



سرزمین بدون نام

A Land with No Name

سارا معدن‌دار

Sara Madandar

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گالری بُستان

Bostan Art Gallery

خیابان مطهری - خیابان لارستان

نبش خیابان بیست و دو - پلاک ۷۱

No.71, Larestan St., Motahari Ave

گالری دوشنبه‌ها تعطیل است



## سرزمین بدون نام

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”تعیین حدّ و مرز برای این زمین - بدن [یا این تلقّی جدید از مفهوم وطن نزد ایرانیان] تنها به واسطه‌ی علم نوظهور جغرافیا و نقشه‌برداری‌ها و توصیفات پُرشمار از این سرزمین ممکن نشده بود؛ بلکه در نتیجه‌ی جنگ‌ها و زدوخوردهای مرزی در قرن نوزدهم میلادی با روسیه‌ی تزاری، امپراتوری عثمانی و انگلستان معاهداتی به امضای طرفین رسید که ماحصل آن چیزی نبود جز تعیین و ترسیم مرزهای ایران؛ همچنین، توأم با شکل‌گیری مرزهای جدید و در طّی همین برهه‌ی زمانی، تصوّری شکل گرفت که بنابر آن مرزهای وطن تشبیه می‌شد به خطوط اصلی بدنی زنانه: بدنی که بدان عشق بورزی و خود را وقف آن کنی، تصاحبش کنی و از گزند مصونش بداری، برایش بکشی و کشته شوی.

*-Afsaneh Najmabadi, Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards*

عمدتاً با الهام از فقره‌ی فوق از کتاب *زنان سبیل و مردان بی‌ریش* نوشته‌ی افسانه نجم‌آبادی بر آن شدم تا به کار بر روی این مجموعه از آثار مبادرت ورزم. زیرا با نظریه تجربه‌ی زیسته‌ام به عنوان یک مهاجرِ دور از وطن، خود را در میان فرهنگ‌ها، مکان‌های جغرافیایی، زبان‌ها و تاریخ‌های مختلفی یافته‌ام که برایم بیگانه‌اند. از منظر من، مهم‌ترین سویه‌ی مهاجر بودن این است که خانه و موطن خود را گم کنی. وطن من دیگر سرزمین زادگاهم نیست؛ سرزمینی که بدان مهاجرت کرده‌ام هم وطنم نیست؛ با این مکان جدید همان قدر بیگانه‌ام که با وطنم. وقتی به زادگاهم بازمی‌گردم، دیگر خود را یک سره متعلّق به آن نمی‌دانم. همان‌طور که در کشور محلّ اقامتم خلاء سرزمین مادری‌ام برایم عمیق‌تر از پیش شده، در زادگاهم نیز نمی‌توانم جای خالی فقدان خود را پُر کنم؛ توگویی هرچه بیش‌تر در این دو حفره فرو می‌روم.

زندگی من چیزی نبوده است جز رفت و برگشت میان فرهنگ‌ها. تلاش برای یافتن راه خود از خلال این فرهنگ‌ها مرا بر آن داشت که به تأمل درباره‌ی دلالت معنایی مکان بپردازم و سوالاتی را در ذهن بپرورانم نظیر این که معنای یک سرزمین چطور تعیین و تعریف می‌شود، مرزها چه معنایی دارند، و با عبور کردن از خلال مرزها چگونه تغییرشان می‌دهیم. اتفاقات و تغییرات ژئوپولتیک اخیر بر توانایی من در رفت و برگشت میان فرهنگ‌های مختلف تأثیری مستقیم داشته و انگیزه‌ای را در من برانگیخته است تا به این پرسش‌ها بیاندیشم. در کشاکش پرداختن به همین پرسش‌ها، سرزمینی را تخیّل کردم آزاد که نه هویتی دارد، نه نامی، نه مرزی و نه حتّی پرچمی. سرزمینی که در تخیّل خود می‌پرورانم شکل بدن زنی را به خود می‌گیرد، بدن خودم، سرزمین زادگاهم. در خیالم، خودم را تصوّر می‌کنم که می‌گویم: ”زادگاه من جسم من است، بدنم، سرزمینی بی‌نام“.

