

# CARBON.12

## SARA RAHBAR

Sara Rahbar pursued an interdisciplinary study program in New York and also studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art and design in London

She left her birthplace during the period of immense upheaval that followed the revolution in Iran and the start of the Iran-Iraq war. While her works had initially explored deeper concepts of nationalism and belonging, her overall artistic practise stems from her personal experience and is largely autobiographical - driven by central ideas of pain, violence and the complexity of the human condition.

Rahbar's work employs various mediums - ranging from photography, sculpture and installation. Compelled by an instinctual obsession to piece together and dissect, her approach is reflective of her need to deconstruct these emotions and apocalyptic memories that have molded her into the artist and activist she is today.

There is a juxtaposition between the iconographic elements that are ever-present in her work, and the materials that she actively collects. It narrates a dialogue that directly ties to the objects and symbols in which we place faith. Her many compositions form and act as a tangible, physical cacophony of the relationship between individual and society by drawing upon Rahbar's history and her indignation at the absurdity of organized religion, deception of political regulations, inhumane cruelty towards mankind and animals.

Rahbar has exhibited widely in art institutions including but not limited to Queensland Museum, Sharjah Art foundation, Venice Biennial, The Centre Pompidou and Mannheimer Kunstverein, and her works are included in the permanent collections of the British Museum, The Centre Pompidou, Queensland Art Gallery, The Davis Museum at Wellesley College, and the Sharjah Art Foundation amongst others.

Born in 1976 in Tehran, Iran  
Lives and works in New York, USA

### Education

2004-2005 Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London  
1996-2000 The Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

### Solo Exhibitions (selected)

- 2020 The space between us, Carbon 12, Dubai
- 2019 NADA House, Governor's Island, New York
- 2018 "Carry me home", Dallas Contemporary, Texas
- 2017 "Salvation", Carbon 12, Dubai
- 2014 "Swarming", Carbon 12, Dubai
- 2012 "Restless Violence", Carbon 12, Dubai
- 2011 "I Have No Faith Left For The Devil To Take", Hilger Contemporary, Vienna
- 2010 "Whatever We Had To Lose We Lost, And In A Moonless Sky We Marched", Carbon 12, Dubai

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2009 "Contradicting Realities: Recent Works By Sara Rahbar", Tyler Art Gallery, Suny Oswego, New York

## Group Exhibitions (selected)

2021 À Bout de Souffle, Carbon 12, Dubai

2020 I want to feel alive again, Lyles and King, New York  
Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond, Tang Teaching Museum, New York

2019 "Perilous Bodies", The Ford Foundation, New York  
"Burke Prize", Museum of art and Design, New York  
"Fragile Frontiers", Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Azerbaijan  
"Oh say can you see?", Fraction Art Projects, New York  
Gazelli Art House Baku, Azerbaijan

2018 "Surface/Depth - The Decorative After Miriam Schapiro", MAD - Museum of Arts and Design, New York  
"ART NOT JAIL 2018", 107 Norfolk Street, New York  
"Motherland in Art", Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland  
"2050. A Brief History of the Future", National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung  
"Letters - Curated by ATHR", Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi  
"Loud silence: Expressions of Activism", Sordoni Art Gallery, USA  
"#WETOO", Salsali Private Musuem, Dubai

2017 "Alles oder Immer", Schau Fenster (Raum für Kunst), Berlin  
"Colgate Alumni Collect", Colgate University, Hamilton  
"Beautiful Stranger", De Wieger Museum, Deurne  
"Versus Rodin", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

2016 "The Davis. ReDiscovered", Davis Museum at Wellesley College, USA  
"A History: Contemporary Art from the Centre Pompidou", Haus der Kunst, Munich  
"Breve storia del future", Palazzo Reale, Milan

2015 "The Great Game", The National Pavilion Of Iran, Venice Biennale  
"I Lost An Arm On My Last Trip Home", Ryan Lee Gallery, New York  
"2050: A Brief History Of The Future", Royal Museums Of Fine Arts Of Belgium, Brussels

