

"Birth"

Mamali Shafahi

August 21 – September 11, 2026



Focus Room



PRESS RELEASE

Dastan:Outside presents "Birth", a solo exhibition by Mamali Shafahi. [Focus Room 04] takes place near Dastan's Basement on West Maryam Street, after Raz Alley. The exhibition opens on Friday, August 21, 2026, and remains on view through September 11.

In "Birth," ending and beginning are not treated as separate states, but as two sides of a continuous movement. The exhibition extends the trajectory that Mamali Shafahi and Domenico Gutknecht have traced through absence, passage, and imagined afterlives, returning this journey to its point of origin: a beginning. The works unfold through fragments—a gesture, a touch, an animal, a landscape, or an echo of desire and fear—detached from chronological time and placed alongside one another, as if different moments of a life had been gathered within the same body. Like memory, the works reconstruct life not as a continuous narrative but as a collection of scattered intensities: fragments of the past that remain present within a new state. This logic extends into the spatial construction of the exhibition. Red spreads from the surfaces of the works to the curtains, windows, and floor of the gallery, transforming the space into an immersive, almost bodily interior. Emerging among the folds of red fabric, the works occupy a space somewhere between a room, a stage, and a body, appearing as traces surfacing through a shared skin and momentarily holding together

fragments of different times and lives. The gallery becomes both an interior and a threshold—a place one enters as if returning to somewhere before the formation of memory. "Birth" completes the circle without reaching a definitive end. What began as a meditation on disappearance returns as an act of becoming.

Mamali Shafahi (b. 1982, Tehran) studied at the University of Art, Tehran, and ENSAPC (École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts Paris-Cergy). His works are held in collections including The Caudwell Collection (London), Zuzeum Art Centre (Latvia), OMM Museum Collection (Eskisehir), and Die Mobiliar Collection (Switzerland). His work has been presented at international art fairs including LISTE (Basel, 2021). His solo exhibitions include Daddy (Tongue Remix) (Zaal Art Gallery, Toronto, 2024); Phantasmagoria: Daddy Kills More People (The Breeder Gallery, Athens, 2023); Deep Throats: How Deep Is Your Love? (Vitrine Gallery, London, 2022); Judgment Night: Daddy Kills People (Parallel Circuit, Tehran, 2022); The Underworld and its Emergent Effects (Dastan's Basement, Tehran, 2016); and Broken SD (Dastan's Basement, Tehran, 2014). In 2021, Shafahi was a finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize, and in 2020 he received the Golden Calf Award for Best Interactive Film at the Netherlands Film Festival.



