

"To Be Made Flesh Again (After James Baldwin)"

Reza Aramesh

Dec 12, 2025 - Jan 2, 2026

**דאסטאן'ס
BASEMENT**



PRESS RELEASE

Reza Aramesh: "To Be Made Flesh Again (after James Baldwin)"

Reza Aramesh works across sculpture, drawing, embroidery, ceramics, video, and performance, often presented as a sequence of Actions. His practice responds to media coverage of international conflicts from the mid-20th century to the present, translating transient images of violence into enduring sculptural form. Working primarily in marble and frequently with non-professional models, Aramesh stages reenactments based on selected photographic sources. In these transformations, direct references to war recede, leaving figures removed from their original contexts and generating a deliberate tension between beauty and brutality. Situating these works within the framework of Western art history, Aramesh examines how the male body has been represented and coded through intersecting lenses of race, class, and sexuality.

"To Be Made Flesh Again (after James Baldwin)" brings together two new bodies of work: "Study of the Head as Cultural Artefacts" (marble and bronze sculpture) and "Study for Fragment of the Self" (marble sculptures and drawings). Across these series, Aramesh focuses on the sculptural fragment as both a formal and conceptual

device. The broken body becomes a means to question ideas of wholeness and visibility, while also proposing resilience and continuity.

The exhibition's title references Baldwin's reflections on embodiment in "The Fire Next Time" (1963), where he argues that truth and experience must be made real through the body to possess moral weight. Baldwin often used the idea of "flesh", not in a religious or sentimental sense, but as a way of saying: truth, pain, and love only matter when they are "felt" and "lived through the body". Ideas or ideals are meaningless if they don't touch the real, vulnerable, physical human experience. This idea parallels Aramesh's process of translating images of conflict into physical matter. The act of "being made flesh again" suggests the reconstitution of presence after violence or erasure, a return to humanity through material form. Through this lens, Aramesh's marble fragments engage questions of representation, empathy, and endurance. His practice underscores the transformation of mediated imagery into a physical encounter, positioning the body as both witness and site of renewal.



Reza Aramesh. "Action 608: At 5:06 am Tuesday 14 April 2015". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 55 × 33 × 28 cm (Image 1/4)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 608: At 5:06 am Tuesday 14 April 2015". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 55 × 33 × 28 cm (Image 2/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 608: At 5:06 am Tuesday 14 April 2015". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 55 × 33 × 28 cm (Image 3/4)



