

Mamali Shafahi (b. 1982, based in Paris and Tehran) is a filmmaker and visual artist known for his immersive, mixed-media installations that combine sound and light to create visual feasts adorned with enigmatic chimeras that defy categorization. His works reflect the complexities of cultural diversity and identity, shattering stereotypes and inviting viewers to explore the richness beneath the surface. Rooted in his Iranian heritage, they offer an escape into realms of fantasy, seamlessly blending the magical with the terrifying, and fantasy with horror, all within a mesmerizing world of optical illusions.

As part of his long-term project *Daddy Sperm*, Shafahi created the experimental docu-fiction film *Nature Morte*, featuring his parents. This work became the backbone of an installation at *City Princes/ses* at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris in 2019. His VR collaboration with Ali Eslami, *nerd_funk*, has been showcased at Het Nieuwe Instituut (Rotterdam), the Vancouver Biennale, and IDFA, earning the Golden Calf for Best Interactive Film at the Netherlands Film Festival. Following this success, he was a guest resident at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam.

In 2024, Shafahi embarked on a collaboration with his partner Domenico Gutknecht (b. 1987), titled *Rest in Peace*, further expanding his multidisciplinary practice.

Mamali Shafahi

Born in 1982 in Iran; lives and works in Tehran and Paris.

Education: 2006-2008: ENSAPC, École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts Paris – Cergy, Paris.
2002-2004: University of Art, Tehran

Selected solo exhibitions

2025 “nerd_funk : 7 years Odyssey”, Mu Center, Eindhoven
2025 “Eternal rest”, curated by Anissa Touati and Cristina Anglada, Arco Madrid
2024 “Daddy (Tongue remix), Zaal Gallery, Toronto
2023 “Phantasmagoria: Daddy kills more people, Breeder Gallery, Athens
2022 “Deep throats: How deep is your love?”, Vitrine Gallery, London
2022 “Deep throats: Go deeper”, Mitterrand Gallery, Paris
2022 “nerd_funk”, Rijksakademie open studio, Amsterdam
2022 “Daddy Tissue” Everyday Gallery, Antwerp
2022 “Judgment Night: Daddy kills people”, Parallel circuit, Tehran
2021 “Daddy Sperm” curated by Tony Cox, Clubrhubarb, NY
2021 “Heirloom Velvet”, Liste, Basel
2017 “I’m not an Artist, I’m just a heart of coal”, MMCA Changdong Residency, Seoul
2017 “V (i) R o l o g y: fake news and fake science”, Mohsen Gallery, Tehran
2016 “The Underworld and its emergent effects”, Dastan Basement, Tehran

2014 "Broken SD", Dastan Basement Gallery, Tehran
2013 "Daddy Sperm", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2012 "Occidental icons", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2010 "Wonderland (2,500 years celebration)", Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2009 "Mamali and his doves in art" Aaran Gallery, Tehran
2008 "Freedom." Performance with Behrouz Rae, Art Athina, Athens
2007 "Everybody needs a show" Journée de la performance, ENSA Paris-Cergy
2005 "My magic box", Azad Gallery, Tehran.

Selected group exhibitions and screenings

2024 "Creatures of comfort" Omm museum, Eskisehir
2023 "Fever Dream", curated by Manique Hendricks, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem
2023 "Dawa" Curated by Latif Samassi, 35/37, Paris
2023 "Screen, Screen on my phone, Who's the fairest of them all?" Curated by Bogomir Doring, Garage museum, Rotterdam
2022 "100 Years", Gagosian and Jeffrey Deitch project, Miami
2022 "The 58th Carnegie International", Curated by Sohrab Mohebi and Negar Azimi, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
2022 "Grief and Pleasure" curated by Defne Casaretto, OMM Museum, Eskisehir
2022 "Vanishing point" curated by Zohreh Deldadeh, Pejman Foundation, Tehran
2020 "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, "Impossible Bodies", 's-Hertogenbosch
2020 "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, Netherlands Film Festival, Utrecht
2019 "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, CPH DOX, Copenhagen
2019 "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, IDFA film festival, Amsterdam
2019 "nerd_funk", with Ali Eslami, Vancouver Biennale, Vancouver
2019 "Sacred hill", with Ali Eslami, Het nieuwe instituut, Rotterdam
2019 "Prince.sse.s des villes" curated by Hugo Vitrani and F. Danesi, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
2019 "When Legacies become debts", curated by Azar Mahmoudian, Mosaic Rooms, London
2018 "Nature Morte", Film screening, curated by Sohrab Kashani, Taiwan Annual, Taiwan
2018 "Nature Morte", Film screening, curated by Martha Kirszenbaum, Art Rotterdam
2017 "Alternative Facts", Film screening, curated by Myriam Ben Salah, 221A, Vancouver
2016 "Skip or the national", curated by Alex Maurice, London
2016 "Public Art, Public Spaces; Iran", Curated by Sohrab Kashani, Stanford University CA
2015 "Centrefold", curated by Reza Aramesh, Sazman-Ab and Ab-Anbar projects, Tehran
2014 "For Export Only", curated by Narges Hamzianpour, Shulamit Gallery, Los Angeles
2013 "Dixit", curated by Karin Schlageter, Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2012 "Iranian arts now", curated by Amirali Ghasemi, Cité internationale des arts, Paris
2011 "With his multiple reflections he feels secure", curated by Camilo Racana, Cannes
2010 "I. U. (Heart)." The Third Line, Dubai.
2009 "Collection Dubai," curated by November Paynter, SMART Project Space, Amsterdam
2008 "Lion under the Rainbow," curated by Alexandros Georgiou, Athens

2008 "Blonde descending a staircase" Video screening, "Urban Jalousie" biennial curated by Amirali Ghasemi, Istanbul and Berlin
2007 "Karaoke Poetry." Performance with Alexandros Georgiou, Athens biennial, Athens
2004 "Eraser Head", 9th biennial of photography of Tehran, Iran.