Mamali Shafahi
"Red Portal". 2026
Flocked epoxy
100 x 48 x 41 cm

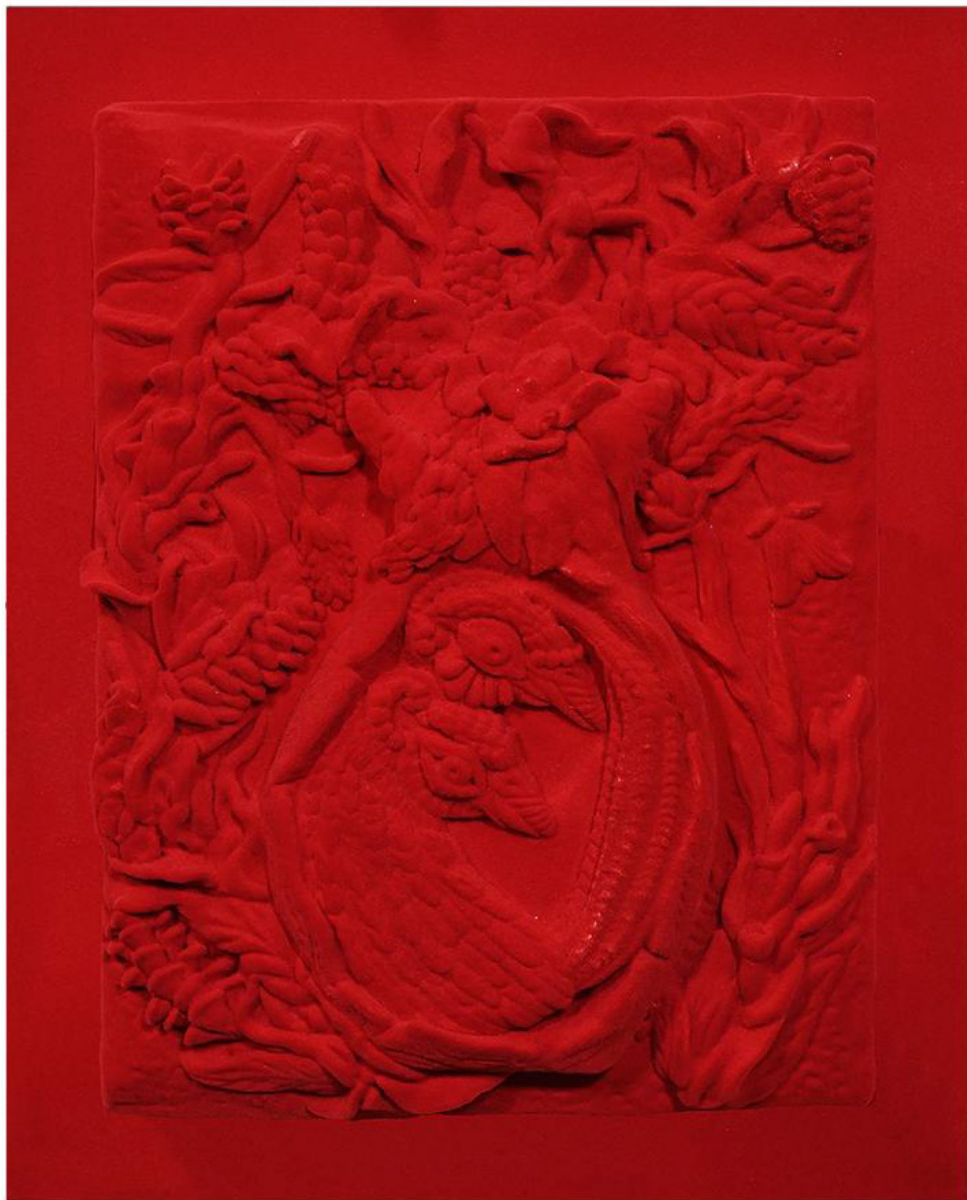


Mamali Shafahi
"Untitled". 2026
Flocked epoxy
73 x 62 x 82 cm

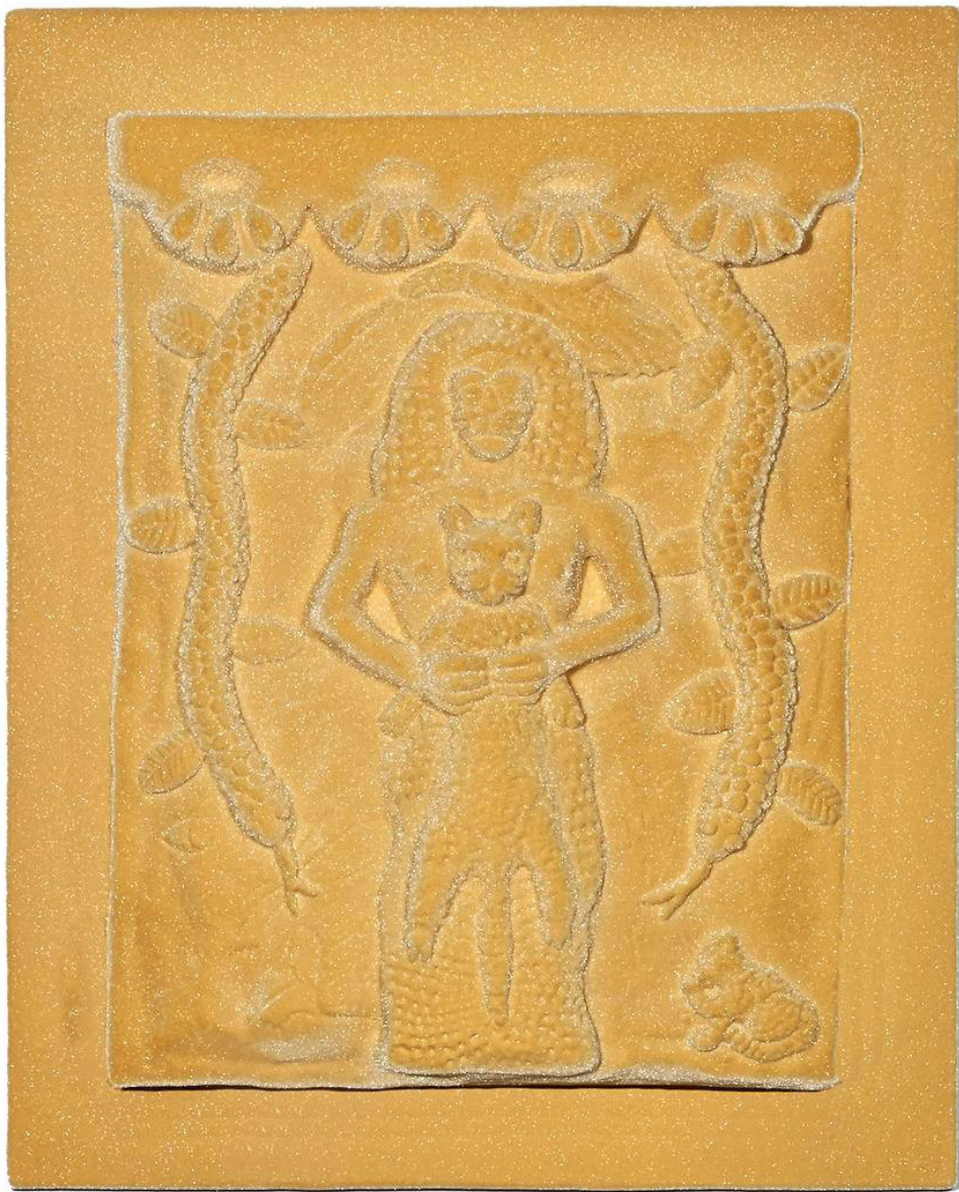




Mamali Shafahi
"Apple". 2026
Flocked epoxy
50 x 40 cm



Mamali Shafahi
"Birds". 2026
Flocked epoxy
50 x 40 cm



Mamali Shafahi
"Cat". 2026
Flocked epoxy
50 x 40 cm



Mamali Shafahi