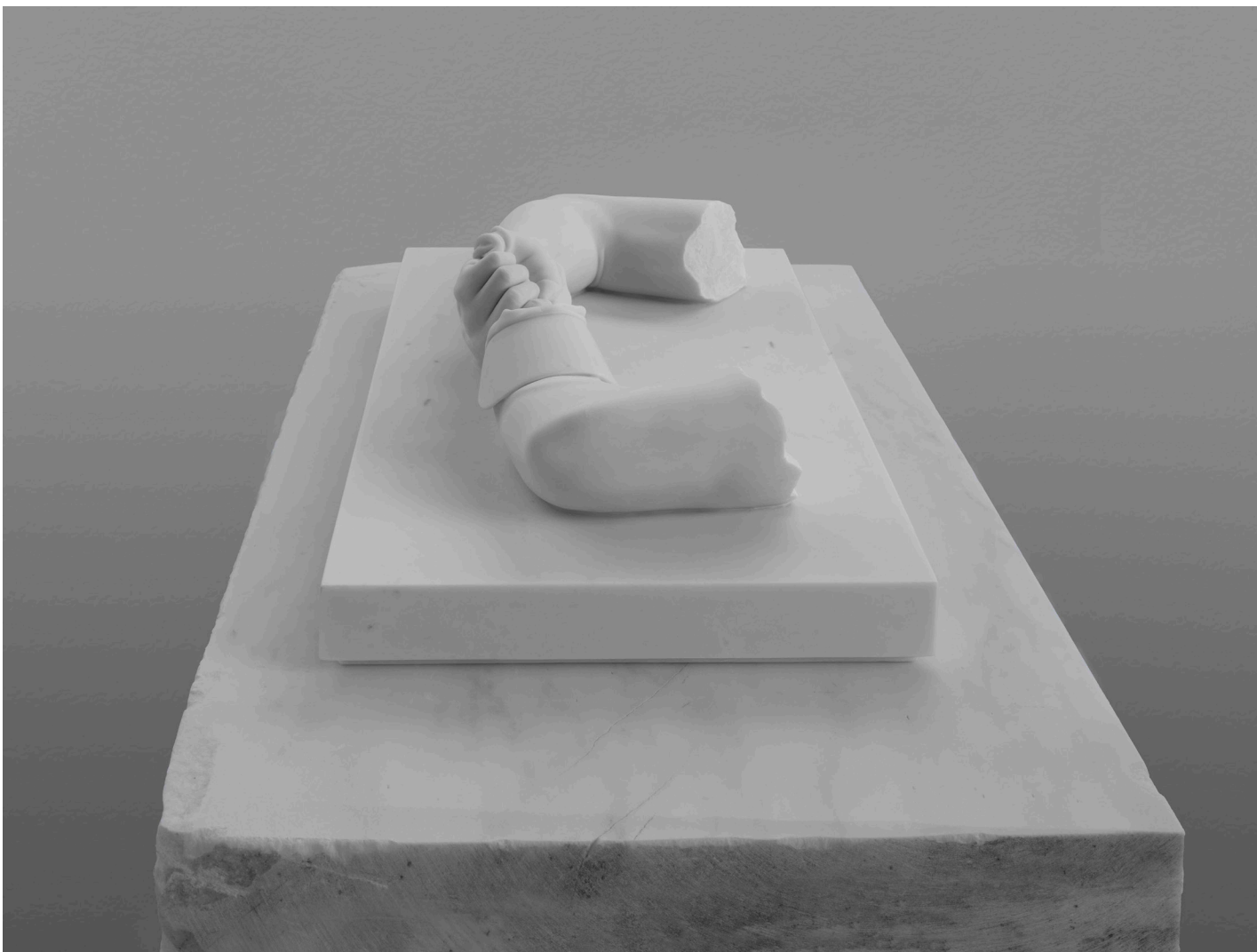
Reza Aramesh. "Action 608: At 5:06 am Tuesday 14 April 2015". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 55 × 33 × 28 cm (Image 4/4)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 702: At 11:50 am Wednesday 08 January 2014". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 75 × 41 × 19.3 cm (Image 1/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 702: At 11:50 am Wednesday 08 January 2014". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 75 × 41 × 19.3 cm (Image 2/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 702: At 11:50 am Wednesday 08 January 2014". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 75 × 41 × 19.3 cm (Image 3/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 702: At 11:50 am Wednesday 08 January 2014". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 75 × 41 × 19.3 cm (Image 4/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 702: At 11:50 am Wednesday 08 January 2014". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 75 × 41 × 19.3 cm (Image 5/5)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 703: At 12:45 pm Monday 09 October 2017". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 74.5 × 58 × 44 cm (Image 1/4)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 703: At 12:45 pm Monday 09 October 2017". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 74.5 × 58 × 44 cm (Image 2/4)



Reza Aramesh. "Action 703: At 12:45 pm Monday 09 October 2017". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 74.5 × 58 × 44 cm (Image 3/4)