Curatorial Projects

2023 "Unusual experiences: Florian Hetz", Everyday Gallery, Antwerp
2022 "The soft edge of the blade", Frieze Cork street, London
2021 "Alternating Currents", Parallel Circuit, Tehran
2017 "Neil Beloufa", Argo Factory, Pejman Foundation, Tehran.
2014 "Urgently, Yesterday", Florian Auer and Katja Novitskova, Mottahedan Projects, Dubai.
2012 "Recycle", Mahmoud Bakhshi Moakhar, Etemad Gallery, Tehran.
2011 "Good city for dreamers" Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris
2010 "I. U. (Heart)." The Third Line, Dubai.

Press and publications

2024 "Rethinking the contemporary art of Iran", Hamid Keshmirshakan, Skira
2024 "the New York times, by Roberta Smith, Jan 19th, Page C10
2023 "Canvas Magazine", Issue 110
2023 "History, Land and Identity | Highlights at Frieze Los Angeles 2023", Frieze magazine, 17 Febraury
2023 "5 Breakout Artists We Discovered at the Los Angeles Art Fairs Whose Work Stopped Us in Our Tracks", Artnet, 22 Febraury
2023 "In pictures: Frieze Los Angeles goes big with towering sculpture, large-scale installations and more", Art Newspaper, 17 Feb
2022 "Strikingly many plants in the open studio at the Rijksakademie", de Volkskrant, 12 may
2022 "NONFICTION 04"
2022 "Fruta magazine", Studio Saudari, by Kim Rosario
2022 "Mamali Shafahi, Deep Throats: How Deep is your Love?", The Art Newspaper, **Christine Takengny, 21 OCtober**
2022 "Les gorges profondes" syncrétisme hyperpop, by Ingrid Luquet-Gad
2022 Apartamento by Jina Khayyer, issue 28, May 18th.
2021 "Art We Saw This Fall", New York Times, By JilianSteinhauber, 25 November.
2021 "Liste, the Beloved Satellite Fair for Emerging Talent, Lobbied Art Basel to Set Up Shop Inside the Messeplatz. The Gambit Paid Off", Artnet, 23 September
2019 "Daddy's boy", Palais Magazine by Ashkan Sepahvand, No, 29 Pp 44-53
2018 Selections magazine, No.46, Pp 176
2014 "Iranian Contemporary Art, From the Street to the studio", T. Gringor. Reaktion Books Ltd

2013 "Contemporary Iranian Art, New Perspectives", By Hamid Keshmirshekan. SAQI Books
2010 BROWNBOOK magazine, No.92, "I.U.Heart", Pp 87
2010 Artasiapacific magazine, No.71, "I.U.Heart", Pp 133
2009 "Different Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art," by Hossein Amirsadeghi. Thames & Hudson
2008 Mother Magazine, No.5, Spring, "Mamali needs a show", Pp. 120-121
2008 Highlight Magazine, No.34, May, "Lion under the rainbow", Pp.88-91

Grants, Prizes, Lectures

2023 Appartamento book launch panel discussion of "Reza Shafahi, A diary of gambler", NY, Paris
2021 "The 2021 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Finalist, Hong Kong
2021 "nerd_funk", Mondriaan fund and AFk grant.
2020 "nerd_funk", Golden calf, Best interactive film prize, Netherlands film Festival
2019 Sharjah art foundation film platform, panel participation, Sharjah
2018 Artist presentation at Liverpool Biennial, part of Delfina residency program, Liverpool
2018 Art Rotterdam video projection, panel participation, Rotterdam
2015 MOPCAP Contemporary Art Prize: finalist, London
2009 "Art and the representation of masculinity." Guest speaker at SOAS University,
2008 UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists 2009: winner

Residencies and workshops

2025, Fountainhead Residency, Miami
2023, Royal College of Art, Presentation and workshop, London
2022 Rijksakademie, Guest Resident, Amsterdam
2020 Rijksakademie, Guest Resident, Amsterdam
2019 Vancouver Biennale residency, Vancouver
2018 Delfina foundation residency, London
2018 Workshop at CPH DOX, Copenhagen
2017 Workshop and residency at ISBA, Besancon
2017 MMCA Changdong Residency, Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Seoul

Public and private collections

The Caudwell Collection, London
Zuzeum Art Centre, Latvia
OMM Museum Collection, Eskisehir
Die Mobiliar Collection, Switzerland
Afkhami Collection, Dubai, Newyork

Maryam Massoudi Collection, London