"Echoes of Euphoria VIII". 2025

Flocked epoxy clay

60 x 40 x 12 cm

دین خجک سز سب و رنگ ترش

کمر خنده نمیزن نباید درش



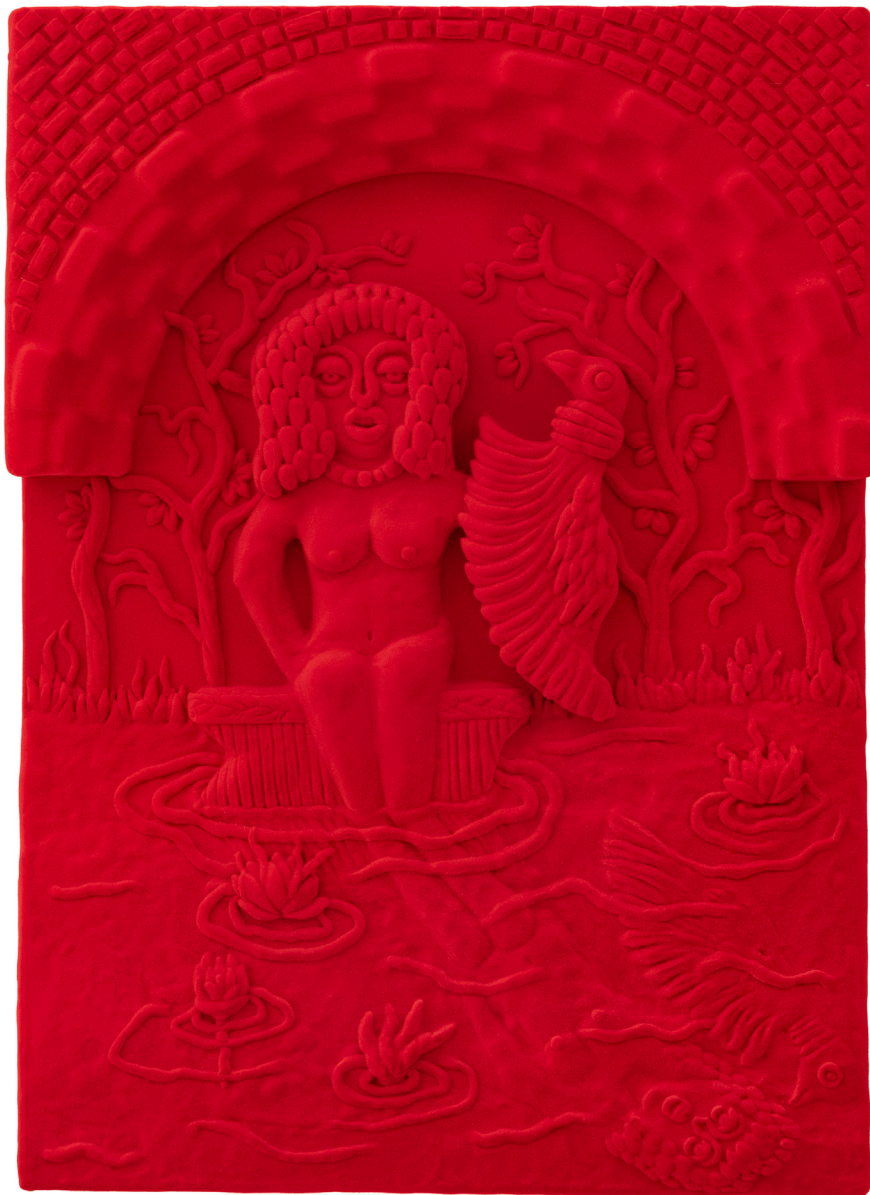


Mamali Shafahi

"Echoes of Euphoria VI". 2025

Flocked epoxy clay

70 x 50 x 13 cm



Mamali Shafahi
"Echoes of Euphoria I". 2025
Flocked epoxy clay
70 x 50 x 7 cm



Mamali Shafahi

"Echoes of Euphoria V". 2025

Flocked epoxy clay

70 x 50 x 7 cm





Mamali Shafahi

"Echoes of Euphoria II". 2025

Flocked epoxy clay

70 x 50 x 7 cm



Mamali Shafahi
"Mirror". 2026
Flocked epoxy
115 x 137 x 61 cm

INSTALLATION VIEWS



Installation View of "Birth" A solo presentation of works by Mamali Shafahi at Focus Room. Tehran, Iran
Photo by Matin Jameie



Installation View of "Birth" A solo presentation of works by Mamali Shafahi at Focus Room. Tehran, Iran
Photo by Matin Jameie