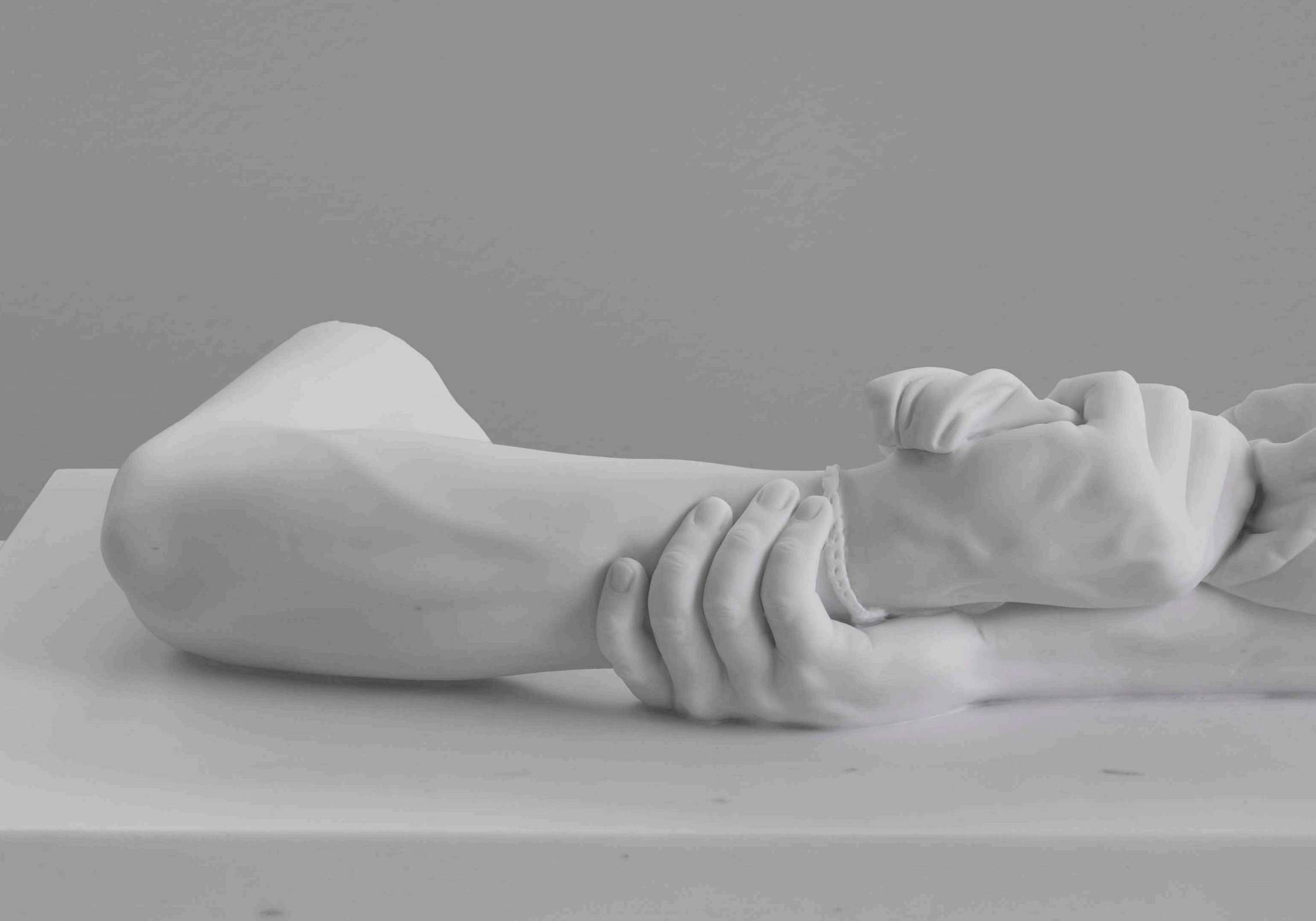
Reza Aramesh. "Action 703: At 12:45 pm Monday 09 October 2017". 2025
Hand-carved and polished Bianco P marble. 74.5 × 58 × 44 cm (Image 4/4)



REZA ARAMESH

Reza Aramesh was born in Iran and is based in London and New York. He holds a Masters degree in Fine Arts from Goldsmiths University, London. His work has been exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions such as in the occasion of the 60th Venice Biennale 2024, Italy 14 and 15 Bienal de la Habana, Asia Society Museum, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Breuer, New York, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Maine, SCAD Museum, Atlanta, Georgia, Akademie der Kunste, Berlin, the 56th Venice Biennale, Art Basel Parcours, Frieze Sculpture Park, London, Sculpture in the City, London, Armory Show Off-Site at Collect Pond Park, New York and at Maxxi Museum, Rome among others. Aramesh has orchestrated a number of performances and situations in such spaces as The Barbican Centre, Tate Britain and ICA, London. His works have entered public and private collections worldwide including Argentina, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, USA,

Belgium, Israel, France, Iran, Lebanon, Italy and the U.K. Working in sculpture, drawing, embroidery, ceramics, video and performance in a succession of 'actions', Reza Aramesh draws inspiration from media coverage of international conflicts dating from the mid-20th century until present day. This coverage is then transformed into sculptural volumes in collaboration with non-professional models, who help him reenact his chosen source materials. No direct signs of war remain in the physical end results and the characters seem driven out of their initial contexts. Opposition between beauty and brutality allows the artist to unveil the absurdity and the futility of these actions. Aramesh de-contextualises these scenes of violence from their origins, exploring the narratives of representation and iconography of the subjected male body in the context of race, class and sexuality in order to create a critical conversation with the western art historical canon.





