



**Arash Hanaei**

Date: 9 - 16 June 2024  
Address: Mauerstrasse, 4057  
Basel, Switzerland  
Website: <http://dastan.gallery/>  
Instagram: [dastan.artgallery](https://www.instagram.com/dastan.artgallery)



Dastan is pleased to announce its participation in the upcoming edition of Basel Social Club 2024, with a presentation of a video by Arash Hanaei (b. 1978, Tehran, Iran). The event will be open to the public from June 9, through June 16, 2024. This will be Dastan's second presentation at Basel Social Club.

In the video *Unblocked Avatars* (2022), Hanaei focuses on the famous residential building *Ivry-sur-Seine* in Paris, designed by French architect Jean Renaudie in the 1970s. Two avatars discuss the necessities, potentials, and requirements of designing the building. The conversation takes place in the metaverse, giving the viewer the impression that it is happening both in the past and the future. It is as though ghosts from the metaverse haunt *Ivry's* building and are being studied as an experiment on future possible distributions of space. In recent years, Hanaei has been focusing on the suburbs and margins of cities. Taking inspiration from cultural theorist Mark Fisher's idea of 'hauntology,' the artist reconstructs the marginal and suburban spaces in the timeless and spaceless world of the metaverse, using the potential of augmented reality to challenge the utopian ideas of 1970s architecture.

Arash Hanaei is a photographer who, confronting the age of augmented reality, has evolved into an image-maker using a variety of mediums to evaluate the world of shared experience. "Unblocked Avatars" is his response to the utopian geometry of space thought up by architects, city planners, lifestyle coaches, social reformists, philanthropists, and all those whose vision has guided ours over the years. At once eerie, appealing, and satirical, "Unblocked Avatars" was a part of "Suburban Hauntology", a project by Hanaei and curator Morad Montazami, which won the BMW Art Makers award in 2022.

**About the Gallery:**

Dastan features an extensive and multi-dimensional program, focusing on the full spectrum of Iranian contemporary and modern art. Dastan's program includes Dastan's Basement, +2, Parallel Circuit, Dastan:Outside, and Zaal Art Gallery. In addition to hosting exhibitions, Dastan publishes artist books and monographs on Iranian art, and features film screenings, performance projects, and other events.