MAMALI SHAFahi

Mamali Shafahi (b. Iran, 1982) is a visionary filmmaker and visual artist known for his immersive, mixed-media installations that blend sound and light, creating enigmatic chimeras that defy categorization. His works explore cultural diversity and identity, breaking stereotypes and inviting deeper engagement. Notable projects include the experimental docu-fiction *Nature Morte*, featuring his parents, which formed the core of an installation at City Princes/ses at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2019). His VR collaboration with Ali Eslami, *nerd_funk*, has been showcased at Het Nieuwe Instituut (Rotterdam), the Vancouver Biennale, and IDFA, earning the Golden Calf for Best Interactive Film at the Netherlands Film Festival. Following this, he was a guest resident at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. In 2024, Shafahi began a collaboration with his partner Domenico Gutknecht (b. Germany, 1987) titled *Rest in Peace*, adding another layer to his evolving, multidisciplinary oeuvre.



CV

Mamali

B.1982, Tehran, Iran

Education

2006-2008. ENSAPC, École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts Paris, Cergy, Paris

2002-2004. University of Art, Tehran

Solo Exhibitions

2024. "Daddy (Tongue remix), Zaal Gallery, Toronto, CA

2023. "Phantasmagoria: Daddy kills more people", Breeder Gallery, Athens, Greece

2022. "Deep throats: How deep is your love?", Vitrine Gallery, London, UK

2022. "Deep throats: Go deeper", Mitterrand Gallery, Paris, France

2022. "nerd_funk", Rijksakademie open studio, Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2022. "Daddy Tissue", Everyday Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

2022. "Judgment Night: Daddy kills people", Parallel circuit, Tehran, Iran

2021. "Daddy Sperm" curated by Tony Cox, Clubrhubarb, NY, USA

2021. "Heirloom Velvet", Liste, Basel, Switzerland

2017. "I'm not an Artist, I'm just a heart of coal", MMCA Changdong Residency, Seoul, Korea

2017. "V (i) R o l o g y: fake news and fake science", Mohsen Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2016. "The Underworld and its emergent effects", Dastan Basement, Tehran, Iran

2014. "Broken SD", Dastan Basement Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2013. "Daddy Sperm", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris, France
2012. "Occidental icons", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris, France
2010. "Wonderland (2,500 years celebration)", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris, France
2009. "Mamali and his doves in art", Aaran Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2008. "Freedom." Performance with Behrouz Rae, Art Athina, Athens, Greece
2007. "Everybody needs a show" Journée de la performance, ENSA Paris-Cergy, Paris, France
2005. "My magic box", Azad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Group Exhibitions

2026. "Resonance", Sam Center, Tehran, Iran
2026. "Parallel Circuit[s]", Dastan's Outside X Francois Ghebaly, Tehran, Iran
2025. "The Soft Edge of the Blade Vol.3", Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2025. 8Fair, Represented by Parallel Circuide, Tehran, Iran
2024. "Creatures of comfort" Omm museum, Eskisehir, Turkey
2023. "Fever Dream", curated by Manique Hendricks, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, Netherlands
2023. "Dawa" Curated by Latif Samassi, 35/37, Paris, France
2023. "Screen, Screen on my phone, Who's the fairest of them all?" Curated by Bogomir Doring, Garage museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2022. "100 Years", Gagorian and Jeffrey Deitch project, Miami, USA
2022. "The 58th Carnegie International", Curated by Sohrab Mohebi and Negar Azimi, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA
2022. "Grief and Pleasure" curated by Defne Casaretto, OMM Museum, Eskisehir, Turkey
2022. "Vanishing point" curated by Zohreh Deldadeh, Pejman Foundation, Tehran, Iran
2020. "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, "Impossible Bodies", 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
2020. "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, Netherlands Film Festival, Utrecht, Netherlands
2019. "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, CPH DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark
2019. "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, IDFA film festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2019. "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, Vancouver Biennale, Vancouver, CA

