

Ramak Bamzar (b. 1980, Tehran) is a visual artist and fine-art photographer based in Naarm (Melbourne). Working across photography, set building, painted backdrops and textile elements, she draws on personal and cultural memory to explore identity, body image and femininity. Her images balance gentleness and defiance, using colour, texture and light to turn clothing and gesture into a quiet language of the body. Alongside portrait-led works she creates still-life and installation photographs when the concept calls for it. Her practice is grounded in hands-on making – designing and painting backdrops, constructing simple architectural forms, sourcing and altering garments, and working with controlled studio lighting. She is also an emerging writer working between Persian and English on memoir and essays that extend the concerns of her images.

Education

2025 – Master of Teaching, Federation University
2023 – Master of Fine Arts, RMIT University
2024 – TAE40122 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, CBD College, Melbourne
2005 – Bachelor of Photography, Azad University of Art & Architecture, Tehran

Employment & Community

2015–Present – Fine-Art Photographer & Art Instructor, Melbourne
2023–Present – Mentor, RMIT Mentoring Program, Melbourne
2023 – Board Associate (Design), Blindside Gallery, Melbourne
2021 – Art Collection & Archival Photographer, RMIT Art Collection, Melbourne
2016 – Fashion Photographer & Stylist, PRI Models, Melbourne
2007–2010 – Freelance Photographer, Karaj, Iran
2003–2005 – Photojournalist, Ekbatan Magazine, Tehran

Solo Exhibitions

2024 – Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls, Manningham Art Gallery, Melbourne
2023 – Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne
2022 – Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls, Head On Photo Festival, Sydney
2017 – Iranian Wedding, Windowspace Gallery, Beeac, VIC
2016 – In Pain, Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne
2015 – Iranian Wedding, Sydney Town Hall & Head On Photo Festival, Sydney
Selected Group Exhibitions
2025 – Satellite Projects, Melbourne
2025 – Olive Cotton Award, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW
2025 – Auckland Festival of Photography, Auckland
2025 – de-centre re-centre, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (LWAG), WA
2024 – Medieval to Metal, Art Gallery of Ballarat, VIC

2024 – William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Museum of Australian Photography
 2024 – Head On Exposure Awards, Sydney
 2024 – Make it Real, TEMU House & Kuala Lumpur International Photo Awards, Malaysia
 2024 – DER GREIF – Guest Room: Renée Mussai & Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński, Munich, Germany
 2023 – Your 501® Story: The Exhibition, PhotoVogue
 2023 – Anonymous from Iran, Culture Lab LIC, New York, USA
 2023 – DEBUT XIX, Blindside Gallery, Melbourne
 2023 – DER GREIF – Guest Room: David Company & Taous Dahmani, Munich, Germany
 2023 – RED, Sol Gallery, Melbourne
 2022 – RMIT University Graduation Show, Melbourne
 2022 – Break Away, Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne
 2022 – William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne
 2022 – Woman, Life, Freedom, BlackCat Gallery, Melbourne
 2019 – ALCHEMY, Sherbrooke Art Gallery, Melbourne
 2019 – Women, Kapi Art Space, Melbourne
 2019 – Emerald Arts Society, Melbourne
 2015 – IPF Photo Prize, The Good Copy, Melbourne
 2004 – Bam Earthquake, Dresden, Germany
 2003 – Fajr International Theatre Festival (Students), Tehran

Publications (selected)

2025 – Exhibition review, ArtsHub Australia (Jo Pickup)
 2024 – Art Collector Magazine
 2023 – De Morgen, Brussels, Belgium
 2023 – Australian Arts Review: On the Couch with Ramak Bamzar
 2023 – Art Guide Australia: The strength and struggle of Iranian women
 2023 – Arts Weekly, 3MBS
 2023 – 3RRR Radio: Listen to Friendly Neighbours; Tedious Lines & Lunch Woes
 2023 – Ballarat International Foto Biennale, 3BA Ballarat Radio
 2023 – Pro Femina, 3CR Radical Radio
 2023 – Capture Magazine: Q&A – Ramak Bamzar
 2023 – The Guardian Australia: Ballarat International Foto Biennale
 2023 – SBS Australia: Hope is what drives us
 2023 – ArtsHub: Voices of Resistance
 2023 – Art Edit Magazine, “I AM WOMAN,” No. 35
 2023 – Head On Foundation: Women Looking at Women
 2022 – ArtsHub: More than a singular image...
 2022 – The Guardian Australia: “From camel woes to sperm smugglers – in pictures”
 2021 – SBS Persian: “Confronting a religion that has become a patriarchal culture”
 2017 – “Extreme Theatre,” Windowspace-Beeac
 2016 – Dodho Magazine: “Storytelling: Things that are Important,” Barcelona, Spain

2016 – Edge of Humanity Magazine: “Homosexuals in Iran”

2015 – Ezra Magazine, Interview, Adelaide

2015 – The Sydney Morning Herald, Art column

Professional Talks & Discussions

2025 – Self-Discovery and Vulnerability: Embracing Truth in the Creative Process, Burrinja Cultural Centre, Melbourne

2024 – Unjustly Condemned, Monash University, Melbourne

2024 – Small Acts of Resistance, Museum of Australian Photography

2024 – Kuala Lumpur International Photo Awards, TEMU House, Malaysia

2023 – In conversation: Ramak Bamzar with Julie McLaren, Art Gallery of Ballarat

2023 – Interrupting the Photographic Gaze, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

2023 – Stories that Stir: Self-Reflection, Head On Photo Festival, Sydney

2022 – BRIGHTSPACER Gallery, Melbourne

2019 – Being an Artist is a Job, Burrinja Cultural Centre, Melbourne

2015 – Imagining Iran: Contemporary Iranian Image-Makers, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

Awards

2025 – Olive Cotton Award (Finalist)

2024 – Kuala Lumpur International Photo Awards (Winner)

2024 – William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist)

2024 – Head On Exposure Award (Finalist)

2023 – Art Edit Self-Represented Artist Prize (Winner)

2023 – PhotoVogue Your 501® Story (Finalist)

2022 – William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist)

2022 – Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women (Highly Commended)

2019 – Tokyo International Foto Awards (Honourable Mention)

2003 – Fajr International Festival (Honourable Mention)