## A Land with No Name

Sara Madandar

*"The boundedness of this geobody [the new vatan] was not only produced by the new science of geography and the numerous mappings and descriptions of the land; it was not only delineated as a result of the nineteenth-century border wars with czarist Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and British India whose treaties defined the borders of Iran; it was also envisaged as the outlines of a female body: one to love and be devoted to, to possess and protect, to kill and die for."(page 98)*

*- Afsaneh Najmabadi, Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards*

Inspired by mostly the above quote from Najmabadi's book, I began to work on this collection. Because based on my lived experience as an immigrant, I found myself in between cultures, geographies, languages and histories alien to me. In my perspective, the most important aspect of being an immigrant is to miss one's home. My *vatan* (homeland) is not my homeland anymore, nor is it the land to which I immigrated; the new place is alien to me as much as my Vatan. Once I visit my home country, I don't find myself quite belonging to it anymore. I can't fill the gap of my absence there as in the new country the void of my motherland has even become deeper. I feel as if I were being drawn into two different voids.

My life has been one of major cultural transitions. Navigating through these cultures has caused me to reflect on the significance of space and ask questions such as how we define a land, what borders mean, how we change borders as migrating across them, Recent geopolitical incidents and changes have had a direct impact on my ability to move between cultures and have motivated me to consider these questions. From within the turmoil of these questions I started imagining a free land with no identity, one with no names, no borders, or even flags. The land I imagine takes the shape of a woman's body, my body, my homeland. I imagined myself saying "I come from my own body, it is *A Land with No Name*."

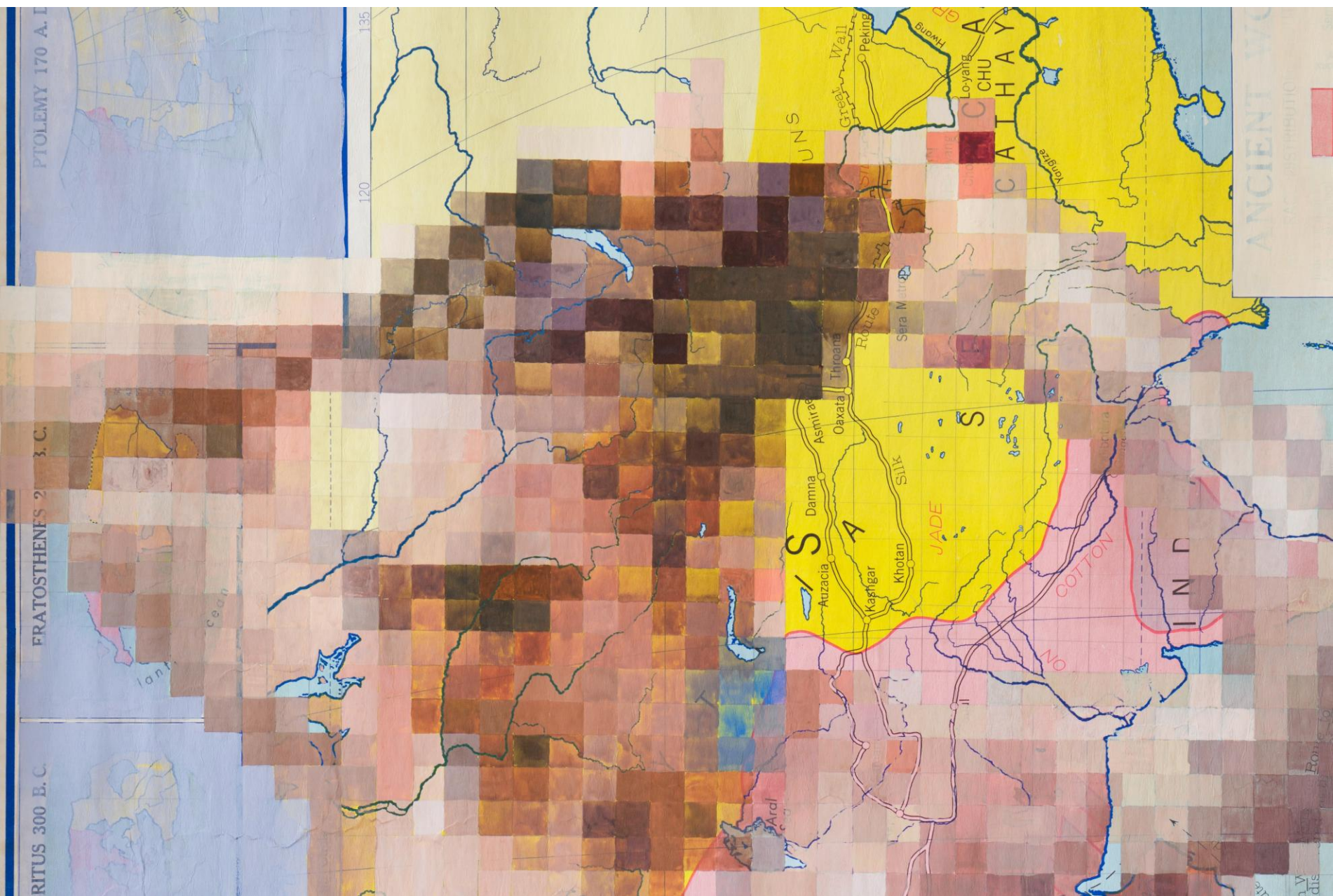
Effect is more physical. So impact is a better word-choice.