2019. "Sacred hill", with Ali Eslami, Het nieuwe instituut, Rotterdam, Netherlands
 2019. "Prince.sse.s des villes" curated by Hugo Vitrani and F. Danesi, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, Turkey
 2019. "When Legacies become debts", curated by Azar Mahmoudian, Mosaic Rooms, London, UK
 2018. "Nature Morte", Film screening, curated by Sohrab Kashani, Taiwan Annual, Taiwan
 2018. "Nature Morte", Film screening, curated by Martha Kirszenbaum, Art Rotterdam, Netherland
 2017. "Alternative Facts", Film screening, curated by Myriam Ben Salah, 221A, Vancouver, CA
 2016. "Skip or the national", curated by Alex Maurice, London, UK
 2016. "Public Art, Public Spaces; Iran", Curated by Sohrab Kashani, Stanford University CA
 2015. "Centrefold", curated by Reza Aramesh, Sazman-Ab and Ab-Anbar projects, Tehran, Iran
 2014. "For Export Only", curated by Narges Hamzianpour, Shulamit Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
 2013. "Dixit", curated by Karin Schlageter, Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris, France
 2012. "Iranian arts now", curated by Amirali Ghasemi, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
 2011. "With his multiple reflections he feels secure", curated by Camilo Racana, Cannes
 2010. "I. U. (Heart)." The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
 2009. "Collection Dubai," curated by November Paynter, SMART Project Space, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 2008. "Lion under the Rainbow," curated by Alexandros Georgiou, Athens, Greece
 2008. "Blonde descending a staircase" Video screening, "Urban Jealousie" biennial curated by Amirali Ghasemi, Istanbul and Berlin
 2007. "Karaoke Poetry." Performance with Alexandros Georgiou, Athens biennial, Athens, Greece
 2004. "Eraser Head", 9th biennial of photography of Tehran, Iran, Iran

Art Fairs

2026. Frieze NY, Represented by Dastan Gallery, New York, USA
 2026. Frieze LA, Santa Monica Airport, Los Angeles, USA
 2025. Art Basel Miami Beach, Represented by Zaal Art Gallery, Miami, USA
 2025. Art fair, Arco Madrid, Represented by Parallel Circuit x Zaal Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain
 2024. Art fair, Art Dubai, Represented by Dastan Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2024. Art fair, Art Dubai, Represented by Dastan's Basement, Dubai, UAE
 2023. Art fair, The Armory Show, Represented by Zaal Art Gallery, New York, USA

2023. Art fair, Art Brussels, Represented by Everyday Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2023. Art fair, Art Paris, Represented by Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France
2023. Art fair, Art Basel Hong Kong, Represented by Galerie Mitterrand, Hong Kong, China
2023. Art fair, Art Dubai, Represented by Dastan's Basement, Dubai, UAE
2022. Art fair, Art Dubai, Represented by Parallel Circuit, Dubai, UAE
2021. Art fair, Asia Now, Represented by Plus 2, Paris, France
2021. Art fair, LISTE Showtime, Represented by Dastans Basement, Basel, Switzerland
2021. Art fair, LISTE, Represented by Dastans Basement, Basel, Switzerland
2021. Art fair, Art Brussels, Represented by Everyday Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2021. Art fair, Art Dubai, Represented by Dastans Basement, Dubai, UAE
2021. Art fair, FIAC, Represented by Dastans Basement, Paris, France
2020. Art fair, Art Paris, Represented by Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris, France
2008. Art fair, Slick Art Fair (Part of the FIAC Contemporary Art Fair), Represented by Focus Gallery, Paris, France
2008. Art Fair, Performance with Behrouz Rae, "Freedom", Art Athina Contemporary, Athens, Greece

Curatorial Projects

2023. "Unusual experiences: Florien Hetz", Everyday Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
2022. "The soft edge of the blade", Frieze Cork street, London, UK
2021. "Alternating Currents", Parallel Circuit, Tehran, Iran
2017. "Neil Beloufa", Argo Factory, Pejman Foundation, Tehran, Iran
2014. "Urgently, Yesterday", Florian Auer and Katja Novitskova, Mottahedan Projects, Dubai, UAE
2012. "Recycle", Mahmoud Bakhshi Moakhar, Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2011. "Good city for dreamers" Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2010. "I. U. (Heart)." The Third Line, Dubai

