

THIS IS NO FANTASY
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

ALI TAHAYORI UNSEEN AMSTERDAM



ALI TAHAYORI

UNSEEN PHOTO FAIR
21 - 24 SEPT 2023



THIS IS NO FANTASY is pleased to present a solo presentation of work by Ali Tahayori at the 2023 Unseen Amsterdam Photo Fair.

Unseen is an art fair dedicated to the latest developments in contemporary photography. The world of photography is developing at lightning speed. Contemporary photography offers unexpected perspectives and stems from different backgrounds. The fair sees photographers making use of the medium in innovative, intelligent, inspiring and provocative ways. Unseen connects the new with the established and the established with the new, creating a platform that has become an important insight into the latest developments and directions the medium of photography is taking.

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.

In 2023 Tahayori's work has been shown at Photo London, Unseen Amsterdam, Sydney World Pride Queer Contemporary, SPRING1883, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, New England Regional Art Museum, and Gosford Regional Gallery. He has been a finalist in awards including the Waverley Art Prize, Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Blacktown Art Prize, Gosford Art Prize, Hornsby Art Prize, Vantage Point Sharjah 10, and Hazlehurst Art Award. Tahayori's work was awarded the People's Choice Award at the 2021 Bowness Prize.

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ALI TAHAYORI
UNSEEN Photo Fair Amsterdam 2023
Installation View
THIS IS NO FANTASY
Photography: Jitske Nap