Ancient World, Guache on paper, 2025, 121 x 82 cm





Detail of Artwork





A Golgen Land, Leafing and guache on paper, 2025, 240 x 176.5 cm



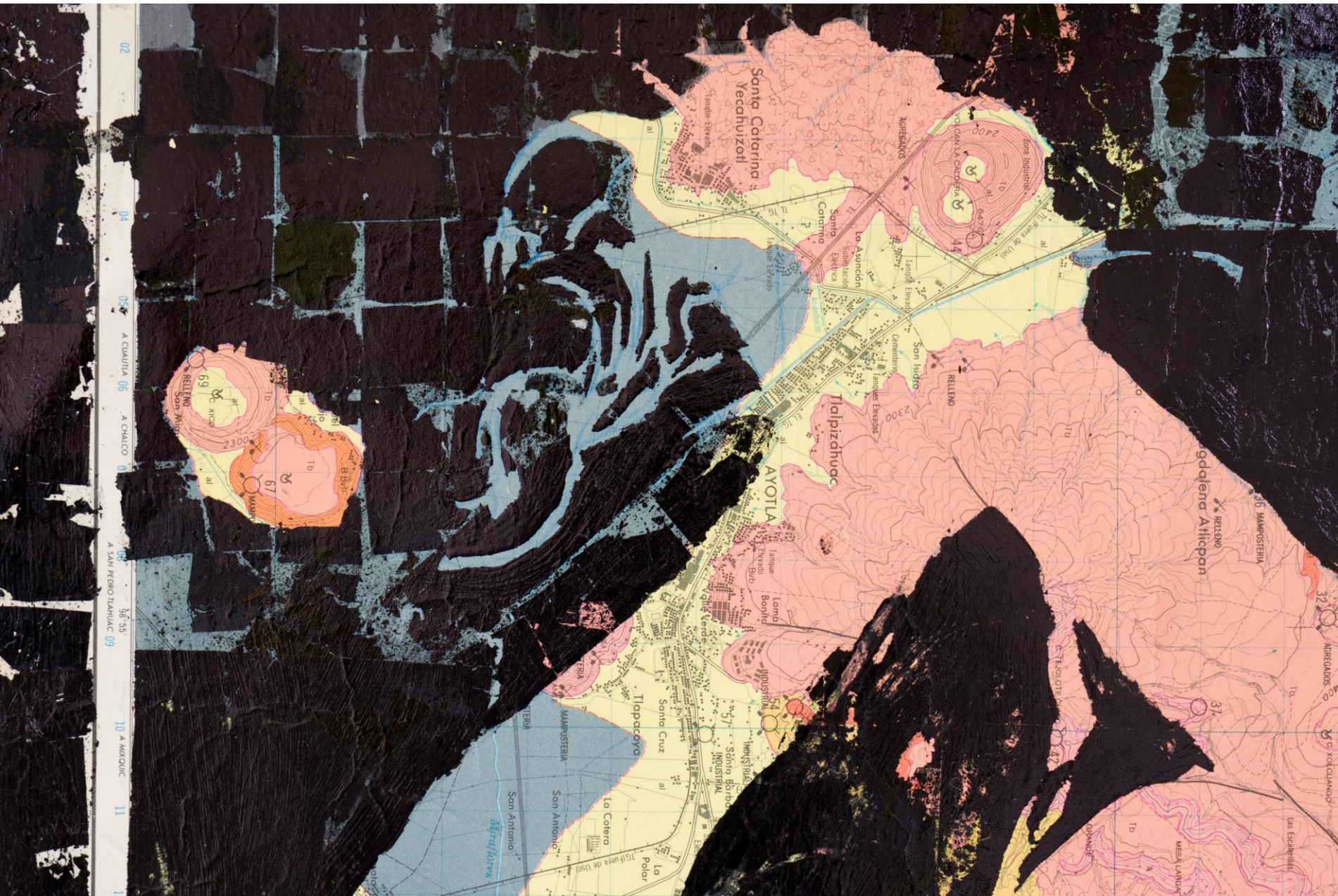


Detail of Artwork









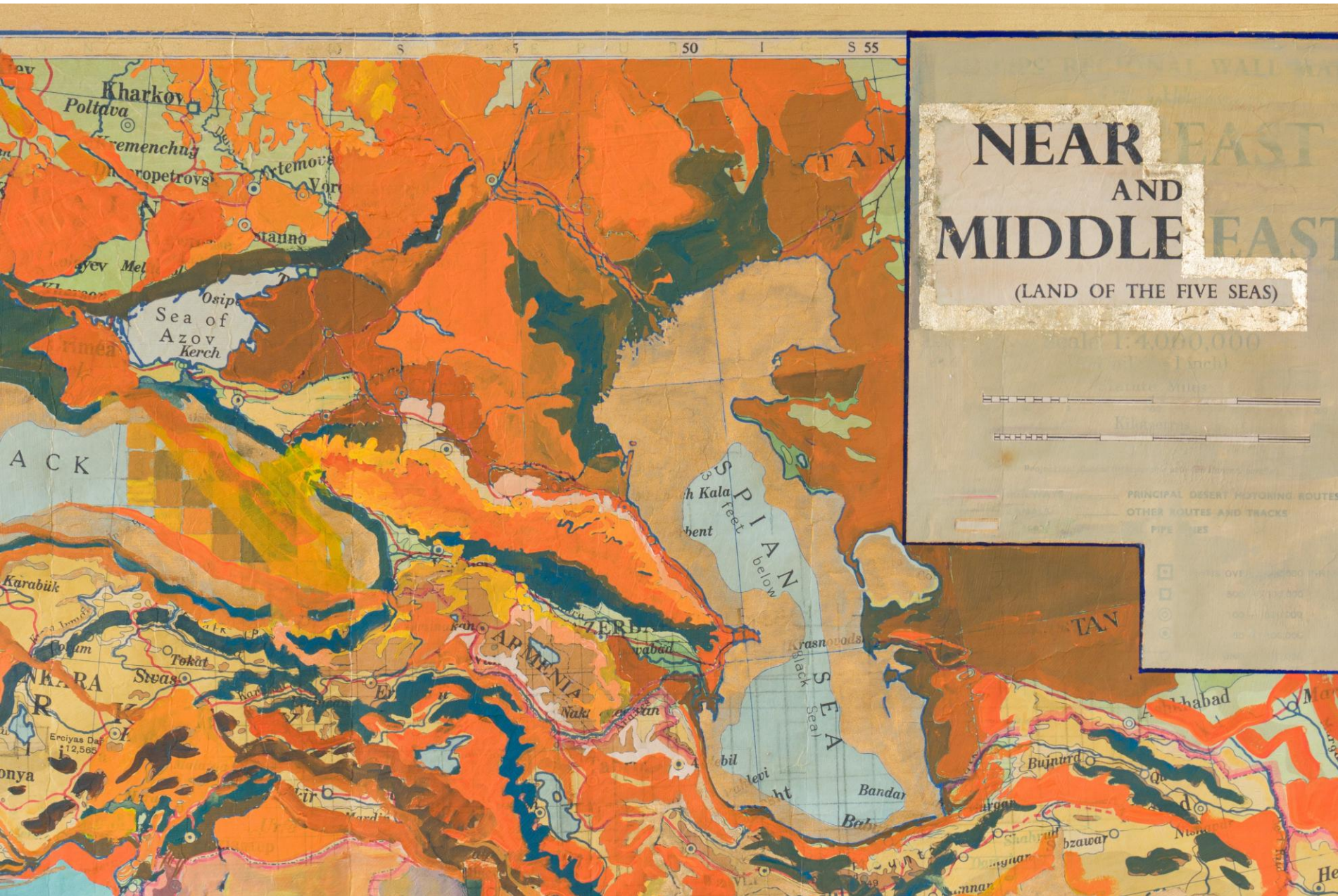
Detail of Artwork





Near And Middle, Guache and acrylic on paper, 2025, 126 x 104 cm





Detail of Artwork





*Alexander Empire*, Acrylic and guache on paper, 2025, 83 x 119.5 cm





Detail of Artwork





Land Muscle, Collage and acrylic on paper, 2025, 86.5 x 66 cm





