



MELBOURNE ART FAIR
22 - 25 FEB 2024

ALI TAHAYORI | ALEXANDRA STANDEN

THIS IS NO FANTASY
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

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THIS IS NO FANTASY will be exhibiting the work of Ali Tahayori and Alexandra Standen. Both artists draw on ancient Islamic traditions and disciplines, reframing them in the modern world. Surface and refraction are defining features of both artists' practices. Their seductive veneers are disrupted by traces of the human hand, creating works that are alluring and enigmatic.

ALI TAHAYORI | ARCHIVE OF LONGING

'Archive of Longing' is a personal search for glimpses of love and belonging within an inherited family archive.

'In 2018, I inherited a series of family photographs from my mother. Even though I had seen these images as a child, I started seeing them differently. The photographic archive was significant to me personally as it revealed hidden facets of my mother's life before her marriage, but it was also meaningful collectively as it reflected aspects of Iranian social life before the 1979 revolution. Revisiting these images after thirty years, I started seeing numerous possibilities, affiliations, and connections not included in my mother's original narrative. I began to tell my story with and through them. In the process, the family photographs are enlarged, cropped, and printed on glass. The printed glass is then broken and reassembled to create sculptural reliefs.

Using glass instead of paper as a foundation to maintain and reveal the visual content references wet plate negatives in the history of photography, where in the 19th century, they were used for sharper, more stable and detailed images. Also, like Daguerreotypes, visibility shifts as the viewer moves around the image. Similar to a broken mirror, the reflective broken glass returns the viewer's gaze while looking at history and memory from a queer diasporic lens, searching for glimpses of queer intimacy and desire within a violent socio-political context. Photographs are fragments of reality, time, and place. In some ways, these works are fragments of fragments of fragments.'

