

SHEIDA SOLEIMANI (b. 1990, US)

Through photography, film, performance and sculpture, Sheida Soleimani offers both a poignant analysis of image-building in the contemporary media landscape and a critical view on international politics and its power relationships. Source images from press and social media are transformed into staged sets and documented with a camera. As unspoken truths are turned towards the grotesque in confrontational and overtly patchworked scenes, Soleimani sheds light on the coded way (political) messages are disseminated in a global context while satirizing both East and West. In doing so she unveils a barely covered-up reality that is no less surreal than the images constructed in her studio. A daughter of political refugees persecuted by the Iranian government in the 1980s, Soleimani's practice explores the intersections of art and activism.

Soleimani received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2015. She recently exhibited her work in solo exhibitions at Photoforum Pasquart (CH), Providence College Galleries (US) and Castello San Basilio (IT). Her exhibition *Medium of Exchange* was shown at Contemporary Arts Center (US), Atlanta Contemporary (US), and CUE Arts Foundation (US), among others.

In 2019 she had a solo exhibition at the Southern Utah Museum of Art (UT), and participated in the deCordova Biennial (MA). Soleimani presented a monumental version of her work *Mahsa* (2022) at the *Eyes on Iran* project at New York's FDR Four Freedoms State Park alongside works by JR, Sepideh Mehraban, Mahvash Mostala, Aphrodite Désirée Navab, Shirin Neshat, Icy and Sot, Hank Willis Thomas, Shirin Towfiq, and Z in 2022 and spoke at the inaugural event. Her work has been recognized internationally in both exhibitions and publications, such as *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, *Interview Magazine*, and *Hyperallergic*. Soleimani resides in Providence, RI, where she is a professor of studio art at Brandeis University.

www.sheidasoleimani.com



Sheida Soleimani ©Mel Taing / Boston Art Review



Installation View *On the Wall: Sheida Soleimani* at Providence College Gallery (Providence, Rhode Island), 2022
Courtesy the Artist and Providence College Galleries

France & Algeria, 2021
Archival pigment print
109.2 x 144.8 cm

Carter Doctrine, 2018
Archival pigment print
61 x 45.7 cm



SHEIDA SOLEIMANI

(b. 1990, US) Lives and works in Providence, US

EDUCATION

2013 - 2015

Cranbrook Academy of Art, MFA, Bloomfield Hills, US

2008 - 2012

University of Cincinnati, College of Design, BFA Architecture, Art and Planning, Cincinnati, US

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

The Banner Project: Sheida Soleimani, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston, US (upcoming)
Ghostwriter, Edel Assanti, London, UK

2022

Negotiators, Photoforum Pasquart, Biel, CH
Levers of Power, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
ILVA, Castello San Basilio, Basilicata, IT
On the Wall: Sheida Soleimani, Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts, Providence College Galleries, Providence, US

2021

Coping Mechanisms, Denny Dimin Gallery, New York, US
Unseen Photo Fair (section UNBOUND), Harlan Levey Projects, Edel Assanti, Amsterdam, NL

2020

Medium of Exchange, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
Hotbed, Denny Dimin Gallery, New York, US

2019

YANKEE GO HOME, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, US
Medium of Exchange, Library Street Collective, Detroit, US
Medium of Exchange, Southern Utah Museum of Art, Cedar City, US

2018

Medium of Exchange, Edel Assanti, London, UK
Medium of Exchange, CUE Arts Foundation, New York, US
Medium of Exchange, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, US
Medium of Exchange, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, US

2017

8ball Zine Zone at the NYABF, MoMA PS1, New York, US
Social Learning Theory, Williamson / Knight, Portland, US
Reinforcements, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, US
To Oblivion, Edel Assanti, London, UK

2016

Civil Liberties, BOYFRIENDS, Chicago, US
National Anthem, 1305 Gallery, FotoFocus, Cincinnati, US
National Anthem, Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography, Bern, CH
National Anthem, ROMPONE, Cologne, DE
To Oblivion, 186 Carpenter, Providence, US

2012

Panjereh (Window), Prairie Gallery, Cincinnati, US

2011

Namaz Khaneh, Semantics, Cincinnati, US

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, US
Dancing Forward Looking Backward, Kunsthal Gent, Ghent, BE

2022

Eyes on Iran, FDR Four Freedoms State Park, New York, US
A Trillion Sunsets: A Century of Image Overload, ICP, New York, US
IMMUNE PROJECT, Living Art Museum, Reykjavik, IS

2021

Denunciation!, ACC Gallery, Weimar, DE
First Responders, Art At A Time Like This, New York, US

2020

Constructing an Imaginary, Badr El Jundi, Marbella, SP

2019

The Hudson Eye, Allen Street, Hudson, US
Too Far, So Close, Monica Reyes Gallery, Vancouver, CA
DeCordova Biennial, DeCordova Museum of Art, Lincoln, US
MESSENGERS: Artists as Witness, Museum of Art at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, US
Ecologies of Darkness, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, DE

2018

Softer but Louder, Geary Contemporary, New York, US
Wide Angle: Photography Out Of Bounds, Weston Art Gallery, Cincinnati, US
Lines on a Map Mean Little to Eyes in the Sky, Southern Exposure, St. Augustine, US
Coping Mechanisms, Library Street Collective, Detroit, US
Hyphen-American, George Washington University, Washington D.C, US
Myth, Memory, Migration, NARS Foundation, New York, US
Opress (er) (ed), SPACE Gallery, Jacksonville, US
Of Fictive Intentions, Vacation Gallery, New York, US

2017

Phantom Limb, Jimei x Arles Photography Festival, Xiamen, CN
Nevermind, Azizam, Transformer, Washington D.C, US
Der Grief: Thread Count, Unseen Photo Fair, Amsterdam, NL

Unobstructed Views, Library Street Collective, Detroit, US
Made In Iran, Born In America, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, US
The New Normal, The Hangar, Beirut, LB
You Catch More Flies with Arsenic Than Honey, Club Pro, Los Angeles, US
The Personal is Political: Feminist Art from the Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell Collection, Wave Pool, Cincinnati, US

2016

Treading Water, TGIF, New York, US
Re:formation, Gallery Project, Toledo, US
Coagulants, AC Institute, New York, US
Women at Work, ROMPONE, Cologne, DE
Doubly So, Center Gallery, College of Creative Studies, Detroit, US
Parallelograms, S1 Gallery, Portland, US
Screen(ing), AC Institute, New York, US

2015

New Wave, Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, US
After The Moment, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, US
FOCUS: Iran, Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, US

2014

META_MORPH_ISIS, Black Paper, Los Angeles, US
Pyrocognition, Forum Gallery, Bloomfield Hills, US
TRANS, Studio Couture, Detroit, US

2013

Synergistics, New Capital, Chicago, US

AWARDS, GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

2022

Castello San Basilio, Basilicata, IT

2018

Assistant Professor, Studio Art, Brandeis University, Waltham, US

2017

MacColl Johnson Fellowship, Rhode Island Foundation, US
Long Road Projects, Jacksonville, US
ACRE, Steuben, US

2016

Rhode Island School of Design Faculty Grant, US, traveled to London, UK
Woodstock A.I.R, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, US

2014

Cranbrook Academy of Art Merit Award, Bloomfield Hills, US
Larson Travel Grant, US, travelled to Brazil, BR

2013

Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Grant recipient, US

2012

Three Arts Grant recipient for the 'Panjereh (Window)' series, US