



THIS IS NO FANTASY NOW REPRESENTING ARA DOLATIAN

THIS IS NO FANTASY adds Baghdad-born, Melbourne-based ceramicist whose sculptural works blend ancient Mesopotamian mythology with contemporary queer diasporic themes.

Words: Robert Buratti

THIS IS NO FANTASY has announced representation of Melbourne-based ceramic artist Ara Dolatian, whose interdisciplinary practice explores the intersection of cultural landscapes and natural ecosystems through sculptural ceramic works.

Born in Baghdad and now based in Melbourne, Dolatian's practice fuses ancient Mesopotamian myth with contemporary themes of identity, resilience, and the queer diasporic experience. His work focuses particularly on Mesopotamian artifacts and literature, creating hybrid and reimagined forms that evoke both ancient and contemporary narratives.

Dolatian's sculptural and ceramic pieces explore the evolution of deities and mythical beings within historical landscapes, characterized by distinctive shapes, captivating colour palettes, and delicate contours that bring archaeological figures and decayed architectural sites to life.

The artist holds a BA in Fine Art (Sculpture) and a Master of Social Science in Environment & Planning from RMIT University. Among his notable achievements, Dolatian won the 2021 Incinerator Art Award and was featured in the National Gallery of Victoria's *Melbourne Now* in 2023.

His work has been exhibited widely both in Australia and internationally, with shows at the National Gallery of Victoria Melbourne, Aotearoa Art Fair in Auckland, Contemporary Art Space in Montevideo Uruguay, and Liverpool Casula Powerhouse Sydney. Dolatian has received support from prestigious organizations including Creative Australia, Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne.

His works are held in numerous private and public collections, including Bendigo Art Gallery, RMIT University, and Darebin Council Art Collection, reflecting the significant recognition his practice has garnered within the contemporary art landscape.

ART COLLECTOR



Amanda Bennetts Wins Girra: Fraser Coast National Art Prize for Disability-Focused Video Work

Sunshine Coast artist Amanda Bennetts wins \$25,000 for 11-minute video exploring labour and disability through methodical destruction of sandstone block.

Read more > [<https://artcollector.net.au/amanda-bennetts-wins-girra-fraser-coast-national-art-prize-for-disability-focused-video-work/>]



Ali Tahayori Wins 2025 NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging)

Artist exploring themes of desire, intimacy and belonging wins \$30,000 fellowship from field of six shortlisted finalists at Artspace exhibition.

Read more > [<https://artcollector.net.au/ali-tahayori-wins-2025-nsw-visual-arts-fellowship-emerging/>]

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Artbank Celebrates 45 Years with New Prize and Major Publication

Australia's national art collection and leasing program marks milestone with major publication, exhibitions and inaugural artist prize offering \$20,000 acquisition opportunity.

Read more > [<https://artcollector.net.au/artbank-celebrates-45-years-with-new-prize-and-major-publication/>]