Detail of Artwork





W Land, Spray on paper + textile, 2025, 85 x 91 cm





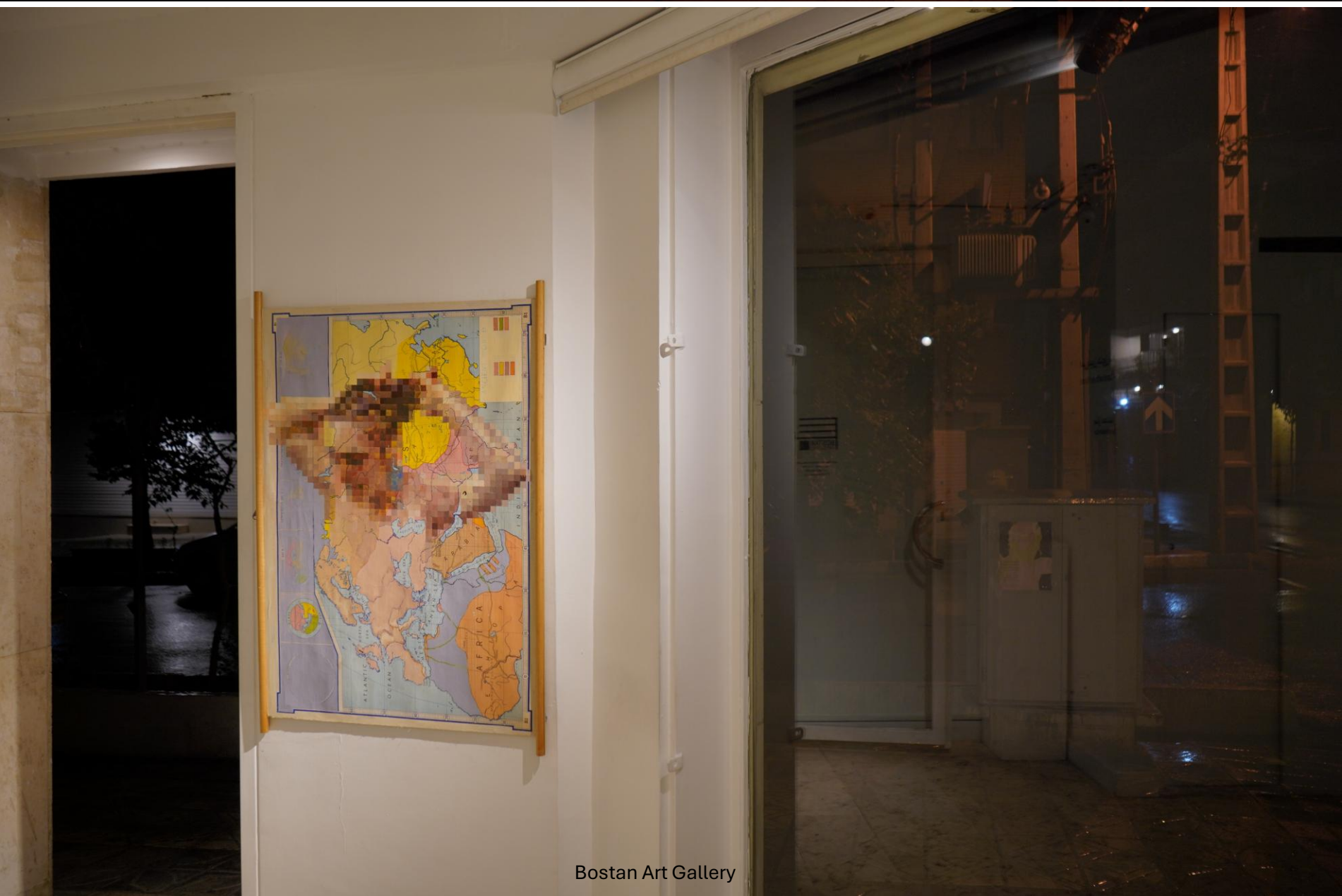


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A Land with No Name

سارا معدندار  
Sara Madandar











Artist at Studio



## BIOGRAPHY

Sara Madandar is an Iranian multi-disciplinary artist and educator based in New Orleans. She received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin and her BA in painting from Azad University of Art and Architecture in Tehran. Through a range of media such as painting, video, installation, and performance, Madandar explores migration and the human experience of living between cultures, using the aesthetics of language, architecture, clothing, and bodies to study the complexities of cross-cultural experiences. Most recently, she was in residency at Joan Mitchell Center and Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI). Sara is also a co-founder of the Parlour Gallery and Camp Street Studios, an artist-run space in the heart of New Orleans' downtown art district.

## EDUCATION

### 2014 | Master's in Fine Arts | The University of Texas at Austin

Studio Art specializing in painting, with a secondary focus on Performance and Video Art

### 2009 | Bachelor of Arts | Azad University of Tehran

Studio Art specializing in painting

## EXHIBITIONS & CREATIONS

### GALLERY /CURATION SHOWS

2025	"A Land with No Name" solo show	Bostan Gallery	Tehran, Iran
2025	"Refreshing America" group show	Contemporary Art Center	New Orleans, LA
2025	"24 Hours of Wonder" group show	Oklahoma State University's Gardiner Gallery	Stillwater, OK
2024	"The Birds Shall Return", curator	Art Conscious Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2024	"Through the Window" solo show	The Parlour Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2024	"Impact: Figurative Group Show" group show	Huracan Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2024	"Contemporary Chronicles" group show	Flavio Dolce Art Projects	New Orleans, LA
2023-2024	"Louisiana Contemporary" group show	Ogden Museum of Southern Art	New Orleans, LA
2023	"Faculty Exhibition" group show	New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts	New Orleans, LA
2023	"Peep Into" group show and open studios	Parlour Gallery at Camp Street Studios	New Orleans, LA
2023	"Shadow and Echoes" group show	Parlour gallery	New Orleans, LA
2023	"Anonymous Iran" group show	Culture Lab LIC	New York, NY
2023	"Let Us Believe in The Beginning of The Cold Season" solo show	New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts	New Orleans, LA
2022	"Artists Respond: Post-Roe Louisiana" group show	Tulane University Carroll Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2022	"My Body Is My Home" solo show	The Southeastern Louisiana University Contemporary Art gallery	Hammond, LA
2022	"24 HOURS OF WONDER" group show	Eisenwunderwelt gallery	Berlin, Germany
2022	"Body Politics: Celebrating Ardeshtir Mohasses' legacy in art and politics", curator	SPILLMAN   BLACKWELL Fine Art	New Orleans, LA
2022	"Summer Reading" The Front member show	Carroll gallery	New Orleans, LA
2022	"I Know a Place" group show	Antenna gallery	New Orleans, LA
2022	"The Window" solo show	The Front	New Orleans, LA



2022	"The Window" solo show	The Front	New Orleans, LA
2021	"Let Us Believe In..." solo show	The Front	New Orleans, LA
2021	"Imbolc" group show	The Front	New Orleans, LA
2021	"When People Decide to End Themselves" virtual group show	Project13 Exhibition	Online
2020	"Emotional Numbness: The impact of war on the human psyche and ecosystems" group show	Platform Gallery	Tehran, Iran
2020-2021	"14th Annual Louisiana Fine Art Showcase" group show	Southeastern Louisiana University Contemporary Art Gallery	Hammond, LA
2020	"Form, Line, Shape and Space" Juried National Drawing Exhibition	Todd Art Gallery (MTSU)	Murfreesboro, TN
2019	"A Land with no Name" solo show	Co-Lab Project Gallery	Austin, TX
2019	"Pink Dreams in A Land with no Name" solo show	Elga Wimmer Gallery	New York, NY
2019	"And Another Thing..." group show	Barrister's Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2019	"In Memory of Aziz" solo show	Aquarium Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2018-2019	"Ear to the Ground" group show	New Orleans Museum of Art	New Orleans, LA
2018	"Peace" group show	New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts	New Orleans, LA
2018-2019	"The Dwelling" Public art project, 3D installation	20th Annual Art on the Streets	Colorado Springs, CO
2018	"My Body Is My Home" solo show	ArtEgg Studios	New Orleans, LA
2018	"B4 Peace" group show	The New Orleans Arts Center	New Orleans, LA
2017	"Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series" group show	LeMieux Galleries	New Orleans, LA
2017	"6th Annual Juried International Exhibition of Contemporary Islamic Art" group show	Irving Arts Center	Irving, TX
2017	"Selfies & Self-Portraits: 21st C Artists See Themselves" group show	Viridian Artists Inc	New York, NY
2017	"Ephemera Obscura" group show	Contemporary Art Center	New Orleans, LA
2017	"Eleventh Annual Louisiana Fine Art Showcase" group show	Southeastern Louisiana University Contemporary Art Gallery	Hammond, LA
2017	"Beyond the Canvas" co-curator	Newcomb Art Museum	New Orleans, LA
2017	"2017 Austin West Studio Tour" open studio exhibition	Public Studios	Austin, TX
2017	"The Dwelling" public 3D installation	Elizabeth Ney Museum	Austin, TX
2017	"HOUSE of Wahala: Art Auction"— Women & Their Works	Fusebox Festival	Austin, TX
2017	"32nd Positive/Negative" group show	Tipton Gallery	Johnson City, TN
2017	"Luck of the Draw" group show	Foundry Art Center	St. Charles, MO
2016	Texas Visual Arts Association National Exhibition	Mesquite Arts Center	Mesquite, TX
2016	"Naissance: Birth, Creation, New Beginning" group show	701 Gallery	Austin, TX
2016	"2016 West Austin Studio Tour" open studio exhibition	Open Studios	Austin, TX
2016	"Another Birth" solo show	Courtyard Gallery	Austin, TX
2016-2017	"People's Gallery 2016 Exhibition" group show	Austin City Hall	Austin, TX
2016	"Let Us Believe in the Beginning of the Cold Season" solo show	Asian American Resource Center	Austin, TX
2015	SECAC Members' Exhibition	Future Tenant Gallery	Pittsburgh, PA
2015	"Let Us Believe in the Beginning of the Cold Season" solo show	The Mom Gallery	Austin, TX
2014	"Conspectus: Two Thousand Fourteen" group show	Co-Lab Projects	Austin, TX
2014	"Pool" graduate thesis show	Visual Arts Center	Austin, TX
2014	"In Between" solo show	Co-Lab Projects	Austin, TX
2013	"Inter Connections" group show	WoCA Projects	Fort Worth, TX
2013	"SOMETHING" open studio exhibition	University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2013	"Something Lost" group show	Ruth Taylor Recital Hall	San Antonio, TX
2013	"Something Lost" group show	The Nelsen Partners Gallery	Austin, TX
2012	"Absence" open studio exhibition	The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2010	"The Same Pain" group show	Azadi Tower Gallery	Tehran, Iran



2009	"Self-Portrait" solo show	Banafsheh Gallery	Tehran, Iran
2008	"Student exhibition" group show	Architecture & Art Department at Azad University	Tehran, Iran

## PERFORMANCE ART

2024	"Through the Window" participatory performance	The Parlour Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2022	"My Body Is My Home" participatory performance	The Southeastern Louisiana University Contemporary Art gallery	Hammond, LA
2018	"My Body Is My Home" participatory performance	Santa Fe Art Institute	Santa Fe, NM
2018	"My Body Is My Home" participatory performance	ArtEgg Studios	New Orleans, LA
2014	"Being/With Others" stage performance	Lan Theater	Austin, TX
2013	"Behind the Black Veil" street performance	The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2013	Performer in "Beauty" by Wura-Natasha Ogunji	The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2012	"The Void" public participatory performance	The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX

## VIDEO ART

2023	"Peep Into" group show	Parlour gallery & Camp Street Studios	New Orleans, LA
2022	"Obscene Bodies" video installation	The Southeastern Louisiana University Contemporary Art Gallery	Hammond, LA
2022	"In Memory of Aziz" at The Front gallery	The Front Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2019	"In Memory of Aziz" at Aquarium gallery	Aquarium Gallery	New Orleans, LA
2017	"My Body is My Home" video installation	Brooklyn Studio for Dance	Brooklyn, NY
2016	"The Sidewalk" video installation	Asian American Resource Center	Austin, TX
2015	"30 Seconds" 2-channel video	The Mom Gallery	Austin, TX
2014	"The Prayer" video installation	Co-Lab Projects	Austin, TX
2014	"Obscene Bodies" video installation	Visual Arts Center	Austin, TX
2013	"The Sidewalk" video installation	Co-Lab Projects	Austin, TX
2013	"Counting the Moments" video installation	Fine Arts Department, University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

2023	Grant	New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund (NOTCF)	New Orleans, LA
2022	Fellowship	Workshop Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought and the Amistad Research Center	New Orleans, LA
2022	Grant	Puffin Foundation	Teaneck, NJ
2022	Grant	Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation, funding for Ardeshir Mohassess Trust exhibition	New Orleans, LA
2022	Grant	Farhang Foundation, funding for Ardeshir Mohassess Trust exhibition	New Orleans, LA
2022	Residency	Santa Fe Art Institute, "Revolution" residency	Santa Fe, NM
2021-2023	Fellowship	Membership in the <i>The Front</i> art collective	New Orleans, LA
2021-2022	Residency	Residency at the Joan Mitchell Center	New Orleans, LA
2021	Grant	Persian Heritage Foundation, funding for Ardeshir Mohassess Trust exhibition	New Orleans, LA
2017	Grant	Cultures Alive	Austin, TX
2017-2018	Residency	Santa Fe Art Institute "Equal Justice"	Santa Fe, NM
2016	Award	Texas Visual Arts Association National Exhibition Award - Second Prize winner (curated by Andrea Karnes of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth)	Dallas, TX
2015	Award	SECAC Member Show award - Second Prize winner (curated by Jessica Beck of the Andy Warhol Museum)	Pittsburgh, PA
2013	Fellowship	Quaid-E-Azam Scholarship at the University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2013	Residency	Vermont Studio Center	Johnson, VT
2012-2014	Fellowship	Marshal F. Wells Endowment	Austin, TX



## SELECTED CONFERENCE & ARTIST TALKS

2025	Artist talk at The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2025	Artist talk at Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA
2023	"Aliens", Society for Science, Literature and Art Annual Conference	Phoenix, AZ
2023	"Let Us Believe in The Beginning of The Cold Season", artist talk at New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts	New Orleans, LA
2022	Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University	Grand Rapids, MI
2022	The Southeastern Louisiana University	Hammond, LA
2022	Chandler-Gilbert Community College	Chandler, AZ
2021	California Institute of the Arts	Valencia, CA
2021	SECAC Annual Conference	Lexington, KY
2021	The Core Lecture Series	Austin, TX
2020	"Let Us Believe In..." artist talk at Photo Nola Festival	New Orleans, LA
2020	Visit/lecture at the University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
2020	Visit/lecture at Columbus State University	Columbus, GA
2019	Artist talk at New Orleans Museum of Art	New Orleans, LA
2018	Artist talk at Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA
2018	"Out of Mind" at the 32nd Annual Conference of Society for Science, Literature and Art,	Toronto, Canada
2018	"My Body Is My Home" ArtEgg Studio's Lecture Series	New Orleans, LA
2018	"Femininity and Creativity" 10th Annual Peace Conference at Loyola University	New Orleans, LA
2017	"Space, Time, and Body in Modern and Contemporary Art" Society for Science, Literature and Art Annual Conference	Phoenix, AZ

## SELECTED PRESS

Aug 19, 2022	<a href="#">Sara Madandar: Living In Between</a>	Creative Community League
Jan 20, 2022	<a href="#">To glance through her curtains: Sara Madandar's "The Window" at The Front, New Orleans</a>	Burnaway magazine
Mar 1, 2021	<a href="#">Checking In</a>	Caravan Blog
Dec 10, 2020	<a href="#">SARA MADANDAR: LET US BELIEVE IN...</a>	Photo Nola
Sep 19, 2019	<a href="#">Don't Miss Pink Dreams in A Land With No Name By Shahram Karimi And Sara Madandar</a>	Bazaar Magazine
Sep 18, 2019	<a href="#">In the Land of Pink Dreams</a>	Culture Catch
Sep 19, 2019	<a href="#">Pink Dreams In A Land With No Name By Shahram Karimi And Sara Madandar</a>	Artscope Magazine
Jan 15, 2019	<a href="#">Ear to the Ground: Earth and Element in Contemporary Art at New Orleans Museum of Art</a>	Arts Summary Journal
Jun 24, 2016	<a href="#">"Sara Madandar: AnOther Birth" at Courtyard Gallery</a>	Austin Chronicle
Feb 22, 2014	<a href="#">Prayer Rug: A Conversation with Sara Madandar, interview</a>	NewFound Magazine





[www.bostanartgallery.com](http://www.bostanartgallery.com)