ALI TAHAYORI

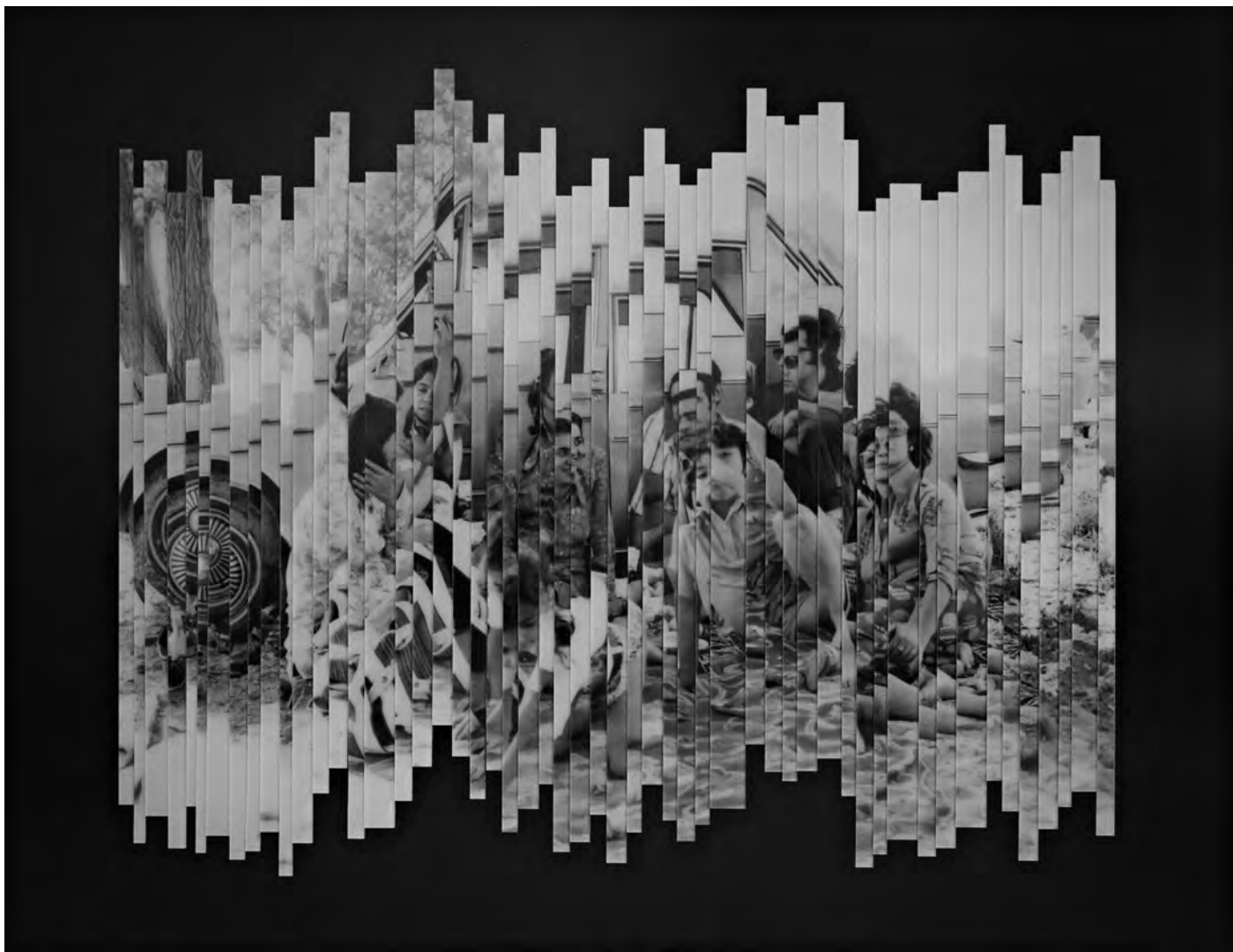
BIO

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, Ali 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.