CV

Reza Aramesh

Education

1997. M.A. in Fine Arts, Goldsmiths University, London

Solo Exhibitions

2025. "Fragment of the Self", Night gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2024. "Number 207", Curated by Serubiri Moses, Chiesa San Fantin, Venice, Italy

2019. "Reza Aramesh - 12 noon, Monday 5 August", Asia Society Museum, New York, USA

2019. "Action 180", Leila Heller, New York, USA

2016. "At 11:57 Am Wednesday 23 October 2013", Ab Anbar Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2016. "At 9:15 am Sunday 28 May 1967", Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2015. "Friday April 25, 2003 at 07:55", Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2015. "Spring of Recession", Centrefold Project, Sazman-Ab Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2014. "The Whistle of the Souls", Al Quoz Industrial 3, Dubai, UAE

2014. "AT 11:08 March 14th, 2006", Ab-Anbar Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2013. "12 Midnight", Multi-venue show presented by Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2011. "Walking in the Darkness of a Promised Light", Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2011. "Them Who Dwell on The Earth", Mottahedan Projects, London, UK
 2010. "Between the Eye and the Object Falls the Shadow...", Gallery CMOOA, Rabat, Morocco
 2009. "Between the Eye and the Object Falls a Shadow...", Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2009. "Live Action 71", Late at Tate Britain, UK
 2008. "Best of Discoveries", Shanghai, China
 2008. "Live Action 60", London, UK
 2007. "We've Lost the Hearts and Minds...", E: vent Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "Who is the Third that Walks Beside You?", Matthew Bown Gallery, London, UK
 2006. "Live Action: I am a Believer", ICA , Trafalgar Square, London, UK
 2005. "Live Action: Of this Men Shall Know Nothing", Thomas Goode Shop, London, UK
 2005. "Live Action: The Key of Dreams", Gasworks Gallery, London, UK
 2003. "Picture This...", Platform Gallery, London, UK
 2003. "The Eternal Spring", Laurence O'Hana Gallery, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

2025. "Soft Edge of the Blade Vol.3", Zaal x Leila Heller Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2025. "Baroque Continuum : Caravaggio and the Caravaggisti Over Time", Curated by Stanton Thomas, Museum Of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA
 2025. "Irreplaceable You: Personhood and Dignity in Art, 1980s to Now", Curated by Sean Kramer, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine, USA
 2025. "Zaal x Guest House", Guest House, Los Angeles, USA
 2024. 15 Bienal de la Habana, Curated by Nelson Ramirez de Arellano, Havana, Cuba
 2024. "A Public Affair", Cloud Seven, Curated by Bayo Hassan Bello, Brussels, Belgium
 2024. "Todo y nada están ahí para ser dichos", Curated by María Gabriela Cisterna; Patricia Di Pietro and María Sol Santich, Muntref Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 2024. "Number 207", Chiesa San Fantin, Venice, Italy
 2023. "The Storyteller", Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2022. "Capitulo I - Presente continuo", Curated by Diana Wechsler, Muntref collection, MUNTREF Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2022. "Vanishing Point", Curated by Zohreh Deldadeh, Pejman Foundation, Argo Factory, Tehran, Iran

2022. "14 Bienal de la Habana, Rupture; A Thousand and One Times". Museo de Artes Decorativas, Habana. Curated by Marianne Wagner and Nelson Ramirez de Arellano

2021. "Dreamsongs: from Medicine to Demons to Artificial Intelligence", Curated by Bjorn Stern, Colnaghi, London, UK

2021. "Summer/Winter show", Curated by Jane and Louise Willson, the Royal Academy of Art, London, UK

2021. "Sculpture in the City 9th Edition", London, UK

2021. "Asia Society Triennial, We Do Not Dream Alone", Curated by Michelle Yun Mapplethorpe and Boon Hui Tan, Asia Society and Museum, New York, USA

2020. "Sensual/Virtual: Two Coloured Sculptures", Curated by Dr. Victoria Avery and Luke Syson, Fitzwilliam Museum's Octagon Gallery, Cambridge, UK

2020. "The Summer/Winter Show", The Royal Academy of Arts, Curated by Jane and Louise Willson, London, UK

2020. "Rally", Soo Contemporary, Tehran, Iran

2020. "Distribution of the sensible", Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2019. "Nocturnal Creatures 2019", Bury Court, London, UK

2019. "BIENALSUR", Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo (MNAD), Buenos Aires, Argentina

2018. "WAR / VOJNA der KREIG", Koroka Art Museum, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

2018. "Like Life: Sculpture, Color and the Body (1300 - Now)" The MET Breuer, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

2017. Bilder Fragen H2- Centre for Contemporary art in the Glass Palace Kunstsammlungen and Museen Augsburg, Germany

2017. "Crumbling Down, Up and Up We Climb", Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Baku, Azerbaijan

2017. "Shabtab 2", Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2016. "Permanent Collection Display", Art Centre Hugo Voeten, Herentals, Belgium

2016. "Uncertain States - Artistic Strategies in States of Emergency", Akademie de Kunst, Berlin

2016. "RTL: LTR", Esfahan Museum of Contemporary Art, Isfahan, Iran

2016. "Poetics of Absence", Curated by Cristiana de Marchi, 1x1 Art Gallery, Dubai

2016. "L'arte differente: MOCAK al MAXXI", Rome, Italy

2016. "Summer Group Show", Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
 2015. "Spring of Recession - Centrefold Project", Sazmanab, Tehran, Iran
 2015. "The Great Game", Venice biannual Edition 56, Iran Pavilion, Venice, Italy
 2015. "Migrants", Muntref-Museo, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 2014. "The Whistle of the Souls", Al Quoz Industrial 3, Dubai
 2014. "Look at Me", Leila Heller, New York, USA
 2013. "Summer Selects", Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
 2013. "12MIDNIGHT", multi-venue exhibition in five nightclubs, New York
 2013. "Cultural Freedom in Europe", Goethe Institute Brussel, Belgium
 2012. "Without Hope", Without Fear, Al Joud Center, UAE
 2012. "The Elephant in the Dark", Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India
 2012. "Migrasophia - (Migration + Philosophy)", Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
 2012. "Lost in Paradise", Loft Sevigne, Paris, France
 2012. "ADVANCE/...NOTICE", Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
 2012. "Eat Me / Advance Notice", Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
 2011. "Paradise Row", London, UK
 2011. "Walking in the Darkness of a Promised Light", Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2011. "Light - Part I", Paradise Row, London, UK
 2010. "Statement", Paris Photo 2009, curated by Catherine Davide, France
 2010. "Hope!: l'espoir, de Giacometti a Murakami", Palais des Arts et Festival, Dinard, France
 2010. "Between the Eye and the Object falls the Shadow". Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2009. "Relaunch", Sunbury House, London, UK
 2009. "Live Action 71", Curated by The Diogenes Club, Late at Tate Britain, London, UK
 2008. "The Apartment", Royal London House, London
 2008. "Live Action 60", commissioned for Zoo Art Fair and CollectingLiveArt, London
 2008. "Best of Discoveries", Shcontemporary, Shanghai, China
 2008. "A World without Borders", Event Horizon, GSK Contemporary, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK

