

## SHIVA AHMADI

### EDUCATION

- 2005 Cranbrook Academy of Arts, Bloomfield Hills, MI, Master of Fine Arts, Painting  
2003 Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, Master of Fine Arts, Drawing  
2000 Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, Master of Art, Drawing  
1998 Azad University, Tehran, Iran, Bachelor of Fine Art, Painting

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 [Forthcoming], Shiva Ahmadi, Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, CA  
2023 The Courage of Eve, Gallery Rosenfeld, London, UK  
Unbound, Saint Joseph's Art Society, San Francisco, CA  
2021 The Body Politic, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2020 Labyrinths, Elain Jacob Gallery, Detroit, MI  
2019 Shrine Room, Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY  
2108 Burning Song, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2017 Ascend, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
Ascend by Shiva Ahmadi, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA  
2016 Spheres of Suspension, Charles B. Wang Center, New York, NY  
2014 Shiva Ahmadi: In Focus, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY  
Lotus, Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University, New York, NY  
2013 Apocalyptic Playland, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
2012 Throne, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, OH  
Throne, Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2010 Reinventing the Poetics of Myth, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
2005 Oil Crisis, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Rising Sun, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, PA  
Ontario Museum of Art, Toronto, Canada  
2022 From Moment to Movement: Picturing Protest in the Kramlich Collection, Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, CA  
The Temple Of Artemis, Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland  
2021 Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY  
Inspiration From The Ancient, Gallery Rosenfeld, London, UK  
Modern and Contemporary Drawings, The Morgan Library & Museum, NYC  
Epic Iran, Virginia Albert Museum, London, UK  
A Boundless Drop in A Boundless Ocean, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL  
With Eyes Open, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Unrealism, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

- 2020 Painting the Figure, Gallery Rosenfeld, London, UK  
 Dreaming Together: Asia Society Museum/New York Historical Society, NY
- 2019 A Bridge Between You and Everything, High Line Nine Gallery, New York, NY  
 How the Line Gets In, Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY  
 Once at Present, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA  
 Parallel Vision, Wasserman project, Detroit, MI
- 2018 Catastrophe and the Power of Art, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
 Revolution Generations, Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
 Long, Winding Journeys: Contemporary Art and the Islamic Tradition, Katonah Museum of Art, NY  
 Connected, SF Photo fair, San Francisco, CA  
 This Land Is Whose Land? Sun Valley Center For the Arts, Idaho
- 2017 Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians, Agha Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada  
 Sanctuary, Fort Mason Chapel, San Francisco, CA  
 Exquisite Corpse: Moving Image in Latin American and Asian Art, Mana Contemporary, Miami, FL
- 2016 Homeland Security, For-site foundation, San Francisco, CA  
 Global/Local, Grey Art Gallery NYU, NYC  
 Fireflies in the Night Take Wing, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Athens, Greece  
 A Heritage Transposed, The Box Freiraum Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 Armory Show, Leila Heller Gallery, NYC
- 2014 Artist in Exile: Creativity, Activism, and the Diasporic Experience, Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery, New York, NY  
 Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Venice Biennale, Small Works Project, Collaboration of Library Street Collective, Detroit MI and Benetton, Venice, Italy
- 2012 The Fertile Crescent, Rutgers University Museum Exhibition, Newark, NJ  
 The Rule and Its Exceptions, Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2011 Art Abu Dhabi, Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
 Jasmin: Oriental Summer, Sabine Knust Gallery, Munich, Germany  
 Art X Detroit, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI  
 [Dis]Locating Culture: Contemporary Islamic Art in America, Michael Berger Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA  
 Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
 VIP Art Fair, Leila Heller Gallery, Online Art Fair
- 2010 Art Abu Dhabi, Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
 Tehran – New York, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
 Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2009 Art Abu Dhabi, Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
 Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY  
 Selseleh/Zelzeleh: Movers & Shakers in Contemporary Iranian Art, curated by Dr. Layla Diba, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY

- 2008 Just Paper, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
 Ahmadi & Zhang: Looking Back, the Feldman Gallery at Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR  
 Distant Shores: Cultural Exchange in Contemporary Art, McIninch Art Gallery, Manchester, NH  
 Splash, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
 Conference of the Birds, Leila Heller Gallery, in cooperation with B & S Projects, London
- 2007 Merging influences, Eastern Elements in New American Art, Montserrat Art Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2006 Figuratively speaking, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 Three Positions, Lombard\Freid Projects, New York, NY  
 Atomica, Lombard\Freid project and Esso Gallery, New York, NY  
 Portland Museum of Art Biennial, Portland, ME  
 Cross Current, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, MI
- 2003 Detroit Now, Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Rochester, MI  
 Biennial Art Competition, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN  
 Exchange, Forum Gallery, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 2002 New Shoes, Tangent Gallery, Detroit, MI  
 Paint Creek Center for Arts, Detroit, MI

