

Artist Statement

Ramak Bamzar (She/Her), (born. 1980) is an Iranian-Australian visual artist and fine art photographer. By emphasising the elements and details of photography, she explores the power and impact of belief, culture and history on the formation of individual identity in women and their self-esteem in the contemporary culture of the Middle East. Since 2015, she has worked as a photographer, independent artist, creative director and mentor in the field of documentary, portrait, still life and fashion photography in Iran and Australia. Her works are kept in private collections globally.

Education

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

Exhibitions

- 2023 *Anonymously ʃIran* – 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* – Blindsight Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
2022 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – Head On Photo Festival. Sydney.
2022 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – 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.
2022 BRIGHTSPACER – 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, Beac, Australia.
2016 *In Pain* – Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
2015 *Iranian Wedding* – Head On international Photo Festival – Sydney Town Hall.
2015 IPF Photo Prize – The Good Copy, Melbourne, Australia.
2004 *Living Death* – Dresden, Germany.
2003 Fajr International Theatre Festival – Tehran, Iran.

Employment

- 2018 – now Independent Artist. *Ramak Bamzar Photography*. Melbourne, Australia.
2022 Internship – *RMIT art collections*, Melbourne, Australia.
2021 Graphic designer – *Wattle & Willow Books*, Melbourne, Australia.
2015 Fashion Photographer and Modeling Instructor – *PRI Models*, Melbourne, Australia.
2008 Photojournalist, *Ekbatan Newspaper*, Tehran, Iran.
2007 Creative Director – *Ramak Studio*, 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*.
2019 Honourable Mention – *TOKYO international Foto awards*.
2019 Finalist – *John Dudley Portrait prize*.
2018 Featured image – *Iranian Wedding, Dutch public broadcasting VPRO*.
2015 Featured artist – *Head On Photo Festival*.
2015 Finalist – *IPF Photo Prize*.
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 Winner – *Fajr International Theatre Festival, Tehran, Iran*.

Bibliography

- 2023 Lieve Blancquaert, *DeMorgen* newspaper, Belgium.
2022 Interview, *A good starting point*, SBS Australia.
2022 Interview, *3CR Radio*.
2022 *The Guardian*, Australia.
2017 Anna Sande – *Iranian wedding, Extreme Theatre*.
2016 *I Was Taught to Be Ashamed of My Sexuality* – Edge of Humanity Magazine.
2016 Self-portraits – *Art People Gallery, USA*.
2015 *EZRA magazine*, Australia.
2015 John McDonald – *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Other Professional Activities

- 2022 *More than a singular image: Womanhood through the work of four photographers*.
2022 Panelist: *Stories that Stir: Self-Reflection*.
2022 Panelist: *Narratives of womanhood*.
2022 Panelist: *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*.
2020 Host – *The Persian and the Poet* Podcast, collaborating with Cameron Semmens.
2020 Poetry translator (English to Persian) – from 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.