2007. Los Vinilos, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 2007. "You Were the Dead", Their's Was the Future, seduced, Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "Who is the Third that Walks Beside You?", Matthew Bown Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "We've Lost the Hearts and Minds...", Event Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "The Politics of Fear", Albion Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "The Lucifer Effect," Primo Alonso, London
 2007. "Temporary Measures", Associates Gallery, London, UK
 2007. "Space Invasion", an International Offspace Project, Vienna, Austria
 2007. "Into Position", curated by Anthony Gross, Bauernmarkt 1 and 9, Vienna, Austria
 2006. "Metropolis Rise: New Art from London", Shanghai, and Beijing, China
 2006. "Making a Scene", Haifa Museum of Art, Israel
 2006. "Live Action: I am a Believer", ICA, Trafalgar Square, London, UK
 2006. "Culture-Bound", East Wing Collection VII, Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, London, UK
 2005. "Pencil (a drawing show)", Carter Presents, London, UK
 2005. " We Have Met the Enemy, and He is Us", Redux Project Space, London, UK
 2005. "Defense", University of California, Sweeney Art Gallery, Riverside, CA, USA
 2005. "Contemporary Drawings", Parnassos Literary Society, Athens
 2004. Copy-art.net, ICA, London, UK
 2004. "The Politics of Revulsion", Redux Project Space, London, UK
 2004. "The Politics of Revulsion", Redux Project Space, London, UK
 2004. "So You're Afraid of What?", Redux Project Space, London, UK
 2004. "Pilot 1 ", Lime House Town Hall, London, UK
 2001. "What if I Told the Truth?", Cell Projects, London, UK
 2001. "Trick Peaser", Mandarin Duck, London, UK
 2001. "Teeth and Trousers", Cell Projects, London, UK
 2001. "Heart og Glass", London College of Printing, London, UK
 2001. "Forever Yours", Victoria House, London, UK

2001. "Desert Rose", Victoria House, London, UK
2000. "Wooden Heart", Avco, Curated by Reza Aramesh and Tina Spear, London, UK
2000. "Include Me Out", Curated by John Chilver, London, UK

Art Fairs

2025. Frieze London, represented by Dastan Gallery, London, UK
2025. Art Dubai, represented by Dastan Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2025. Art Basel Hong Kong, represented by Dastan Gallery, Hong Kong, China
2025. Frieze Los Angeles, represented by Dastan Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2024. Abu Dhabi Art, represented by Dastan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2024. Frieze London, represented by Dastan Gallery, London, UK
2024. Art Dubai, represented by Dastan Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2023. Frieze London, represented by Dastan Gallery, London, UK
2023. The Armory Show (Off-Site Project: Collect Pond Park), represented by Dastan Gallery & Night Gallery, New York, USA
2023. The Armory Show, represented by Dastan Gallery, New York, USA
2023. Art Dubai, represented by Dastan's Basement, Dubai, UAE
2022. Frieze London, represented by Dastan Gallery, London, UK
2021. FIAC, represented by Dastan's Basement, Paris, France
2021. Asia Now, represented by +2, Paris, France
2021. Art Dubai, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2019. Art021 Shanghai, represented by Dastan's Basement, Shanghai, China
2019. Art Dubai, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2018. Art Dubai, represented by Ab-Anbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2017. Frieze Sculpture Park, Metamorphosis – A Study in Liberation, London, UK
2017. Artissima, represented by Ab-Anbar Gallery, Turin, Italy
2017. Art Dubai, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2017. Art Basel Parcours, Site of the Fall: Study of the Renaissance Garden, Basel, Switzerland

2017. Art Dubai, represented by Ab-Anbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2015. The Armory Show, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
2014. ARCO Madrid, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2013. The Armory Show, represented by Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA
2008. Zoo Art Fair, London, UK
2006. Art Car Boot Fair, curated by Karen Ashton & Helen Hayward, Brick Lane, London, UK

Institutional Collections

Tate UK
Lazaar Foundation
Hugo Voeten Foundation Mocak Museum Poland Rodin Museum
Versaille Palace Collection Zabłudowicz Collection
Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Maine, United States

Prizes & Awards

2011. Nominated for a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Visual Artists.
2010. Nominated for a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Visual Artists.
2006. Artsadmin Bursary.
2006. Arts Council of England grant for the “ I am a Believer” show.
2004. London Arts Research and Development grant, Arts Council.

Projects & Publications

2018. Centrefold Project, Issue 10
2017. Centrefold Project, Issue 9
2015. Friday April 25, 2003 at 07:55, essay by Murtaza Vali, published by Leila Heller Galley, New York, USA
2015. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue 9, Spring of Recession, Sazmanab Centre for Contemporary Art, Tehran
2015. At 11:08 March 14, 2006, text by David Thorp, Sazmanab Centre for Contemporary Art & Ab-Anbar Gallery, Tehran

2014. 12MIDNIGHT, multi-venue exhibition in five nightclubs, New York; texts by Milovan Farronato, Media Farzin, Eugenio Viola
2014. Crude Humanity, essay by Sara Raza (The Whistle of the Souls)
2012. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue VIII, The Circle of Manias — launch & exhibition/talk at Zabłudowicz Collection, London
2011. Walking in the Darkness of a Promised Light, Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery
2010. Between the Eye and the Object Falls the Shadow, Isabelle Van Den Eynde Gallery, essay by Thomas Frangenberg
2008. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue VII, A World Without Borders
2007. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue VI, It Is, and It Is Now Only...
2006. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue V, We've Lost the Hearts and Minds...
2005. Centrefold Scrapbook, Issue IV, I Think I'll Speak To...