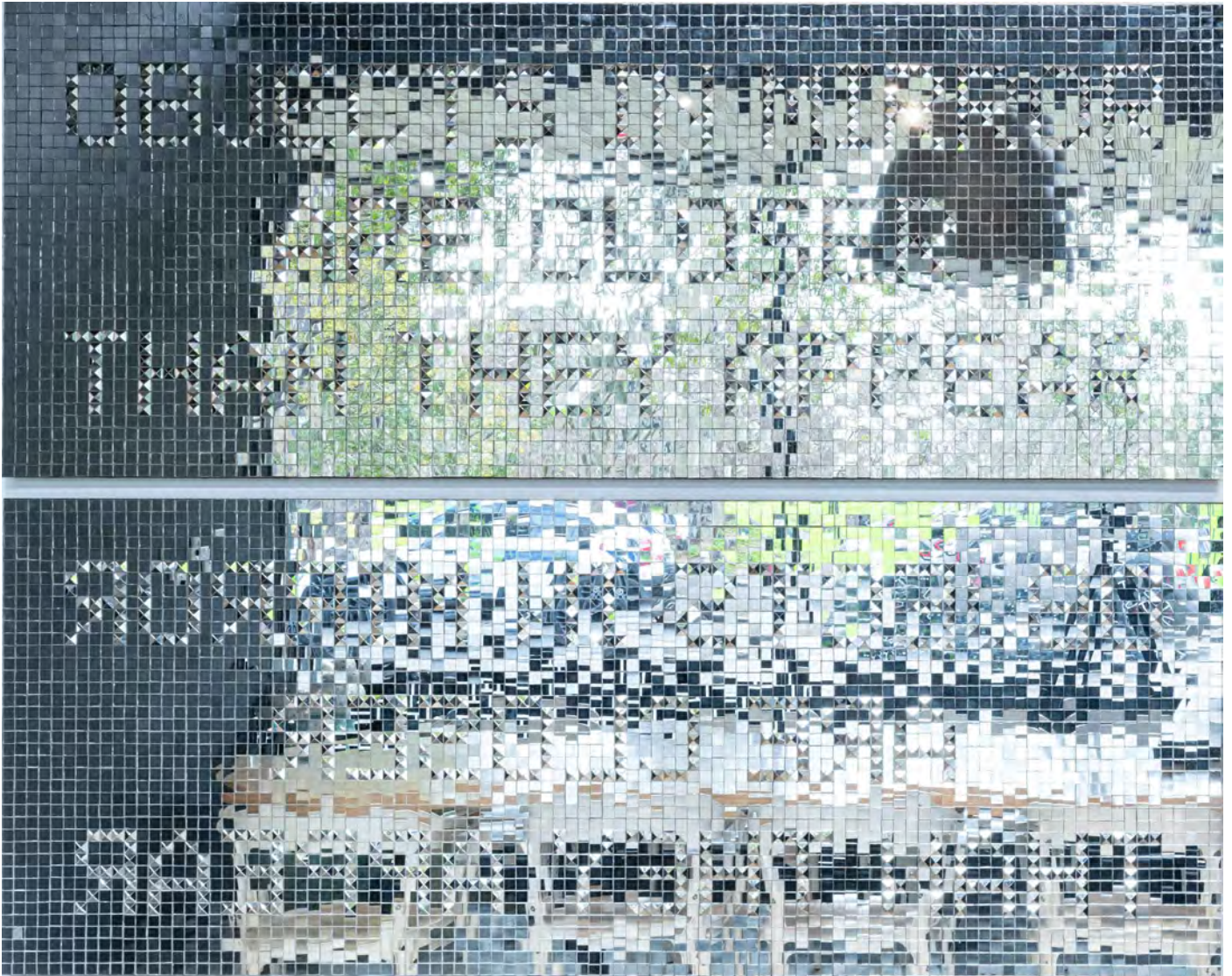


ALI TAHAYORI



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 17 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone, on aluminium di-bond
104 x 85 cm
\$6,000

ALI TAHAYORI



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

ALI TAHAYORI



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 1 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
52.5 x 34.5 cm
\$4,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 2 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
33 x 32 cm
\$3,000

ALI TAHAYORI



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 3 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
62.5 x 34.5 cm
\$4,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 4 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
23 x 32 cm
\$3,000

ALI TAHAYORI

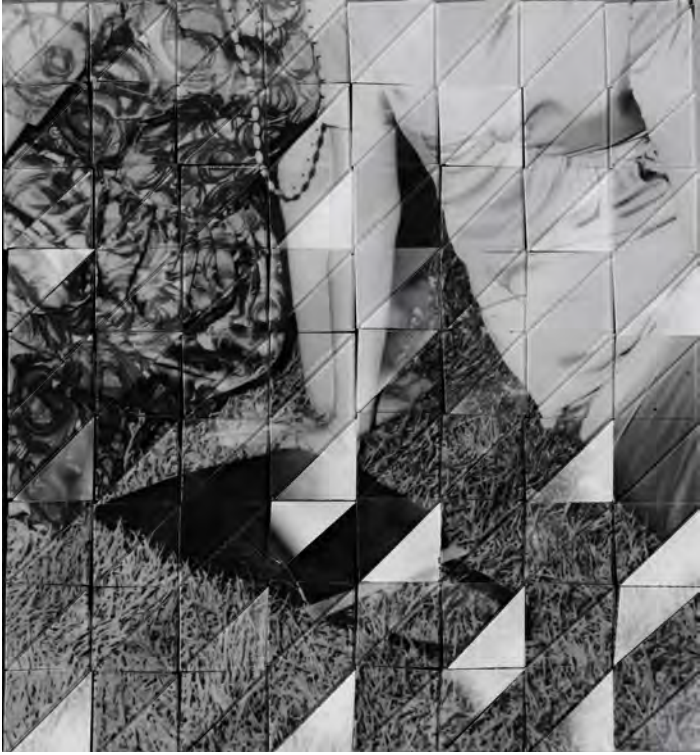


ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 5 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
32 x 25 cm
\$3,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 6 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
33 x 30.5 cm
\$3,000

ALI TAHAYORI



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 7 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
29 x 32 cm
\$3,000

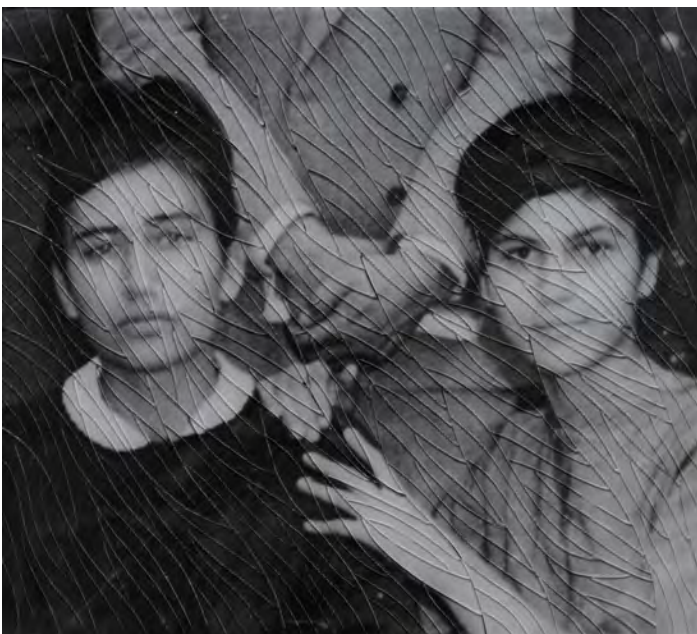


ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 8 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
32.5 x 42 cm
\$4,000

