



Farah Soltani

Visual artist

Biography

I am a visual artist working across various media – sculptures, painted canvases, video art, written pieces, and installations. Born and raised in Tehran, I began my artistic endeavors by studying graphic design in high school, where I developed my skills in drawing, coloring, and various art-making techniques. Later, I pursued my bachelor's degree in Studio Art at the American University in Dubai and my Master of Fine Arts degree in Arts and Media at New York University in Abu Dhabi, where I was awarded a scholarship and graduated magna cum laude. My work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and art shows internationally, in cities such as Tehran, Isfahan, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Paris, Monaco, and Los Angeles.

My art often comes from a place of observation, taking inspiration from the simple and ordinary aspects of everyday life. By selecting subjects from these observations, I recreate, relocate, and transform them into new themes. I intensify the subjects, making them imaginary or rephrase them by misplacing them, playing with their scale, color and material. Through this, I aim to bring the complexity of the world we live in into view, and to invite viewers to see things from an unusual perspective, so that they can reconnect their attention to everyday life.

Artist statement

In my artwork, I take inspiration from seemingly mundane, insignificant, and ignored aspects of the environment. I aim to highlight ordinary objects and subjects, elevate them beyond their familiar functions, and cast them in a thoroughly “defamiliarized” light. My art challenges both me and my viewers to reconsider how we pay attention to, coexist with, and even define ourselves according to what surrounds us, and how we overlook them so easily.

In my three-dimensional pieces, these disruptions are located and revealed in the interaction and confrontation between the artist, artwork, viewer, and space. In my sculptures, I explore the interplay between matter, space, and perspective by blurring the boundaries between them. For instance, I construct my work out of radically distinct materials – for instance, displaying flexible, fragile cardboard next to sturdy, rigid metal allows us to see the qualities of each in the light of the other.

I also play with dimensions – for example, by constructing two dimensional models out of traditionally three-dimensional materials such as metal, or by creating starkly different sized of the same shape, some as tall as a person and some so small that the viewer has to draw their body close to see it. Shadows and light have also become integral to my sculptures, giving solid forms the ability to extend in time and space, and create shifting shapes of

their own. By inviting my audience to shift their vision and physical perspectives constantly to encounter my pieces, I want to draw them toward self-examination about how they approach the world in their day-to-day lives.

My artistic craft passes through various media and techniques, using handmade and fabricated pieces, and traditional and digital technologies. I see importance in both: working with my hands allows me the freedom of expression to bring patterns and surfaces to life, and help me connect to my viewers in an intimate and corporeal manner, while technological visualization make it possible to create images and objects that may lie beyond the boundary of normal bodily expression and experience. I also do not limit my choices of medium; my process often unfolds instinctively based on what is available around me, and finds its home in material – be it a painting, a text, a piece of digital media, or an object. Ultimately, my work observes and reflects on our surroundings through the language of art, discovering new possibilities and connecting with the audience through visual resonance.



Untitled

Aluminum and powder coated Steel

150 x 90 cm

2024

The Light on Things

The light, on the wall, the light that is yellow, wall that is white, the grass that is green, stem of the flower, the petals of the flower, white of the flower, the green of the flower, feel of the flower, the contrast between the green and white, the light of the lamp, feel of more white under the lamp, the texture of the sculpture, edges of the shape, the difference between softness and sharpness, reflection of the shape on the floor, the endless possibilities of seeing, pattern creating many perceptions, the performance of creating, material in the hand, the intention of making, line should go up, the measurement went wrong, urge to improvise, the line should go right, plan was forgotten, the joy of discovering new solution, the redirection of making, accepting the unplanned, the need to make the shape in one continuous take, brush in the hand, the color on the brush, color on the sculpture, the white on the shape, shape coming to life, the life coming to shape, joy of creation, the existence in the story; universe.

Untitled

Cardboard and Papier-mache

L300x W300 x H300 cm

2024





30.08.23

Stainless Steel

L48 x W51 x H58 cm

2023

08.09.23

Powder coated Steel

L48 x W51 x H43 cm

2023





17.10.23

Oil painted 3D printed

L15 x W15 x H17 cm

2023



Forms of Sensations

Turning to 3D art, I created my first sculpture series titled "Forms of Sensations", consisting of eight oversized pieces. Each sculpture stands approximately two meters tall and weighs around 100 kilograms. Each piece represents an element—such as water, wind, melody, fire, love—that exists in almost every being in nature.

Whenever I observe something, I internalize it, both mentally and emotionally, perceiving it as an individual entity. This observation offers me a unique understanding and emotion specific to that object, filtered through my personal and environmental experiences. For instance, when I hear the word "river," I feel its cool breeze on my skin, recall the movement and sound of water, and think of nature, creation, life, and how we, as humans, arrived at this moment.

With this series, my goal was to capture these sensations and express those mental states through the movements of solid measuring tapes integrated into my sculptures. Ultimately, it serves as a continuous exploration of how my perceptions are shaped, understood, and given meaning.



Love

Metal and Fiberglass

L90 x W80 x H225 cm

2019





Sand

Metal and Fiberglass

L90 x W90 x H180 cm

2019



Water

Metal and Fiberglass

L100 x W115 x H120 cm

2019