Texts

2024. "10 Must-See Exhibitions During the 2024 Venice Biennale," Galerie Magazine, Paul Laster
2019. Harper's Bazaar, March issue, Delara Zand
2019. "The Garden of Good and Evil," Folio Magazine, Anna Wallace-Thompson
2019. "Art Guide," Artforum, Asia Society, New York
2019. "Reza Aramesh at Asia Society Museum New York," Wall Street International
2019. "Reza Aramesh at Asia Society Museum New York," New York Art Beat
2019. "Reza Aramesh, 12 Noon, Monday, 5th August 1963," Asia Society, New York
2018. "Baku Art Culture," The Art Newspaper Russia
2018. "Real, or Too Real?", The New York Times (coverage of Like Life at the Met Breuer)
2017. "What to See at Frieze Sculpture Park 2017 in London," BLOUIN ARTINFO
2017. "I Am a Believer," Ruba Shield
2017. "Insecure States, Uncertain Times," i-D Online
2017. "Poetics of Absence," The National, Anna Seaman
2017. "Sculpture Captures the Suffering," Al Roeya, Ruba Shield
2016. "Migration 'Uncertain States' at Akademie der Künste," Berlin Art Link
2016. "Cultural Policy Instead of Culture," Zeit Online

2016. "Academy of Arts: Uncertain States," Der Tagesspiegel
 2016. "A Study of Human Suffering During Wars," Gulf News, Jyoti Kalsi
 2016. "Best of 2016," Artforum, Sylwia Serafinowicz
 2016. "At 9:15am Sunday 28 May 1967," The National
 2016. The New York Times, Ginanne Brownell
 2016. Honaragah
 2016. "At 11:57am Wednesday 23 October 2013," Art Agenda
 2016. "Migration as a Condition of Existence," Código Magazine, Daniel Montero
 2014. Tandis Magazine
 2014. Artforum review
 2014. "The Whistle of the Souls, a Play That Never Starts," ArtAsiaPacific, Sara Raza
 2011. "Walking in the Darkness of a Promised Light," Thomas Frangenberg
 2011. "The Disturbing Triptych of War, Violence and Wealth," GQ, Sophie Leris
 2009. "Art House," The Big Issue, Michael Parker
 2009. "The Re-Framing of Conflict," Canvas Magazine, Anthony Downey
 2009. "Between the Eye and the Object Falls a Shadow," B21 Gallery, Thomas Frangenberg
 2009. "Conflicting Statements," The National
 2009. "Deceptions of the True and the Accurate," Gulf News, Jyoti Kalsi
 2009. "In Conversation with Reza Aramesh," Contemporary Practices, Gemma Tully
 2009. Aesthetica Magazine, Niamh Coghlan
 2006. "The Atrocity Exhibition," Time Out Dubai

Books

2024. Action: BY NUMBER, Skira, Italy
 2018. Reza Aramesh, Collectors' Editions
 2018. Like Life: Sculpture, Colour, and the Body, The MET, New York
 2017. Uncertain States, Travelling Fragments, Akademie Der Künste

2016. At 11:57 am Wednesday 23 October 2013, Ab-Anbar Gallery, Tehran
2016. The Great Game: Art, Artists, and Culture from the Heart of the World, Silvana Editoriale
2015. Friday, April 25, 2003, at 07:55, Leila Heller Gallery, New York
2014. 12 Midnight, Damiani Press, Italy
2011. Reza Aramesh: Them Who Dwell on the Earth
2010. Hope: Une Exposition d'art contemporain sur l'Espoir, Skira Flammarion
2006. Metropolis Rise: New Art from London, Temporarycontemporary