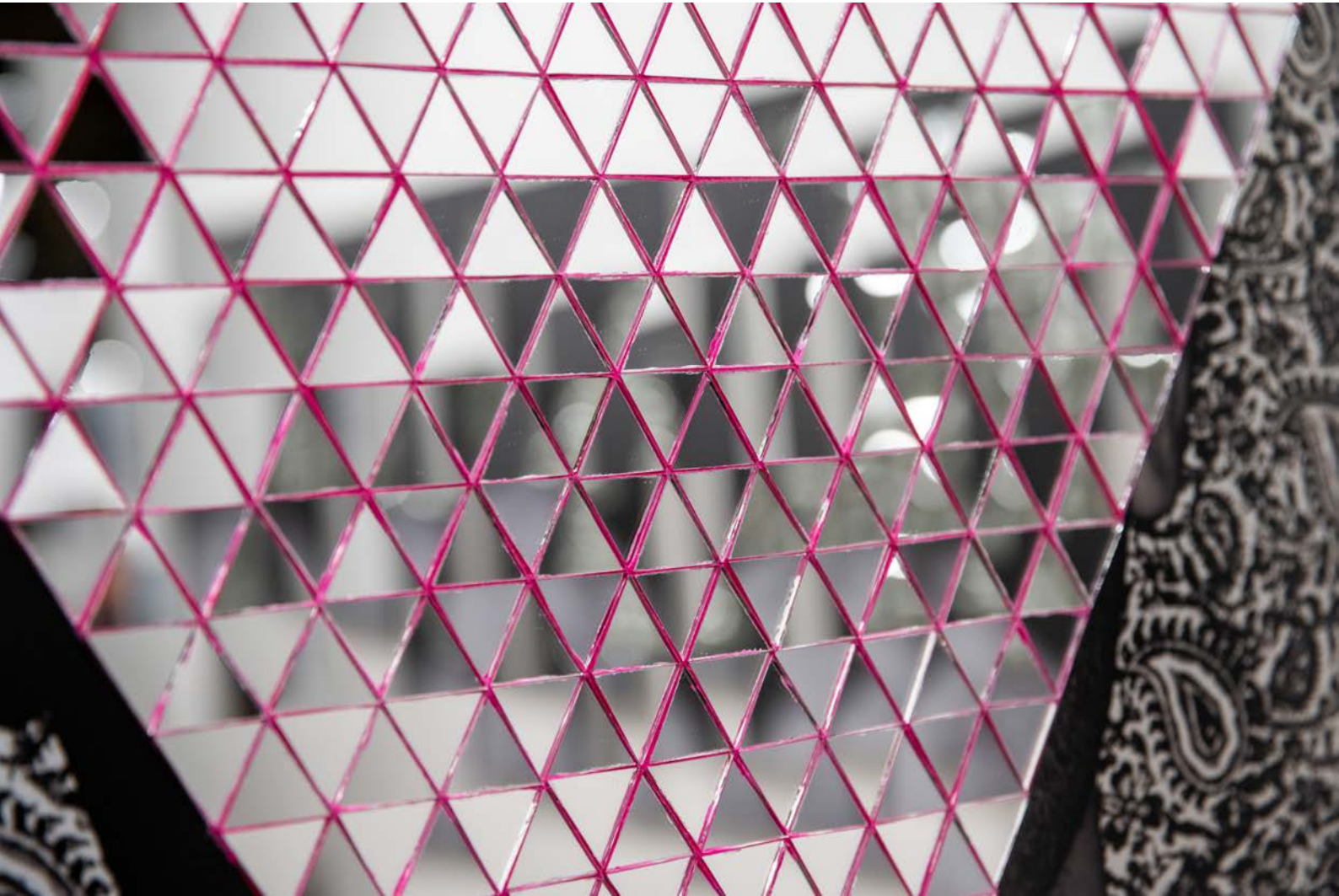
ALI TAHAYORI

Inverted Pink Triangle (Self-Portrait), 2023

Dye Sublimation Print on Raw Metal, Hand cut mirror fragments, Plaster and Acrylic Paint

100 x 100 cm, framed

\$5,000



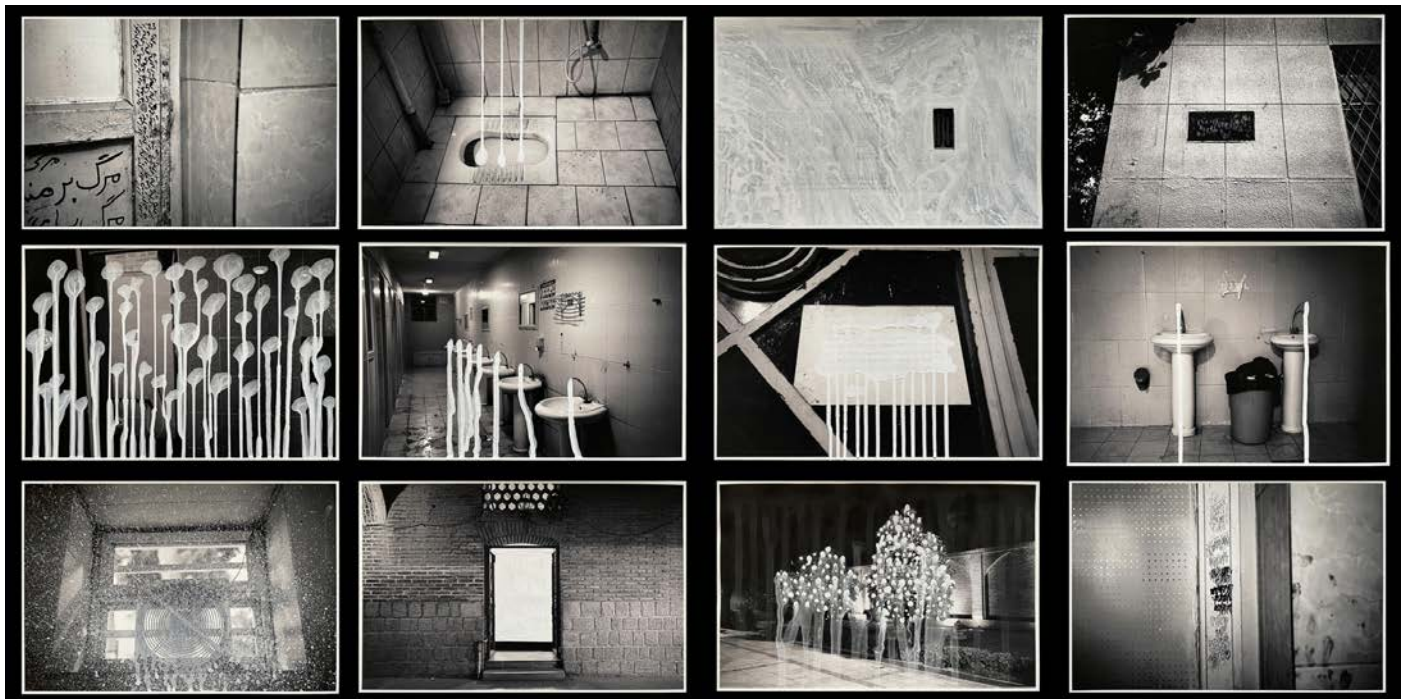
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Installation View

