

Shahpour Pouyan – *Skyhigh is my place* 07.11.2021–23.01.2022

Opening
07.11.2021
14:00–18:00

Exhibition
10.11.2021–23.01.2022
wed.–sun: 10:00–17:00

Location
Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens
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Tickets
€9/€7

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Shahpour Pouyan – *Skyhigh is my place* (2021-2022), detail, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle / courtesy of the artist; Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels; Copperfield, London; Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens is proud to present Shahpour Pouyan's ambitious installation *Skyhigh is my place*. Designed specifically for the museum, the piece is the culmination of over two years of intense research and development. The exhibition is the first solo presentation by the artist in a Belgian public institution.

Skyhigh is my place partially fills MDD's main exhibition space with wheat and inverts a largescale replica of a military control tower in its patio. By uniting these two elements, Pouyan summons the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and specifically his father's involvement in this historic moment. At the height of the Revolution, Pouyan's father, an electronic engineer for jet fighters, took part in a collective effort to plant wheat on his military base near Isfahan.

The short-lived farming operation at the military base stands for the many contradictions of the 1979 Revolution, where a technological obsession with airspace was combined with patriotic infatuations for rural land. *Skyhigh is my place* is the slogan of the Iranian Air Force since its founding in 1925. This line is one of the few slogans that remained unchanged after the Revolution.

“The dream of safe skies and harvesting the land remains potent for many Iranians. In Persian folk culture, if you have a nightmare, you always hope for the upside-down outcome of the bad dream to come true. The reversed air control tower, surrounded by heaps of wheat, illustrates a dream turned upside down.”

– Shahpour Pouyan

About the artist

Shahpour Pouyan (1979, Isfahan) holds an MFA from Pratt Institute, New York, and an MFA in Painting from the Tehran University of Art. Pouyan has participated in numerous prestigious exhibitions at institutions including the Lahore Biennial; National Art Museum of China, Beijing; British Museum, London; and Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi Island. His work is part of prominent private and public collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The British Museum, The Abby Weed Grey Collection of Modern Asian and Middle Eastern Art, and the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art.

Exhibition

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens gratefully acknowledges the support of:
Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels
Copperfield, London
Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai
Henry Moore Foundation
Ouwen Duiker
Atelier Van Lieshout

Publication

Coinciding with the exhibition, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens will publish *Skyhigh is my place*, a monograph on Shahpour Pouyan's work. The richly illustrated publication contains, among other contributions, an essay by critic and art historian Media Farzin and an interview of the artist by art historian Pepe Karmel.
(Release date: December 2021)

The exhibition publication is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, Galerie Nathalie Obadia (Paris/Brussels) and Lawrie Shabibi (Dubai).

Pre-order copies via info@museumdd.be

Artist's edition

For *Skyhigh is my place*, Shahpour Pouyan has created a special edition beer glass. Each glass is handmade, in a signed edition of 300. If two glasses are bought, the set is accompanied by a limited edition magnum Ouwen Duiker beer bottle from Hedonis Ambachtsbier, for which the artist has designed the label.

Pre-order via info@museumdd.be: € 95 per glass / € 170 for two.



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Images

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