2014 "The Shade Of The Moon", Changwon Sculpture Biennial, South Korea  
"A History, Art, Architecture, Design From The 80's To Now", Musee National D'art Moderne, Paris  
SAF: Sharjah Art Foundation Art Spaces, Sharjah

2013 Bischoff/Weiss, London  
11th Sharjah Biennale, UAE  
"Cut Teeth", The Great Jones Space, New York  
"Tales Of Another Identity", Larm Galleri, Copenhagen  
"Global Warming", Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim

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- 2012 "Come Invest In Us You'll Strike Gold", Hilger Brot Kunsthalle, Vienna  
The 7th Asia Pacific Triennial Of Contemporary Art, Gallery Of Modern Art & Queensland Art Gallery, Australia  
"Forward", Q Contemporary, Beirut  
"Sex, Dui's And Videotape Ii", Brot-Kunsthalle, Vienna  
"Life Is Too Short", Salsali Private Museum, Dubai  
"Der Arge Weg Der Erkenntnis", Gloria, Berlin  
"Nose Bleed", Fuse Gallery, New York  
"Sex, Dui's And Videotape", New York  
"The Elephant In The Dark", The Devi Art Foundation, India
- 2011 "Show Off", Salsali Private Museum, Dubai  
"It Aint Fair: Materialism", Oh Wow, Miami  
"Activating Medi(T)ation, Examining Asian Cultural Perspectives In The M-Shaped Age",  
National Taiwan Museum Of Fine Arts, Taiwan  
"Freedom To Create", National Gallery Of Bosnia And Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia  
"The Istanbul Summer Exhibition", Sanat Limani-Antrepo 5, Istanbul  
"Westend, Museum On The Seam", Jerusalem  
"Art As Witness", New Delhi, Siddhartha Hall, Goethe-Institute/ Max Muller  
"Freedom To Create", Ana Tzarev Gallery, New York  
"Freedom To Create", Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2010 "The Freedom To Create", Cairo Opera House, Egypt  
"The Silk Road", Lille3000, Tri Postal, France  
"The State", Traffic Gallery, Dubai  
"The Unbearable Lightness Of Being", Carbon 12, Dubai  
"Die Obscure Objects Of My Desire", Hilger Contemporary, Vienna  
"Hope", At The Palais Des Arts Et Du Festival Dinard, France  
"Iran Inside Out", The Farjam Collection, Dubai  
"Elles@Centrepompidou, The Center Pompidou", Paris  
"Never Run Away", Stux Gallery, New York  
"The Promise Of Loss, A Contemporary Index Of Iran", Arario Gallery New York  
"Eye Of The Beholder", Nassau County Museum Of Fine Art, New York
- 2009 "The Edible Woman, Kravets /Wehby Gallery, New York  
"The Promise Of Loss, A Contemporary Index Of Iran", Brot-Kunsthalle, Vienna  
"Iran Inside Out: Influences Of Homeland And Disaporic Realities", Depaul University Museum, Chicago  
"The Seen And The Hidden: (Dis)Covering The Veil", The Austrian Cultural Forum , New York  
"Iran Inside Out: Influences Of Homeland And Disaporic Realities", Chelsea Art Museum, New York  
"Collective De 5 Artistes Iranians", Galerie Hussenot, Paris  
"Sara Rahbar-Love Arrived And How Red", Hilger Contemporary, Vienna  
"Unveiled: New Art From The Middle East", The Saatchi Gallery, London  
"Artist In Exile", Arario Gallery, New York  
"Indian Popular Culture, And Beyond: The Untold (The Rise Of) Schisms", Sala Alcalá 31 Madrid, Spain