ALI TAHAYORI

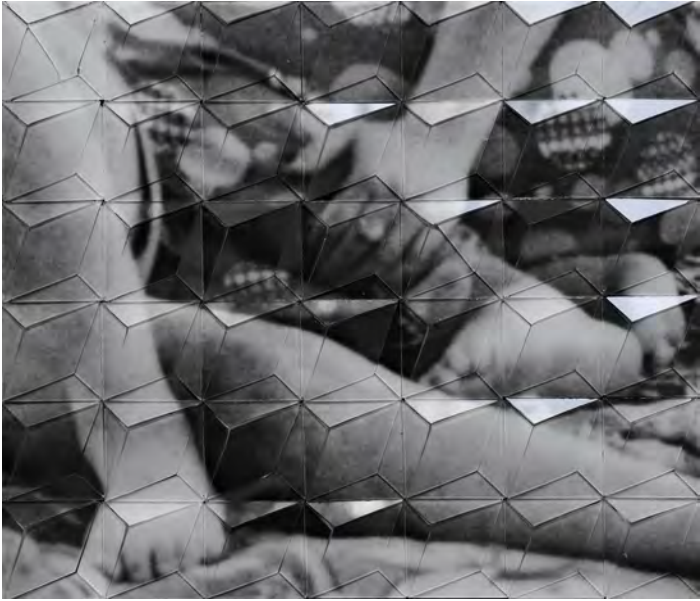


ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 9 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
58 x 37.5 cm
\$4,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 10 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
41.5 x 38 cm
\$4,000

ALI TAHAYORI

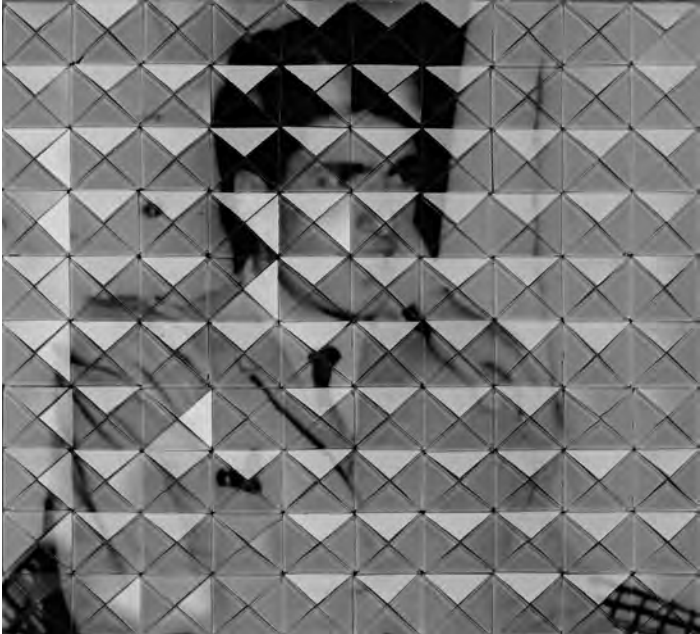


ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 11 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
49 x 42 cm
\$4,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 12 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
35.5 x 48 cm
\$4,000

ALI TAHAYORI

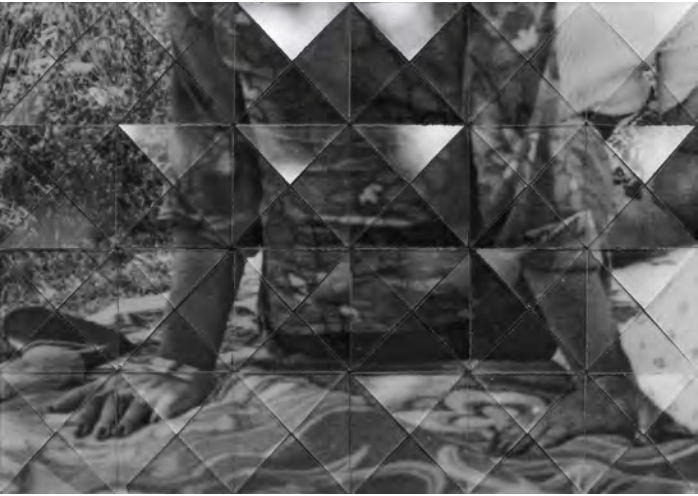


ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 13 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
27.5 x 25 cm
\$3,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 14 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
33 x 42 cm
\$4,000

ALI TAHAYORI



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 15 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
32 x 23 cm
\$3,000



