

Artist Statement

Ramak Bamzar (She/Her) is an Iranian-born artist currently based in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia. Her work explores the complex interplay between culture, religion, and gender, with a particular focus on the experiences of women. Through her photographs, Bamzar examines how cultural and religious norms can shape women's beliefs, values, and behaviours, and how they can influence women's sense of self-worth and agency.

Education

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

Exhibitions

- 2023 *Pro Femina*, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat International Foto Biennale.
- 2023 *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls*– Seventh Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2023 PhotoVogue - Digital exhibition, "Your 501® Story".
- 2023 Der Greif - Organisation for Contemporary Photography. Guest-Room. Munich, Germany.
- 2023 Collection of *Moustachioed Women and Rhinoplastic Girls* – DEBUT XIX, Blindside Gallery. Melbourne.
- 2023 *Anonymously j/ Iran* – Culture Lab LIC. New York, USA.
- 2023 *Blood and Pomegranate* – Sol 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. 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 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 Finalist – 'Your 501® Story': PhotoVogue and Levi's Showcase the Power of the Iconic 501® Jean.

- 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*. 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*. The 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

- 2023 Interview with Australian Arts Review: On the Couch with Ramak Bamzar.
- 2023 Australian Arts Review: Ramak Bamzar: Pro Femina.
- 2023 Article by Art Guide Australia: The strength and struggle of Iranian women.
- 2023 Interview with *Stefanie Kechayas*. 3MBS Arts Weekly Radio.
- 2023 Interview with *Xen Nha*: In- Studio segment details - 3RR Radio.
- 2023 Interview with *Brett Macdonalds*: 3BA Ballarat Radio.
- 2023 Interview with *Xen Nha*: Women on the Line, 3CR Community Radio.
- 2023 Capture Magazine: Q&A: Ramak Bamzar – Empowering Change Through Photography.
- 2023 *The Guardian Australia: Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023: From mullets to Muhammad Ali – in pictures*.
- 2023 Interview with *Niv Sadr (in Persian)*. SBS Persian Podcast.
- 2023 Interview with *Rosa Ellen*, 'DEBUT XIX', Blindside Gallery – The art show, national radio. Australia.
- 2023 Interview with *Jasmin Penman*, 'Voices of Resistance' – *ARTS hub*.
- 2023 Article by *Erin Irwin*, 'I AM WOMAN' – Art Edit Magazine. No. 35.
- 2023 Article 'Women Looking at Women: Photographers you should know'. Head On Foundation. Sydney.
- 2022 Article by *Celina Lei* 'More than a singular image: Womanhood through the work of four photographers.' *ARTS hub*.
- 2022 *The Guardian Australia: Head On photo festival 2022: From camel woes to sperm smugglers – in pictures*.
- 2021 Article by *Peyman Jamali*, 'A good starting point', SBS Australia.
- 2021 Interview with *Peyman Jamali (in Persian)*, 'Confronting a religion that has become a patriarchal culture'. SBS Persian.
- 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 with *Tanysha Jane* – EZRA magazine, Australia.
- 2015 Article by *John McDonald* – The Sydney Morning Herald.

Other Professional Activities

- 2023 IN CONVERSATION: RAMAK BAMZAR with JULIE MCLAREN, Art Gallery of Ballarat.

- 2023 Panelist: *Interrupting the Photographic Gaze*, Centre for Contemporary Photography Melbourne.
- 2023 Panelist: *Stories that Stir: Self-Reflection*. Head On Photo Festival. Sydney, Australia.
- 2022 Panelist: Narratives of womanhood. Head On Photo Festival. Sydney, Australia.

- 2022 Panelist: *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*. BRIGHTSPACER Gallery. Melbourne, Australia.
- 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, Sydne.