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Photography: Jitske Nap



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

UNSEEN Photo Fair Amsterdam 2023

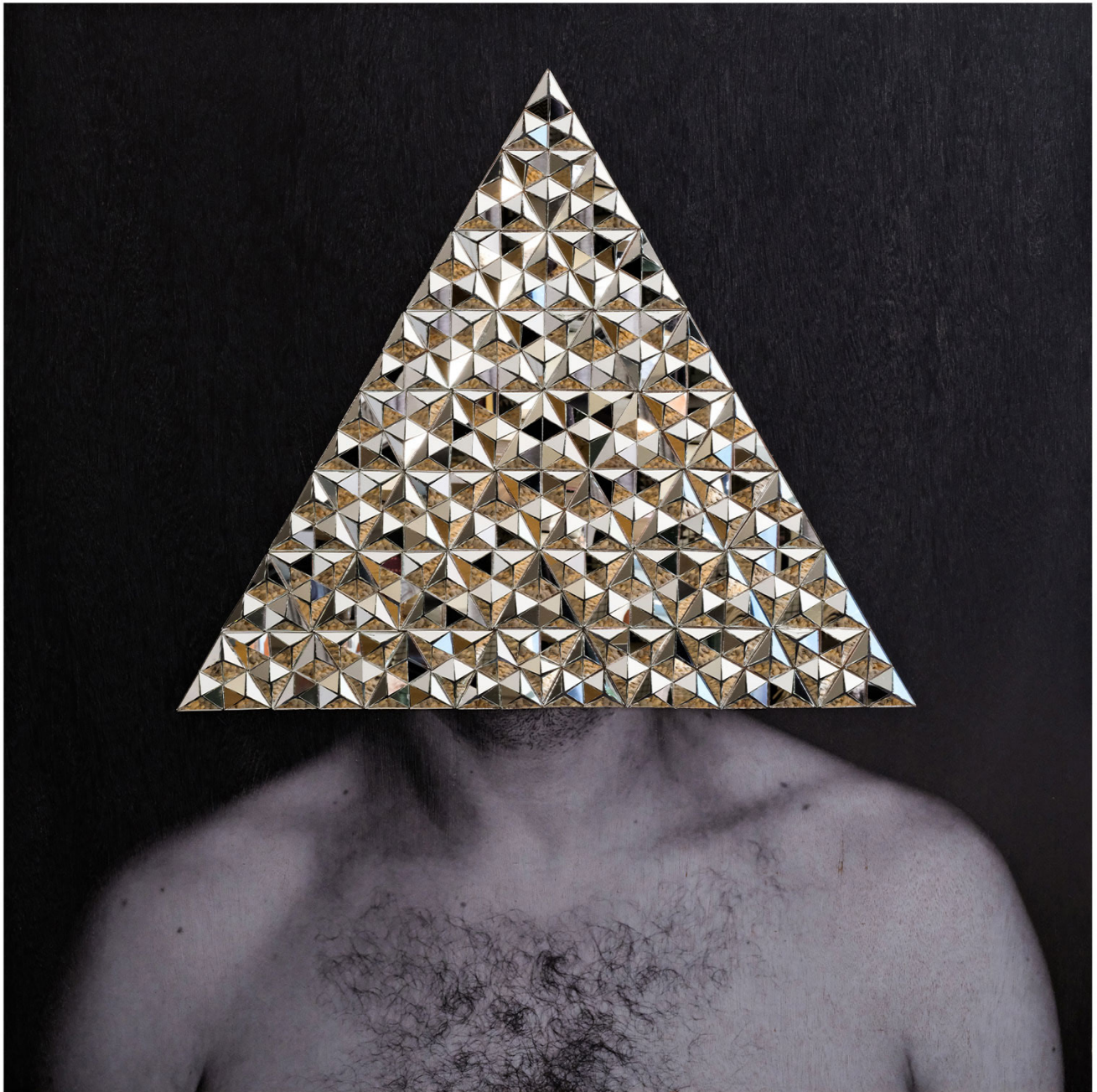
Installation View

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ALI TAHAYORI
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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
UNSEEN AMSTERDAM
Installation View
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Photography: Jitske Nap

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 - Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Campelltown NSW
Finalist - Waverley Art Prize, Sydney NSW
Finalist - Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Gymea NSW
- 2022 Winner - Prix Yves Hernot Photography Award, National Art School, Sydney
Finalist - Blacktown City Art Prize, Sydney NSW
Finalist - Hornsby Art Prize, Sydney NSW
Finalist - Gosford Art Prize, Central Coast NSW - 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

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ALI TAHAYORI

CV

2018 March Arts, Sydney Local Health District, Sydney NSW

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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