

## Hangama Amiri

### *Mirrors and Faces*

**September 24-November 6, 2021**

Artist Talk: Tuesday October 12, 2021 | Noon

[Click here to register.](#)

**COOPER COLE** is pleased to present *Mirrors and Faces*, a solo presentation of the work of Hangama Amiri. This is the artist's first exhibition at the gallery.

In this new body of work, Amiri reflects on questions of 'home' and memory after migration. Amiri's penetrating observations of her domestic space opens up into the emotive and imaginative aspects of cultural memory, touching on feelings of loneliness, isolation, love, intimacy, and longing. She elaborates on these inquiries with fantastical elements such as foliage, birds, tears, and spilled wine, overlaid and overflowing out of the images, visualizing a weaving of internal dialogues with lived experience.

While the artist was creating this work and reflecting on her experience as an Afghan woman in the United States, feelings of loss and mourning quickly deepened as her new country of residence retreated from their occupation in Afghanistan and Amiri's hometown of Kabul was taken over by the Taliban. The artist's examination of internal conflict and physical confinement took on new dimensions. In *Wounded Deer*, Amiri depicts herself looking at an arrow that is aimed at her eyes, at the same time as it punctures a deer on its side. Set in a swirling, surreal landscape, this work expresses the artist's feelings of vulnerability and betrayal as an Afghan woman. Her works are large in scale, negotiating desires to occupy, dominate, and assert power.

Trained in painting, Amiri takes a painterly approach to her textile compositions. Sourcing most of her materials from an Afghan-owned store in New York's fashion district, the artist looks for fabrics as one would look for oils and acrylics. Colour, texture, and composition remain central, but Amiri's interest in textile is rooted in the medium's flexibility, functionality, and intimacy. Textile, according to the artist, awakens the senses because of its relationship to the body, insinuations of touch, and its ability to carry memories.



**Hangama Amiri** (b. 1989, Kabul, Afghanistan) works predominantly in textile to create images that reflect on ideas of home. Using a painterly approach to colour and materials, Amiri reflects on how everyday objects are imbued with cultural memory. Amiri holds an MFA from Yale University and a BFA from NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was a Canadian Fulbright and Post-Graduate Fellow at Yale University School of Art and Sciences, and has completed residencies at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Joya AiR Residency Program in Almería, Spain, World of CO Residency program in Sofia, Bulgaria, and at Long Road Projects in Jacksonville, Florida. Amiri won the 2011 Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteerism Award and the 2013 Portia White Protege Award. She has exhibited internationally at T293 Gallery, Rome; Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg; the New Museum, New York; Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Banff; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Paramo Gallery, Guadalajara; and Charles Moffett Gallery, New York; among others. Amiri lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut, USA.



**Hangama Amiri**

*The Wonders of the Night, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, net mesh, suede, velvet, and found fabric  
122 x 107 in (309.9 x 271.8 cm)

H.Amiri0001



**Hangama Amiri**

*Late by Myself, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, suede, and colour pencil  
92 x 79 in (233.7 x 200.7 cm)  
H.Amiri0003





**Hangama Amiri**

*Wounded Deer, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, suede, net mesh, and found fabric

98 x 75 in (248.9 x 190.5 cm)

H.Amiri0002



**Hangama Amiri**

*Self-portrait with the Croton Petra Plants, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, velvet, net mesh, colour pencil, and found fabric

80 x 58 in (203.2 x 147.3 cm)

H.Amiri0004



**Hangama Amiri**

*The Lovers I / The Chanting Storks, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, acrylic paint, suede, and found fabric

69 x 78 in (175.3 x 198.1 cm)

H.Amiri0006





**Hangama Amiri**  
*The Fallen Dream, 2021*  
Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, and silk  
69.5 x 56 in (176.5 x 142.2 cm)  
H.Amiri0005



**Hangama Amiri**  
*The Pillar of Time, 2021*  
Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, and suede  
53 x 72 in (134.6 x 182.9 cm)  
H.Amiri0008





**Hangama Amiri**

*The Lovers II / Him and I, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, net mesh, velvet, suede, and found fabric

57 x 66 in (144.8 x 167.6 cm)

H.Amiri0007



**Hangama Amiri**  
*What the Water Told Me*, 2021  
Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, and silk  
62.5 x 48 in (158.8 x 121.9 cm)  
H.Amiri0009





**Hangama Amiri**

*Self-portrait with Tooti Parrot, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, net mesh, suede, colour pencil, velvet, and found fabric

