

### 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





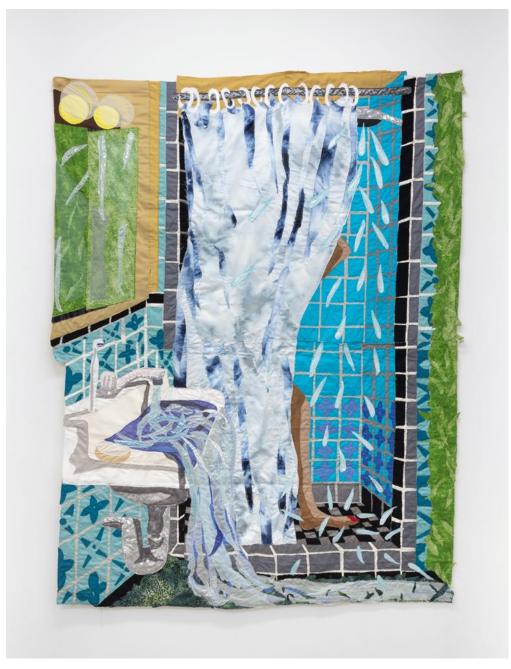
Hangama Amiri
The Pillar of Time, 2021
Chiffon, muslin, cotton, polyester, silk, and suede
53 x 72 in (134.6 x 182.9 cm)
H.Amiri0008





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)

