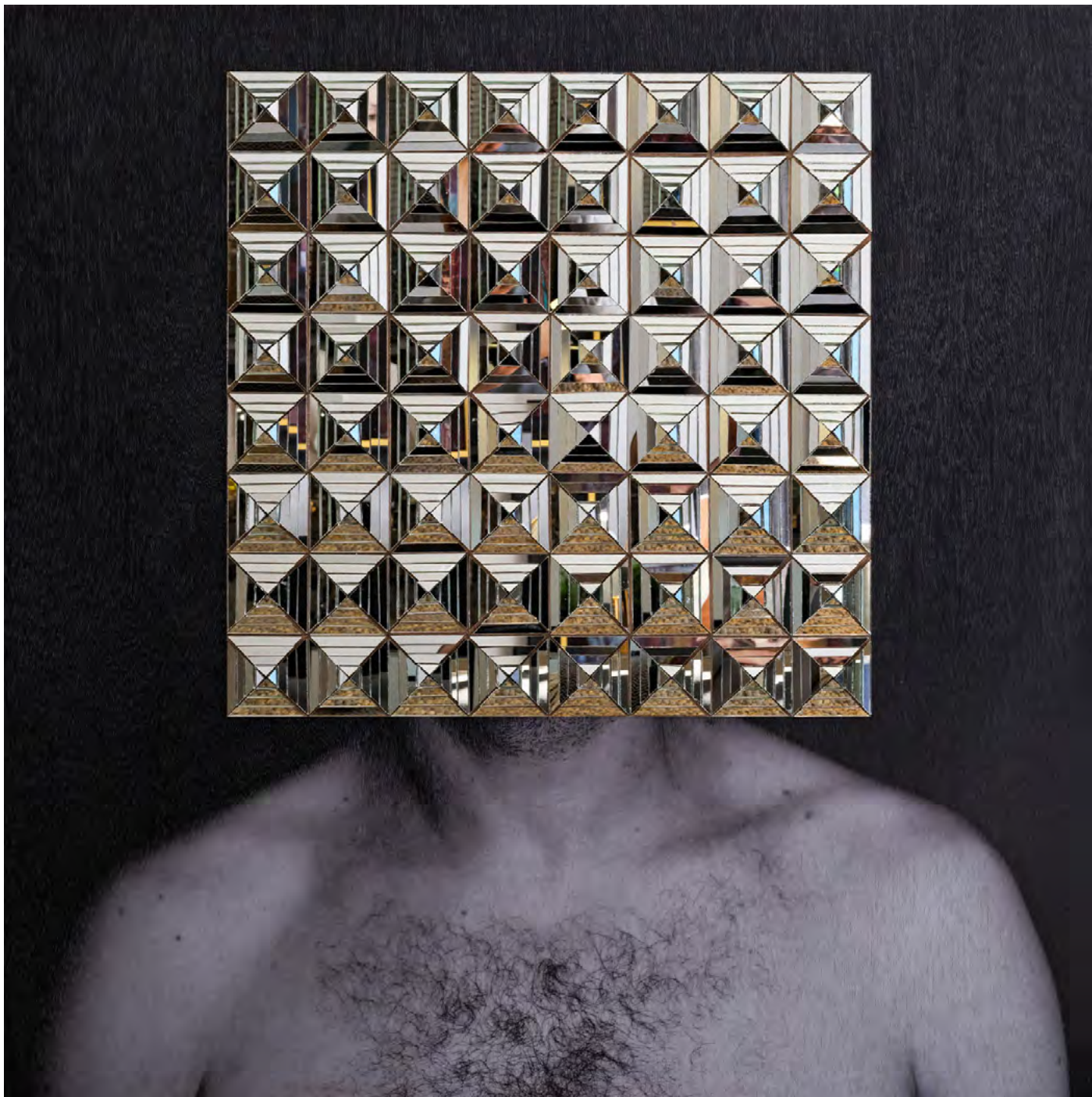
Installation View

THIS IS NO FANTASY

Photography: Simon Strong



ALI TAHAYORI
Geometry of Belonging (triangle), 2023
UV digital print on plywood, hand-cut mirrors, Silicone
95 x 95 cm each, framed
\$14,000 triptych



ALI TAHAYORI
Geometry of Belonging (square), 2023
UV digital print on plywood, hand-cut mirrors, Silicone
95 x 95 cm each, framed
\$14,000 triptych



ALI TAHAYORI
Geometry of Belonging (circle), 2023
UV digital print on plywood, hand-cut mirrors, Silicone
95 x 95 cm each, framed
\$14,000 triptych



ALI TAHAYORI
Objects In Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear, 2022 (diptych)
Hand-cut mirrors and plaster on wood
200 x 78 cm each
\$14,000



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Installation View

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Photography: Simon Strong

ALI TAHAYORI

CV

Born Shiraz, Iran

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2022 Master of Fine Art, (Photo-media), National Art School, Sydney NSW
- 2006 Doctor of Medicine, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran
- 2003 Graduate Diploma (Photography), Sepid-o-Siyah Art School, Shiraz, Iran

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Looking at Me Looking At You, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
Unseen Photo Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Amsterdam NL
The Sky Is The Same, Gosford Regional Gallery, NSW
Impossible Desire, KNULP, Sydney NSW
- 2022 What Comes Afterwards, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Photo London, Curated by Roya Khadjavi Projects, London UK
Braving Time: Queer Contemporary, Sydney World Pride, National Art School, Sydney NSW
ORBIT, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
Tracing the Rupture, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba NSW
Emanate, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale NSW
- 2022 Post-Graduate Show, National Art School, Sydney NSW
Vantage Point Sharjah 10, Al Hamriyah studios, Sharjah, UAE
Plexus, Comber Street Studios, Sydney NSW
Retrograde//Anterograde, Airspace Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2021 William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
Blacktown City Art Prize, The Leo Kelly Blacktown Art Centre, Sydney NSW
- 2020 March Arts, RPAH, Sydney NSW
- 2004 Plastic, Vessal Gallery, Shiraz, Iran
- 2003 Graduate Exhibition, Sepid-o-Siyah Gallery, Shiraz, Iran

AWARDS | GRANTS | RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Finalist - Waverley Art Prize, Sydney NSW
Finalist - Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, NSW
- 2022 Winner - Prix Yves Hernot Photography Award, National Art School Sydney
Finalist - Blacktown City Art Prize
Finalist - Hornsby Art Prize
Finalist - Gosford Art Prize - Highly commended honorable mention
Finalist - Vantage Point Sharjah 10, Sharjah UAE
- 2021 Finalist - William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
Highly Commended Honorable Mention - Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art Melbourne VIC
Winner - Smith and Singer People's Choice Award, William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize
Finalist - Blacktown City Art Prize, Sydney NSW
- 2020 Winner - March Arts Photography Prize, Sydney NSW
- 2018 March Arts, Sydney Local Health District, Sydney NSW

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ALI TAHAYORI CV

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- 2023 Art Collector Magazine Issue #105, Cover image, Profile by Rose of Sharon Leake, p. 166 - 173
Art/Edit Magazine, "Ones To Watch" February 2023
- 2022 Sydney Morning Herald, November 2022
Art/Edit Magazine, "Ones To Watch", November 2022
- 2021 Ali Tahayori and Justine Varga in conversation with MGA director, Anouska Phizacklea on Alternative
Photographic Processes, Capture Magazine, December 2021
Australian Photography Magazine, December 2021
Australian Arts Review, December 2021
The Guardian Australia, The 2021 Bowness Photography Prize, Finalists in pictures;
The Age, All the emotions are documented in the best photos of 2021



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