58.5 x 44.5 in (148.6 x 113 cm)

H.Amiri0010



**Hangama Amiri**

*The Labyrinths of Love, 2021*

Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, net mesh, colour pencil, and found fabric  
40 x 30 in (101.6 x 76.2 cm)

H.Amiri0011











































## **Hangama Amiri**

Born 1989 Kabul, Afghanistan

Lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut, USA

### **Education**

- 2020 MFA Yale School of Art, Painting/Printmaking, New Haven, USA  
2012 BFA NSCAD University, Halifax, Canada

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2021 *Mirrors and Faces*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada  
*Wandering Amidst the Colors*, Albertz Benda, New York, USA  
*Spectators of a New Dawn*, Towards Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
2020 *Bazaar, A Recollection of Home*, T293 Gallery, Rome, Italy  
2018 *Ocean's Edge*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg, Canada  
2017 *We Rise Again: Portraits of Afghan Women*, Lunenburg School of the Arts, Lunenburg, Canada  
2014 *At the Edge of the Shore*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg, USA  
2012 *The Wind-Up Dolls of Kabul*, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Canada

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2021 *Hospitalet*, Danviken Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden (*forthcoming*)  
*THIS IS AMERICA*, Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany (*forthcoming*)  
2020 *Yale Painting and Printmaking MFA 2020*, Perrotin Gallery, New York, USA  
*Oh To Be A Painting*, Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, Boston, USA  
2019 *Hold On, Hold Me*, Charles Moffett Gallery, New York, USA  
*New Suns Chapter 2*, Paramo Gallery, Guadalajara, Mexico  
*Cybernetic Alchemy, Foreign (Material) Affairs, New Inc.*, New Museum, New York, USA  
2018 *Crying-Laughing*, Friends & Neighbors Gallery, Montreal, Canada  
*Here & There*, Studio Lab Gallery, New Glasgow, Canada  
*Three Artist: Paint, Stitch & Sculpt*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg, Canada  
2017 *Pause, a Break*, Project Space Gallery, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Banff, Canada

- 2016 *Instants Video Film Festival*, Marseille, France  
*Women Voices Now*, Rolling Hill States, California, USA  
*Video Art Festival*, Casablanca, Morocco  
*The Art of the Burqa: Film, Performance, Art & Dialogue*, Pen + Brush Gallery, New York, USA  
*RBC Canadian Painting Competition*, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
*The 28th Festival Les Instants Vidéo*, Milan Gallery, Marseille, France  
*Distant Attachments: Unsettling Contemporary Afghan Diasporic Art*, City Lore Gallery, New York, USA
- 2015 *The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*Where We Now, Women Body & Space*, Reel Women Hong Kong, Film Festival, Hong Kong, China
- 2014 *Nova Scotia Art Bank*, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Canada  
*5th Passion for Freedom London Festival*, Embassy Tea Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *Original Species (Art. Official. Selection)* Creative Art Nova Scotia, Museum of Natural History  
*This is the Canadian Earth*, Teichert Gallery, Halifax, USA  
*A little class goes along way*, EyeLevel Gallery, Halifax, USA
- 2012 *7th International Arte Laguna Prize*, Tese di San Cristoforo, Venice, Italy  
*4th Passion for Freedom London Festival*, Unit24 Gallery, London, UK

## Research

- 2015-2016 Yale University, Canada Fulbright. Post-Graduate Fellow at Council of East Asian Studies (CEAS) New Haven, USA

## Bibliography

- 2021 Alessandra Giacopini, "Women's Business, On memories, bazaars and Afghan feminism: a conversation with Hangama Amiri" Nero Magazine, January 08