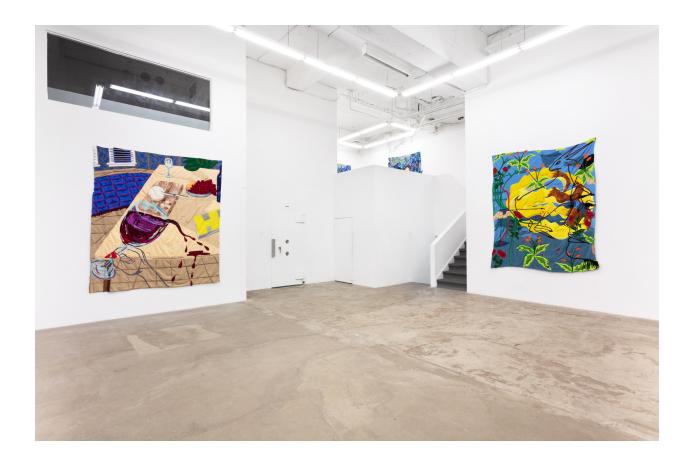
H.Amiri0010





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









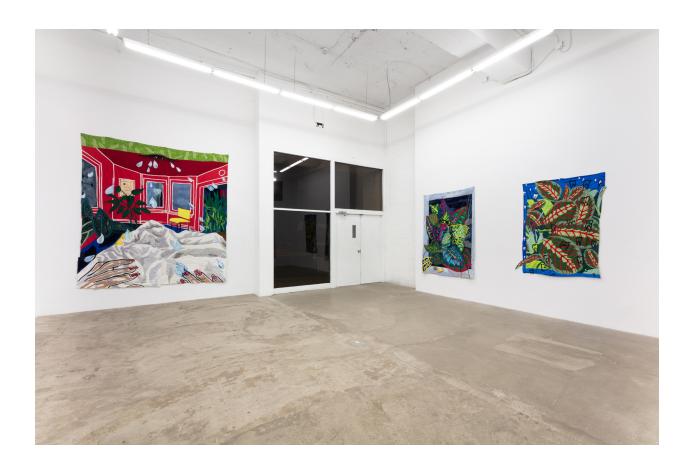
















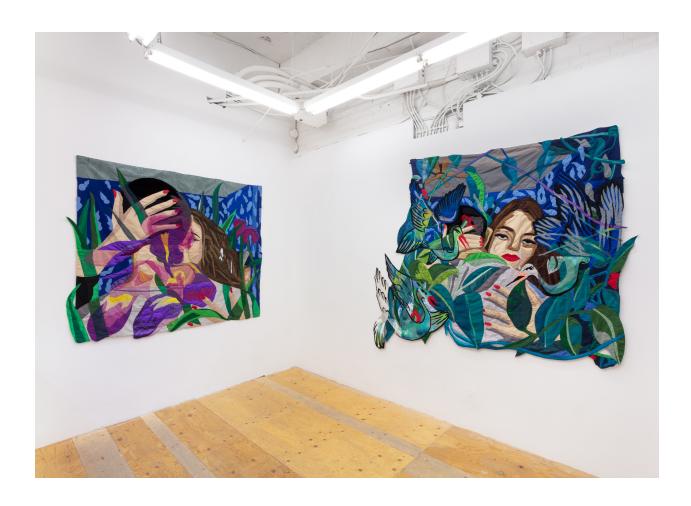








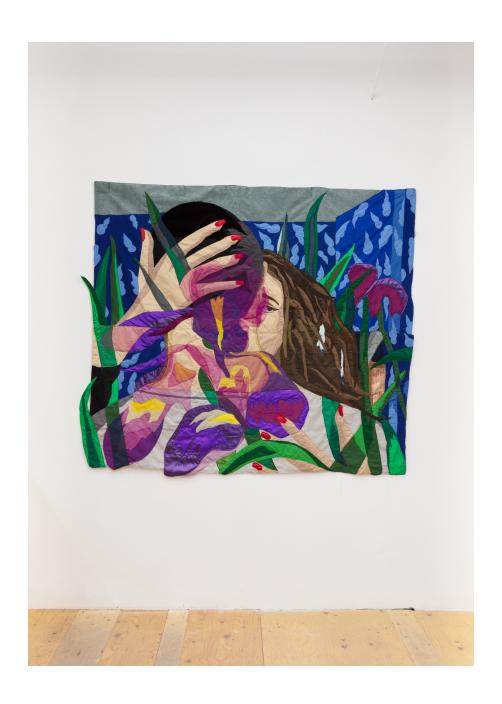








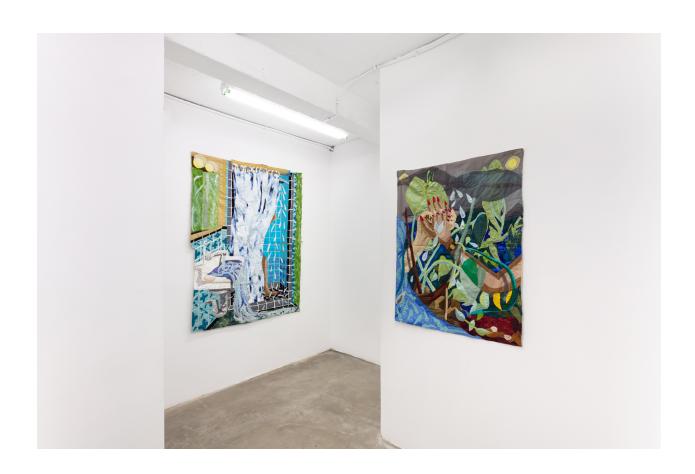




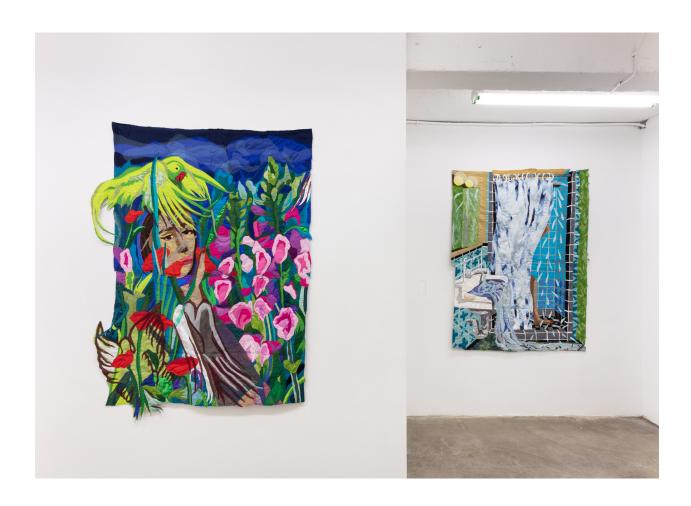














# Hangama Amiri

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



	Instants Video Film Festival, Marseille, France
2016	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	
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#### 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 intercultuale 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 burga: exploring the many narratives of the women under the veil." Ivoh, New York, April 18 Noah Hurowitz. "Burga Exhibit Coming to Flatiron Gallery This Weekend." DNAinfo. New York. March 3 Suzanne Russell. "Secrets and Desires." OF NOTE Magazine, The Burga 2015 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 <i>This Is the</i>
	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 Rudulph. "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
	Beverley 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,
2018	USA 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