Press and publications

2024. "Rethinking the contemporary art of Iran", Hamid Keshmirshakan, Skira
2024. "the New York times, by Roberta Smith, Jan 19th, Page C10

2023. "Canvas Magazine", Issue 110

2023. "History, Land and Identity | Highlights at Frieze Los Angeles 2023", Frieze magazine, 17 February

2023. "5 Breakout Artists We Discovered at the Los Angeles Art Fairs Whose Work Stopped Us in Our Tracks", Artnet, 22 February

2023. "In pictures: Frieze Los Angeles goes big with towering sculpture, large-scale installations and more", Art Newspaper, 17 Feb

2022. "Strikingly many plants in the open studio at the Rijksakademie", de Volkskrant, 12 May

2022. "NONFICTION 04"

2022. "Fruta magazine", Studio Saudari, by Kim Rosario

2022. "Mamali Shafahi, Deep Throats: How Deep is your Love?", The Art Newspaper, Christine Takengny, 21 October

2022 "Les gorges profondes" syncrétisme hyperpop, by Ingrid Luquet-Gad

2022. Apartamento by Jina Khayyer, issue 28, May 18th.

2021. "Art We Saw This Fall", New York Times, By JilianSteinhauber, 25 November.

2021. "Liste, the Beloved Satellite Fair for Emerging Talent, Lobbied Art Basel to Set Up Shop Inside the Messeplatz. The Gambit Paid Off", Artnet, 23 September

2019. "Daddy's boy", Palais Magazine by Ashkan Sepahvand, No, 29 Pp 44-53

2018. Selections magazine, No.46, Pp 176

2014. "Iranian Contemporary Art, From the Street to the studio", T. Gringor. Reaktion Books Ltd

2013. "Contemporary Iranian Art, New Perspectives", By Hamid Keshmirshakan. SAQI Books

2010. BROWNBOOK magazine, No.92, "I.U.Heart", Pp 87

2010. Artasiapacific magazine, No.71, "I.U.Heart", Pp 133

2009. "Different Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art," by Hossein Amirsadeghi. Thames & Hudson

2008. Mother Magazine, No.5, Spring, "Mamali needs a show", Pp. 120-121

2008. Highlight Magazine, No.34, May, "Lion under the rainbow", Pp.88-91

Awards

2021. "The 2021 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Finalist, Hong Kong

2021. "nerd_funk", Mondriaan fund and AFk grant

2020. "nerd_funk", Golden calf, Best interactive film prize, Netherlands film Festival