ALI TAHAYORI
Untitled 16 (Archive of Longing), 2023
Archival photograph printed on glass, hand-cut glass, silicone,
on aluminium di-bond
28 x 33 cm
\$3,000

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

- 2024 Archive of Longing (forthcoming), THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
Kill Me Softly (forthcoming), Counihan Gallery, Melbourne VIC
I WILL MEET YOU THERE (forthcoming), First Draft, Sydney NSW
After Everything Has Been Said (forthcoming), Linden New Art Project Space, Melbourne VIC
- 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

- 2024 Melbourne Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
Photo London, Curated by Roya Khadjavi Projects, London UK
MIA Photo Fair, Curated by Roya Khadjavi Projects, Milan IT
- 2023 From Fire: NC Qin and Ali Tahayori, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney NSW
SPRING 1883 Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Hotel Windsor, Melbourne VIC
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

- 2024 Finalist – National Photography Prize, MAMA Albury, VIC
Artist in Residence - Parramatta Artist Studios, Sydney NSW
- 2023 Finalist – Fishers Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown NSW

ALI TAHAYORI CV

- 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 - William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
Winner - Smith and Singer People's Choice Award, William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
Finalist - Blacktown City Art Prize, Sydney NSW
- 2020 Winner - March Arts Photography Prize, Sydney NSW
- 2018 March Arts, Sydney Local Health District, Sydney NSW

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- 2024 Vault Magazine Issue #45, "VAULT spoke to Iranian-born artist Ali Tahayori about his work exploring queer identity, and the inspiration he takes from poetry", Feature by Emma Collerton
- 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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ALEXANDRA STANDEN | SHINY OBJECTS

Alexandra Standen celebrates the beauty of ceramics. Unlike mass-produced vessels, she elevates the imperfections of hand-made works by using quality Italian Majolica glazes and 24 karat gold.

Ceramics is one of the most ancient industries in the world, going back thousands of years, and throughout that history the chemistry of surface has been pushed to produce some of the most sought after objects of art.

Historically gold and lustreware come from the decorative technique invented by Abbasid potters of the Islamic Civilisation, in what is today Iraq, in the 9th century C.E. Well into the 12th century, potters travelled within the Islamic state developing lustre recipes. It was believed making lustreware was true alchemy as the process involved using lead-based glazes and silver and copper paint to achieve the lustrous gold affect without using any gold at all. The techniques were carefully guarded secrets and travelled with artists from their origins in Iraq to Egypt, then onto Syria and Persia, finally making its way to Europe, where houses were adorned in lustrous tiles and tables were covered in reflective vessels to impress guests. More recently, these techniques became popular in the 19th century as part of the English Aesthetic Movement, and started being used in major factory potteries like Wedgwood and Staffordshire.

'Today the recipe has been refined and the gold I use comes from Northern Ireland and does include a percentage of 24 karat gold. Throughout its history, gold lustre has been painted over Italian Majolica glaze to achieve the coveted high shine and vibrant gold surface. I wanted to follow with tradition in this body of work 'Shiny Objects', so I have used Majolica glaze as a base for the gold surface.' - Alexandra Standen, 2024

ALEXANDRA STANDEN

BIO

Alexandra Standen's work explores our relationships to both physical and emotional spaces. Her work focuses on the subjective, cultural, and ideological meanings of material objects, examining the way objects and their relationships act as metaphors for human behaviour.

Her practice also speaks to the process of making work in ceramic and a sense of unease that comes with engaging with a medium that holds a functional quality yet has a connotation of being fragile or precarious in nature. The repetitive gesture of 'pinching' her hand-built forms is as much conceptual as it is an act of realisation.

In 2019 Standen was the recipient of the prestigious Cité Internationale des Arts Residency in Paris and undertook self-guided research living in Istanbul. Winner of the Sidney Myer Award for Ceramics, Shepparton Art Museum 2012, Standen has been a finalist in awards including the Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Gold Coast Ceramic Award and the Wynne Prize. She has undertaken residencies in Geneva, Tel Aviv and at the Harley Foundation in the United Kingdom.



ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN
Precious Metals, 2024
Hand-built terracotta, majolica glaze, 24 karat gold lustre
76 cm x 56 cm x 54 cm
\$8,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN
Everyday Balloon, 2024
Hand build terracotta, Majolica glaze, 24 karat gold lustre
89 cm x 50 cm x 55 cm
\$9,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN

(left) Dome, 2024

Hand-built lumina porcelain, majolica glaze, 24 karat gold lustre

70 cm x 45 cm x 46 cm

\$8,500

(right) Gold Salts, 2024

Hand-built terracotta, Majolica glaze, 24 karat gold lustre

61 cm x 43 cm x 42 cm

\$7,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN

After, 2024

Hand build terracotta, Majolica glaze, 24 karat gold luster

71 cm x 51 cm x 52 cm

\$8,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN
When They Are Cold, 2024
Hand build, Black Clay, Majolica glaze, 24 karat gold lustre
89 cm x 56 cm x 54 cm
\$8,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN



ALEXANDRA STANDEN
Window, 2024
Hand build terracotta, glaze
78 cm x 40 cm x 40 cm
\$6,000

ALEXANDRA STANDEN CV

EDUCATION

- 2018 Masters of Fine Art, Research, UNSW Art and Design, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Bachelor of Fine Art, Honours, National Art School, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Bachelor of Fine Art, National Art School, Sydney NSW

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Shiny Objects (forthcoming), THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2022 Staged, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2021 Considerate Touch, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2020 Dirt Stories, Chalkhorse gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2020 Physical Nature, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2018 Every Habitual Action, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2016 Be Quiet. Blend In. Small Spaces, Redfern NSW
Uneasy, Gallery Ecosse, Exeter NSW
- 2015 The Blue Line Mansfield Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2013 Before Time Could Change Us, Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
Deposits, Mclemoi Gallery, Chippendale NSW
- 2012 Sidney Myer Fund, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Melbourne Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne Convention + Exhibition Centre, Melbourne VIC
ArtSG, Chalk Horse Gallery, Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore
- 2023 SPRING 1883 Art Fair, Chalk Horse Gallery, Hotel Windsor, Melbourne VIC
ORBIT, Gallery Artists Group Show, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
Wild at Heart, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2022 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Chalk Horse Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney NSW
- 2021 Shaped, Craft Victoria, Melbourne VIC
Doom, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2020 Chalk Horse Gallery at Melbourne Art fair, Melbourne VIC
- 2019 True Nature, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney NSW
Simple Softness, SPRING 1883, Sydney NSW
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary, Sydney NSW
- 2017 Art Stage, Jakarta Art Fair with Chalkhorse Gallery, Jakarta IN
New work, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney NSW
New work, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2016 Clay, Book Launch, Thames & Hudson, Sydney NSW
So Fresh, Wellington Street Projects, Chippendale NSW
Studio Wars, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2015 New work, At Home 735 Gallery, Surry Hills NSW
Mug Shot, Still Life group show, Gallery Ecosse, Exeter NSW
Fleurt Saint Cloche Gallery, Paddington NSW
ArtVert, New works from Paris residency, Saint Cloche Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2014 Sake Ware, Mr Kitly Melbourne VIC

ALEXANDRA STANDEN CV

- Back to the Table, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
- 2013 Eucleo ArtSpace, Hobart TAS
Eucleo University of Tasmania's College of the Arts, Launceston TAS
- 2012 Shadows of a Nation, Mclemoi Gallery, Sydney NSW
Showcase, Object Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Post Graduate (Honours) Show, National Art School, Sydney NSW
Missing Pages, Library Stairwell Gallery National Art School, Sydney NSW
Make It, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Under Graduate Show, National Art School, Sydney NSW

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Artist In Residence, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris FR
- 2017 Finalist, Churchie Emerging art prize, QUT Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney NSW
- 2016 Finalist, 30th Gold Coast Ceramic Award, Gold Coast QLD
Finalist, Stanthorpe Art Award, QLD
- 2015 Finalist, Clunes Ceramic Award, VIC
- 2014 Artist In Residence, Harley foundation, Welbeck UK
Residency, Month-long Ceramic studio residency, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2013 Artist In Residence, Sturt Art Centre, Mittagong NSW
Recipient, Australia Council, Artstart Grant
- 2012 Winner, Sidney Myer Award for Ceramics, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC
Artist In Residence, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, December 2012 - February 2013, Bathurst NSW
Internship, Aboriginal Art Centre, 10 weeks (July -September), Titjikala, NT
Artist In Residence, Sturt Art Centre, Mittagong, NSW
- 2011 Winner, N. E Pethebridge Honours Award
Winner, Sabbia Gallery, 2013 Exhibition Award
- 2010 Winner, Ceramic Art and Perception Award

COLLECTIONS

- Shepparton Art Museum
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Australian Catholic University
Monash University Foundation
Artbank
Private collections Australia and overseas



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