- Mario Gatti, "Il bazar interculturale di Hangama Amiri" Arts Life, Forum Uniche, January 1
- 2020 Beatice Benella, "Intessendo la trama dei ricordi con Hangama Amiri, alla galleria T293", Exibart, December 29
- Manuela de Leonardis, "Ricordi dell' Afghanistan intessutinele stoffe colorate", Il Manifesto, December 22
- Dessane Lopez Cassell, "Our Favorite MFA Work From Yale and RISD" Hyperallergic, August 27
- Emily Steer, "These are the Ascendant Artists to Watch" The Elephant Magazine, July 3
- Caroline Goldstein, "After Yale Staged its MFA Students' Graduate Show IRL, Perrotin Gallery Revived it Online" Art Net, July 1
- 2017 Felicia Latour. "Afghan-Canadian artist Hangama Amiri on painting her heroines." CBC Mains Street NS, August 30
- Pary Shuaib. "Art Can Let Afghan Women Express our Unique Selves." Free Women Writers, August 15
- Charles Mandel. "Afghan Heroines." LightHouse Now, pg. 16, June 28
- Zheela Nori. "Meet Hangama Amiri." Voice of America Dari, Voice of America Dari, May 10
- 2016 Stacy Parker Le Melle. "Whenever I call friend." The Huffington Post, June 17
- Celesta Hamilton Dennis. "Art of the burqa: exploring the many narratives of the women under the veil." Ivoh, New York, April 18
- Noah Hurowitz. "Burqa Exhibit Coming to Flatiron Gallery This Weekend." DNAinfo, New York, March 3
- 2015 Suzanne Russell. "Secrets and Desires." OF NOTE Magazine, The Burqa Issue, December 7
- Evan Bower. "Local artist recognized with two national awards." Lighthouse Now, November 22
- Elissa Barnard. "Halifax Artist receives RBC Award" The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, November 19
- Kevin C. Griffin. "RBC Painting wonder to help foster Canadian-Filipino dialogue on art." The Vancouver Sun, November 19
- James Adams. "Patrick Cruz wins \$25,000 RBC Canadian Painting Competition." The Globe And Mail, November 18



- Lisa Paterson. "Hangama Amiri, Fulbright grant winner, headed to Yale University." CBC News NS, November 14
- 2014 Lizzy Hill. "Five art exhibits to see this summer." The Coast, June 19  
Elissa Barnard. "The world is her inspiration." The Chronicle Herald Arts & Life, pg. 3, May 30  
Elissa Barnard. "Landscape-inspired visions featured in *This Is the Canadian Earth*." The Chronicle Herald Arts & Life, February 13
- 2013 Robert Hirtle. "Lunenburg artist wins Portia White Prize 2013" October 30  
Elissa Barnard. "Higgins shocked to win Masterworks Award." The Chronicle Herald, October 26  
Robert Hirtle. "Artist Hangama Amiri opens new Lunenburg studio." Progress Bulletin, September 17  
Robert Hirtle. "At the Edge of the Shore." Progress Bulletin, June 18  
Heather Wood Rudolph. "Feminism Through Art: Meet Hangama Amiri." Sexy Feminist, May 3  
Robert Hirtle. "Artist Focuses on human rights-themed works." South Shore Now, January 9, pg. 1-3  
"Interview with Phlis McGregor." CBC Radio, January 1
- 2012 Greta McClain. "Afghan Canadian artist brings plight of Afghan Women to the world." Digital Journal, December 10, pg.1-4  
Colleen Jones. "Art with a Message." CBC News, December 6  
Beverly Ware. "Artist dedicates work to Afghan birthplace." The Chronicle Herald, November 25, pg. 1-3  
Tahir Qadiry. "Passion for Freedom Exhibition in London." BBC Persian News, November 15

## Residencies

- 2019 The Long Road Projects, Jacksonville, USA
- 2018 World of CO. Residency Program, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2017 JOYA: AiR, Arte + Ecologia Residency, Andalusia, Spain  
The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Banff, Canada
- 2013 White Rabbit Arts. Economy, NS, Canada  
NSCAD-Lunenburg Community Residency Program, Lunenburg, Canada

## **Awards and Grants**

- 2020 Dean's Critical Practice Research Grant, Yale School of Art, New Haven, USA
- 2019 Schickle-Collingwood Memorial Prize, Yale School of Art, New Haven, USA
- 2018 Arts Nova Scotia (Professional Development Grant)
- 2017 Toronto Arts Council (Individual Grant)  
Arts Equity Funding (Special Travel Grant)  
Arts Equity Funding & Canada Council for the Arts (Creation Grant)
- 2015 RBC Canadian Painting Competition (Honourable mention)  
Canada Fulbright Traditional Student Award
- 2014 Arts Equity Funding & Canada Council for the Arts (Creation Grant)
- 2013 Arts Nova Scotia (Presentation Grant)  
Portia White Prize Protege  
Creative Nova Scotia Grant
- 2012 Arts Nova Scotia Funding, Grants to Individuals  
Robert Pope Foundation Painting Scholarship  
Alexander J. McDonald Memorial Award

## **Public Collections**

Jimenez-Colon  
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia  
RBC Corporate Collection  
Nova Scotia Art Bank  
Burger Collection