2019. Sharjah art foundation film platform, panel participation, Sharjah

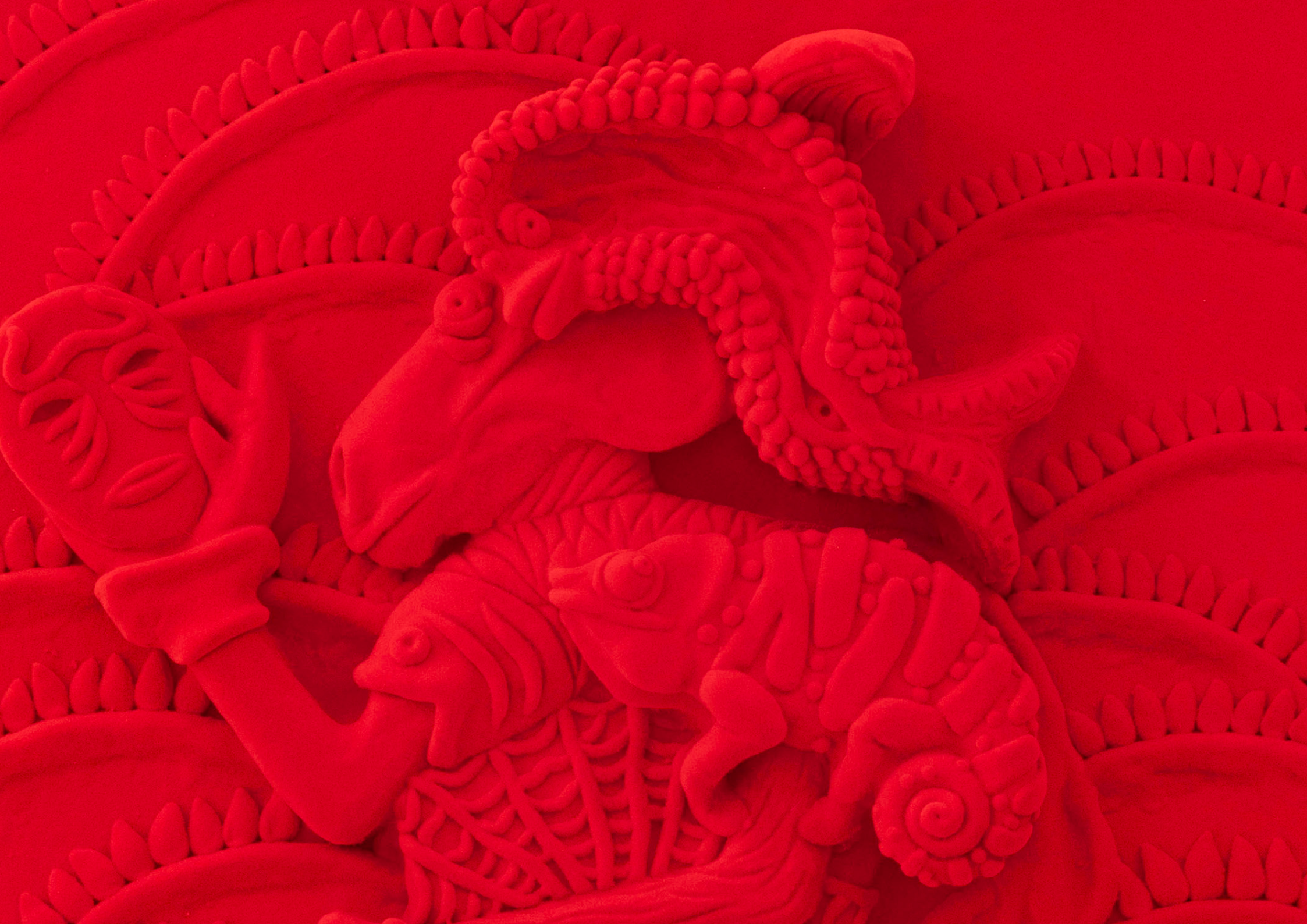
2018. Artist presentation at Liverpool Biennial, part of Delfina residency program, Liverpool
2018. Art Rotterdam video projection, panel participation, Rotterdam
2015. MOPCAP Contemporary Art Prize: finalist, London
2009. "Art and the representation of masculinity." Guest speaker at SOAS University
2008. UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists 2009: winner

Residencies and workshops

2025. Fountainhead Residency, Miami
2023. Royal College of Art, Presentation and workshop, London
2022. Rijksakademie, Guest Resident, Amsterdam
2020. Rijksakademie, Guest Resident, Amsterdam
2019. Vancouver Biennale residency, Vancouver
2018. Delfina foundation residency, London
2018. Workshop at CPH DOX, Copenhagen
2017. Workshop and residency at ISBA, Besancon
2017. MMCA Changdong Residency, Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Seoul

Public and private collections

The Caudwell Collection, London
Zuzeum Art Centre, Latvia
OMM Museum Collection, Eskisehir
Die Mobiliar Collection, Switzerland
Afkhami Collection, Dubai, Newyork
Maryam Massoudi Collection, London





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