



www.ramakbamzar.com  
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Ramak Bamzar (born. 1980) is an Iranian-born visual artist and fine art photographer based in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia. Her work explores how cultural and religious norms can shape women's beliefs, values, and behaviours, and can influence their sense of self-worth and agency.

In her works, Bamzar also investigates the influence of the male gaze on women's beauty and fashion and its consequences on women's self-esteem and self-image. Women who do not conform to these restrictive standards of beauty may feel pressured to conform, which can lead to feelings of inadequacy, shame, and low self-esteem.

Bamzar completed a bachelor's degree in Fine Art– Photography in Tehran and her Master of Fine Arts from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in 2022.

Drawing on her background in painting and documentary photography, Bamzar's work is grounded in a commitment to truth and authenticity. Through a combination of fine art and staged photography, she examines the social and cultural pressures that shape our lives and the ways in which we navigate difficult circumstances.

Bamzar's practice is driven by a desire to foster understanding, empathy, and dialogue. She sees her art as a means of connecting with others and inspiring them to see the world in new and more compassionate ways.

Whether exploring the struggles faced by women or the broader human condition, Bamzar's work is characterised by a deep sensitivity to the complexities of the world around us. Through her art, she seeks to illuminate the beauty and resilience of the human spirit and to inspire others to embrace their own unique perspectives and experiences.



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## Education

- 2022 Master of Fine Arts – *The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University* – Australia.
- 2003 Bachelor of Fine Art (Photography) – *Azad University of Art and Architecture* – Tehran, Iran.

## Exhibitions

- 2023 *Anonymously از Iran* – Culture Lab LIC. New York, USA.
- 2022 *Blood and Pomegranate* – Sol Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2023 *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – Seventh Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2023 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – DEBUT XIX, Blindside Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2022 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – Head On Photo Festival. Sydney, Australia.
- 2022 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – Graduation show, RMIT University. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2022 *Woman, Life, Freedom* – Black Cat Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2022 *The Ties That Bind*– Ladder Art Space. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2022 *Leila*, Monash Gallery of Art. Melbourne, Australia.



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- 2022 Brightspace Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2021 *Life in Lockdown Monash*, gallery of Art, online. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2019 *About Women* – Kapi Art Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2019 *The John Dudley Portrait Prize* – Cardinia Cultural Centre. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2019 *Alchemy*, Dandenong Ranges Open Studio. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2017 *Iranian Wedding* – Windowspace. Beeac, Australia (Solo).
- 2016 *In Pain* – Off the Kerb Gallery. Melbourne, Australia (Solo).
- 2015 *Iranian Wedding* – Head On International Photo Festival. Sydney Town Hall. (Solo).
- 2015 IPF Photo Prize – The Good Copy. Melbourne, Australia.
- 2004 *Living Death Series*. Dresden, Germany.
- 2003 Fajr International Theatre Festival (students). Tehran, Iran.

## **Selected awards and achievements**

- 2023 Winner of the *Art Edit Self-Represented Artist prize*, Art Edit Magazine.
- 2022 Finalist – *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize*.
- 2022 Finalist – *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*.
- 2022 Highly commended– *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*.
- 2022 Semi-finalist – *Head On International Photo Festival*.
- 2022 Featured artist – *Head On International Photo Festival*.



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- 2022          Featured artist – *The Guardian. Head On photo festival 2022: from camel woes to sperm smugglers – in pictures.*
- 2019          Honourable Mention – *TOKYO International Foto awards.*
- 2019          Finalist – *John Dudley Portrait Prize. Melbourne.*
- 2018          Featured image – '*Iranian Wedding*', *Dutch public broadcasting VPRO.*
- 2015          Featured artist – *Head On Photo Festival. Sydney.*
- 2015          Finalist – *IPF Photo Prize. Melbourne, Australia.*
- 2016          Featured artist – *Art People Gallery. USA.*
- 2016          Featured artist – *SEE ME.*
- 2016          Featured artist – *Dodho Magazine. Barcelona, Italy.*
- 2015          Featured Photographer – *Whim magazine. Australia.*
- 2015          Featured Artist – *Photojournalism now.*
- 2015          Featured Photographer – *Alt Life magazine. Australia.*
- 2003          Third place winner – *Fajr International Theatre Festival. Tehran, Iran.*

## **Bibliography**

- 2022          Interview by *Jasmin Penman*, '*Voices of Resistance: Iranian artists using art to amplify calls for freedom*' – *ARTS hub, Australia.*
- 2022          Article by *Erin Irwin*, '*I AM WOMAN*' – *Art Edit Magazine. No. 35.*



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- 2022 Article 'Women Looking at Women: photographers you should know'. Head On Foundation. Sydney.
- 2022 Article by *De blik van Blancquaert* (in Dutch). De Morgen newspaper, Belgium.
- 2022 Article by *Celina Lei* 'More than a singular image: Womanhood through the work of four photographers.' *ARTS hub*.
- 2021 Article by *Peyman Jamali*, 'A good starting point', SBS Australia.
- 2021 Interview by *Peyman Jamali* (in Persian), 'Confronting a religion that has become a patriarchal culture'. SBS Persian.
- 2022 Interview by *Jahan Rezakhanlou*, 'Woman, Life, Freedom', 3CR Radio. Melbourne.
- 2019 Interview by *Adriana Alvarez*, Hillscene magazine – No. 34.
- 2017 Article by *Anna Sande* – 'Iranian wedding, Extreme Theatre'.
- 2016 Interview – 'Storytelling; Things that are Important.' Barcelona, Italy.
- 2016 Article 'I Was Taught to Be Ashamed of My Sexuality' – Edge of Humanity Magazine.
- 2015 Interview by *Tanysha Jane* – EZRA magazine, Australia.
- 2015 Article by *John McDonald* – The Sydney Morning Herald.

## **Other Professional Activities**

- 2022 Panelist: *Stories that Stir: Self-Reflection*. Head On Photo Festival.



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Sydney, Australia.

2022 Panelist: Narratives of womanhood. Head On Photo Festival. Sydney, Australia.

2021 Panelist: *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women.*

BRIGHTSPACER Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.

2020 Host – *The Persian and the Poet* Podcast, collaborating with Cameron Semmens.

2020 Poetry translator (English to Persian) – poems by contemporary Australian poet Cameron Semmens.

2019 Panellist – *Being an Artist is a Job*, Victorian Certificate of Education, Melbourne, Australia.

2015 Panellist – *Imagining Iran: contemporary Iranian image-makers*, Australian Centre for Photography.