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- What would Ben Franklin Say? Artists Weigh the Dream of Democracy, [New York Times](#), Hilarie M. Sheets, March 2023
- Shiva Ahmadi is the Iranian artist who gives body to protesting women, [Vogue](#), Riccardo Freddo, January 2023
- Shiva Ahmadi: Courage of Eve @ Gallery Rosenfeld, [Sothebys's Institute of Art](#), Maria Whitby, April 2023
- Two Iranian American Women Artists Exhibit Poignant Political Work in Philly, [Al-Bustan News Services](#), Heather Tenzer, May 2023
- “Contradiction and Tension” Shiva Ahmadi interviewed by Naomi Falk, [Bomb Magazine](#), May 2020
- “Labyrinths: Shiva Ahmadi @ Elaine L. Jacob Gallery”, [Detroit Art Review](#), Glen Mannisto, January 2020
- “Fall in Love With These Nine Works of Art During the Coronavirus Shutdown”, Jonathan Curiel, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), April 2020
- “Insignificant” Lives and the Power of the Arts, Gabrielle Decamous, [University of California Press](#), September 2019
- “Shirin Neshat curates exhibition of Iranian artists in New York”, Gabriella Angeleti, [The Art Newspaper](#), July 2019
- “1979 Iranian Upheaval Resonates in Once at Present”, Sura Wood, [SF Arts](#), April 2019
- “The Pressure Cooker: Shiva Ahmadi’s Animation of the Syrian War”, Jonathan Curiel, [SF Weekly](#), September 2018
- “Shiva Ahmadi @ Haines Gallery”, Maria Porges, [Square Cylinder.com](#), October 2018

“What’s up in SF museums and galleries this fall”, Charles Desmarais, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), August 2018  
 “Fall Preview: Art Galleries”, Sura Wood, [Bay Area Reporter](#), September 2018  
 “Whose land is it, anyway? The Center’s new exhibit explores topics of refugees, immigration”, Andy Kerstetter, [mtexpress.com](#), January 2018  
 “Cheryl Haines’s Magic Carpet Ride,” Ahalya Srikant, [San Francisco Magazine](#), October 2017  
 “MANA CONTEMPORARY TAKES OVER WYNWOOD AND MIAMI ART WEEK”, Jean Nayar, [Oceandrive.com](#), December 2017  
 “Diversity East” Eleanor Heartney, [Art in America](#)  
 “Asian Art Museum program draws on real-world issues”, Brandon Yu, [San Francisco Chronicle](#),  
 May 2017  
 “Shiva Ahmadi Combines The Beautiful And The Violent”, Anna Brady, [Harper Bazar](#),  
 April 2017  
 “Die Kaiserin als Elefant” (The Empress as an elephant) , [Der Tagesspiegel](#), Werner Bloch, December 2016  
 “Das verlagerte Erbe” (The displaced heritage), [Berliner Zeitung](#), Von Irmgard Berner, December 2016  
 “FOR-SITE Is 20/20”, Jonathan Curie, [SF Weekly](#), September 2016  
 “New Presidio Exhibit Explores & Illuminates Complex Social Issues” Jean Schiffman, [SF Arts](#), September 2016  
 “Forum” Radio interview with Michael Krasny, [KQED](#), October 2016  
 “Six Artists From Iran at Gery Art Gallery”, Holland Cotter, [The New York Times](#),  
 January 2016  
 “From Shah to Supreme Leader” by Michael Fitzgerald, [The Wall Street Journal](#), Feb 2016  
 “Shiva Ahmadi’s Subversive Beauty” by Hilary Sheets, [Introspective Magazine](#), Feb 2016  
 “A Closer Look: Shiva Ahmadi's Pipes” by Julia Rooney, [The Metropolitan Museum of Arts](#),  
 January 2016  
 “Tracing Tradition in a Survey of Six Iranian Artists,” by Livia Alexander, [Hyperallergic](#),  
 March, 2016  
 “Global/Local 1960–2015: Six Artists from Iran,” by Bansie Vasvani, [Art Asia Pacific](#),  
 March 2016  
 “The Best of Iran at NYU’s Grey Art Gallery,” by Ozana Plemenitash, [Artserved](#), April  
 2016  
 “13 Artists you should fall in love with this spring”, by Katherine Brooks,  
[The Huffington Post](#), March 2015  
 "Graceful Grenades" Shiva Ahmadi animates tales of violence and beauty By Sehba  
 Mohammad, [Modern Painter Magazine](#), June 2014  
 “Using beauty to examine ugly political truth” by Laura Mallonee, [Hyperallergic](#), July  
 2014  
 “An Exclusive Preview of Lotus, Shiva Ahmadi's New Video Installation”, by Mark  
 Guiducci, [Vogue](#), June 2014  
 Shiva Ahmadi “Apocalyptic Playland” [ARTINFO](#), February 2013  
 “CHELSEA ART” [Bloomberg](#), March 21, 2013  
 “Flowers of Evil” [Manor House Quarterly](#), October 2013  
 “RISING IN THE EAST” [Art & Antique Magazine](#); September 15, 2013

