

## Press Release

# ***Surviving Shadows - Afghan Art in the Face of Suppression***

Curated by **Yama Rahimi**

On view:

**January 16 - March 14, 2026**

**Tues. - Sat., 11am - 6pm**

Opening Reception: Friday, January 16, 6 - 8pm

Location:

**291 Church Street, NYC, and 3D Online**

Featuring work by:

**Fatimah Hossaini - Jeanno Ghausi - Maryam Gholam Ali - Jahan Ara Rafi - Ayatollah Ahmadi  
Angela Gulistani (Kimia) - Farshad Akbari - Waisuddin Mohammadi - 10 Anonymous Artists  
based in Afghanistan**

After the Taliban's return to power on August 15, 2021, Afghanistan's artists were thrust into silence. Public cultural spaces disappeared, artistic expression became life-threatening, and many creators were forced to destroy, hide, or abandon their work.

*Surviving Shadows – Afghan Art in the Face of Suppression*, curated by Afghan artist, curator and activist Yama Rahimi, brings together a moving collection of artistic resilience. The exhibition features photographs of lost or destroyed artworks, pieces smuggled out of Afghanistan, hidden creations still within the country, and new works by artists in the Afghan diaspora.

Through painting, video, photography, and personal testimonies, the exhibition reveals how artists continue to create and resist despite repression. Some were forced to erase their own work to protect loved ones. Others lost everything in moments of escape or violent searches. Still, their creativity endures.

More than a showcase, *Surviving Shadows* honors the courage of Afghan artists confronting censorship, violence, and displacement. It offers a rare glimpse into their personal and collective struggles—and a celebration of their persistence. In a time of imposed silence, this exhibition gives voice to those who refuse to be erased, illuminating the power of art to survive against the odds.

*Surviving Shadows - Afghan Art in the Face of Suppression* was selected through apexart's NYC Open Call. For more information visit <https://apexart.org/rahimi.php> or contact [maryam.ghoreishi@apexart.org](mailto:maryam.ghoreishi@apexart.org).

**apexart - nyc**



Akbari Farshad, *What is your dream?*, mixed media on wood panel, 60x60 cm., 2024 (detail)

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**Yama Rahimi** is an Afghan artist, curator, and activist specializing in experimental film. His work has been exhibited internationally in over 30 shows, including at Whitechapel Gallery, the Venice Biennale, and UCLA.

apexart's program supporters past and present Affirmation Arts Fund, The Buhl Foundation, the Eisenberg Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The William Talbot Hillman Foundation, Epstein-Teicher Philanthropies, Fifth Floor Foundation, Greenwich Collection Ltd., the Kettering Family Foundation, the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, LMCC, Mindel Family Charitable Annuity Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Puffin Foundation

**#SurvivingShadows**

**291 church street, new york, ny 10013  
t +1 212 431 5270 [www.apexart.org](http://www.apexart.org)**