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- 2008
- "What Was The Word I Want", Galerie Hussenot, Paris
  - "Look What Love Did To Us Once Again", Cramer Contemporary, Geneva
  - "In Transition Russia", National Centre Of Contemporary Art, Moscow
  - "In Transition Russia", Museum Of Fine Arts, Ekaterinburg
  - "Everywhere Is War (And Rumors Of War) Bodhi Art", Mumbai, India
  - "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever", Hilger Contemporary, Vienna
  - "Emerging Discourse: Multiple And Overlapping Contemplations From The Diaspora", Bodhi Art, New York
  - "Raid Projects", Los Angeles
  - "This Case Of Conscience - Spiritual Flushing And The Remonstrance", Queens Museum Of Art, New York
  - "Regional Delicacies", Xva Gallery, Bastakiya, Dubai
  - "Persian Arts Festival: Weaving The Common Thread", Queens Museum Of Art, New York
- 2007
- "Continuity And Change: Islamic Tradition In Contemporary Art", The Williamsburg Art And Historical Center, New York
  - "Hyphenation Exhibition", University Of Maryland, Union Gallery, Maryland
  - "Iranian Literary Arts Festival", Theater Artaud, San Francisco
  - "Inclusion Exclusion", Bronco Exhibit Gallery California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Los Angeles
  - "Celluloid", Gallery One, San Francisco
  - "Emergency Room", Moma Ps1, New York
  - "Emergence", Current Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland
  - "Beyond Persia", Gallery One, San Francisco
  - "Changing Climate, Changing Colors", Henry Street Settlement, New York
- 2006
- "Everything, All At Once", Qma Biennial, Queens Museum Of Art, New York
  - "Nobody's Enemy", Queens Museum Of Art, New York
  - The Shelter Rock Art Gallery, New York
  - "See Williamsburg", Lunar Base Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

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## Collections

Centre Pompidou - Musée National D'Art Moderne, Paris The Saatchi Collection, UK  
Burger Collection, Hong Kong  
The Devi Art Foundation, India  
Collection Nadour, Rüdiger K Weng, Krefeld, Paris  
SPM: Salsali Private Museum, UAE  
National Taiwan Museum Of Fine Arts, Taiwan  
The Farook Collection, UAE  
The Farjam Collection, UAE  
QAGOMA: Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery Of Modern Art, Australia  
Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE  
British Museum, UK  
Davis Museum At Wellesley College, USA

## Awards / Grants

2018 Grant, Dean Collection 20 St(art)ups

## Publications

Unravelling Women's Art: Creators, Rebels, & Innovators in Textile, by P.L. Henderson, Publisher: Aurora Metro Books, 2021  
Textiles of the Middle East and Central Asia The Fabric of Life, By Fahmida Suleman, Publisher: Thames and Hudson, 2017  
2050 A brief history of the future, Publisher: Snoeck-RMFAB, 2015  
The Great Game - Arts, artists and culture from the heart of the world, Publisher: Silvana Editorial, 2015  
War Imagery in Women's Textiles - An international study of weaving, knitting, sewing, quilting, rug making and other fabric arts, Publisher: Deborah A. Deacon and Paula E. Calvin, 2014  
RE:EMERGE – Towards a new cultural cartography, Publisher: Sharjah Biennial 11, 2013  
Contemporary Iranian Art – New Perspectives, Publisher: Hamid Keshmirshakan, 2013  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Publisher: Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, 2012  
Tehran Art - A Popular Revolution, Publisher: Contemporary Art Publications, 2012  
Restless Violence, Publisher: Carbon 12, 2012  
Meditation, 2011 Asian Art Biennial, Published: National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, 2011  
Westend, Publisher: Museum on the Seam, 2011  
Despite moments of clarity, there is no 'ism' in the book, 100 new artists, Francesca Gavin, Publisher: Laurence King, 2011  
Sara Rahbar, I have no faith left for the devil to take, Publisher: ArtAsiaPacific, 2011  
Art As Witness, edited by Parthiv Shah Sana Das, Publisher: Tulika Books, 2010  
Whatever we had to lose we lost, and in a moonless sky we marched, Publisher: Carbon 12, 2010  
Hope! Une Exposition D'Art Contemporain Sur L'Espoir, Publisher: Skira Flammarion, 2010  
The Promise Of Loss, A Contemporary Index Of Iran, Publisher: Oip/Eikon, 2009  
Contemporary Art In Middle East, Publisher: Black Dog Publishing, 2009  
Unveiled, New Art from the Middle East, Publisher: Saatchi Gallery, London, 2009  
Different Sames, New Perspectives on Contemporary Iranian Art, Publisher: Thames & Hudson, 2009