Shiva Ahmadi “Apocalyptic Playland” Exhibition Recommendation, [GALLERY INTEL](#), March 2013

Ecker, Heather, “Flowers of Evil” [Flowers of Evil Catalog](#), Leila Heller Gallery, February 2013

“50 Next Most Collectible Artists,” [Art and Auction](#), June 2012

Laura, Stewart, “Passion for Art: Leila Heller,” [Art Bahrain](#), May 2012

“Leila Heller,” [Harper’s Bazaar Art](#), Spring 2012

Daftari, Fereshteh, “Altered Miniatures: Shiva Ahmadi”. [Canvas Magazine](#), March/April 2011

Genocchio, Benjamin, ” [Reinventing the Poetics of Myth Catalog](#), Leila Heller Gallery, Feb 2010

Genocchio, Benjamin, “Import/Export in the Heat of the Moment”, [Art in America](#), November 2009

Kino, Carol, “Iranian Shine, Assisted by Expatriate”, [The New York Times](#), August 2009

Wei, Lilly, “Selseleh/Zelzeleh” at Leila Heller Gallery, [ArtNews](#), October 2009

Cotter, Holland, “Iran Inside Out”, [The New York Times](#), July 2009

Nazhand, Nazi, “Abu Dhabi Report”, [Artnet Magazine](#), November, 2009

Kaylan, Melik, “The View From Here”, [The Wall Street Journal](#), August, 2009

Waxman, Lori, “Art Galleries: Iran as You’ve Never Seen It Before”, [Chicago Tribune](#), October, 2009

Genocchio, Benjamin, “A Dialogue Between Tradition and Innovation”, [The New York Times](#),

Joel Brown “New American Art, informed by the East” [The Boston Globe](#), Sep. 2007

Biro, Mathew “Contemporary developments in Drawing” [Contemporary 21](#), August 2006

Crawford, Lynn, “The Mind’s Eye” Web link, <http://www.markszine.com>, March 2006

Rutter, Ben. Art Review; “It’s pronounced nu-cle-ar” [New York Art](#), September 2005

Roberts, Bryony Art Review; Art in the City “Why Don’t We Do It In the Road” [L Magazine New York](#), August 2005

Haddad, Natalie “Displaced,” Real Detroit Weekly, April, 2004

Pilgian, Ellen “Expats on show” Metro Times, April, 2004

“Review of Exchange at Forum Gallery” TheDetroit.com, Web Link: ["http://www.thedetroit.com/"](http://www.thedetroit.com/)

“Review of On the Wall at Tangent Gallery” Real Detroit Weekly, June 2003

Tysh, George “Wild at Heart” Metro Times, June 2003

## **SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA  
 Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas  
 Metropolitan Museum of Arts, New York, NY  
 Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA  
 Asian Museum of Arts, San Francisco  
 Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University  
 Asia Society Museum, New York, NY  
 DePaul University Art Museum, Chicago, IL

Morgan Library, New York  
Wayne State University Art Collection  
Grey Art Gallery, New York  
Black Gold Museum, Riaz, Saudi Arabia  
The Farjam Collection, Dubai  
TDIC Collection, Abu Dhabi  
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

### **ART RESIDENCY**

2003 Skowhegan Art Residency, Skowhegan, ME  
2018 Civitella Ranieri Residency, Italy

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2019 UC Davis Chancellor's Fellow  
2016 Anonymous Was a Woman Award  
The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant  
2009 Kresge Artist Fellowship, Kresge Foundation  
2008 Nominated for Altoid Award by The New Museum of Contemporary Art,  
New York, NY  
2004 First Prize, NYC 6th National Juried Exhibition, New York, NY  
First Prize, Biennial Art Competition, South Bend Regional Museum of  
Art, South Bend, IN  
2003 First prize, Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Art  
Center, Birmingham, MI  
2002/03 John & Irene Sowinski Scholarship  
Wayne State University, Graduate Professional Scholarship, Wayne State  
University  
2002 Second Prize, 2002 Michigan Drawing Biennial Exhibition, Ford Gallery,  
Ypsilanti, MI  
2001 Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship, the most prestigious  
Fellowship at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI